



The PHS NEWSLETTER

JULY
2018



MEMORIES TO CHERISH



By Adam Jones (Head Boy)

Year 13 pupils were treated to a dazzling evening at their final 'Prom' celebration of school life celebration at Cardiff Castle on Saturday. Adam Jones, Head Boy has these final thoughts:

What a year it's been! The step up from GCSE to A-levels was immense. The level of dedication and work ethic

became significant in my studies but alongside my subjects was the daunting organisation of the end of year prom. Head girl Lucy Thomas and myself looked back over the years gone by and decided to aim high, to aim for the best when regarding our prom. The idea of Cardiff Castle was a venue in which we saw great promise. After consulting with Mr Cripps and getting the all clear to push for such a renowned venue, we needed to raise upwards of £8000; Lucy and myself

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knew failure was not an option for us and we would give our all into raising the sufficient funds.

The organisation of bake sales, teacher and pupil quiz nights along with the running of the tuck shop coupled with determination, a lot of hard work and the occasional tears saw the money slowly starting to add up. Our dream of holding prom in Cardiff Castle and raising £8000 had now become a reality. On the 14th of July 2018, the Sixth Form all dressed for the occasion and had their prom held at the Castle.

The night was amazing, better than I could have hoped for. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thirty members of staff attended the prom which I feel is great credit to our year group with them all wanting to give us a send off. The location was spectacular, the weather stayed stunning and everyone looked brilliant. The hard work we put in had all came together which became apparent after the speeches when we received a huge round of applause and a collection of handshakes and praise at the end of the night.

A massive thank you to Mr. Cripps for his support all the way through this process, to Mr. Roach in being the first person to push us with our dream and for being there every step of the way. A massive thank you to Claire Cook, without whom we could not have created such a night. And also to Head girl Lucy; you have been the best head girl that I could have worked with, you aim high and achieve those aims through hard work and determination. Lastly, to Mrs Panes! The blood, sweat and tears you put into your work really pushed us to want to create such a special night to reward special people such as yourself.

We aimed high with Cardiff Castle and we managed to fulfil the dream and to create a great night that was the perfect send off for our sixth form year group.

A massive thank you to Amy-Jane Davies our photographer for capturing a wonderful night with memories to treasure. ■





PRODUCT DESIGN

FAB WORK!

By Mr Van-Baaren

Cardiff School of Art and Design recently hosted an exhibition with Key Stage 3, GCSE, AS and A level work on display. The exhibition was an opportunity to showcase the outstanding work of pupils across Wales. It covered a wide range of creative subject areas including: Fine Art, Product Design, Ceramics, Photography, Graphic Design, Textiles and Fashion.

A Level student James Hughes and GCSE students, Abby Watkins, Seren Hopkins, Scott Edmunds and Megan Thorne had their Product Design work on display. The quality of their coursework was excellent and deserving of being selected for the exhibition.

A number of prizes were awarded on the launch evening which was in recognition of the high standard of work on display. We were extremely proud that Seren Hopkins had been awarded one of the prizes for her Hobbit inspired hedgehog shelter. Seren was presented with a membership for a year to the FabLab by Jason Davies, Programme Leader for PGCE Secondary D&T & PGCE Art and Design at Cardiff Met. The Fabrication Laboratory is a creative space located at Cardiff School



of Art and Design. It enables people to make just about anything using 3D printing and other advanced digital manufacturing technologies.

Further congratulations should also be given to Seren and James for having their work selected to be exhibited at the WJEC Innovations awards at Cardiff this October. This prestigious event is a showcase exhibition and competition for the most innovative project work at A Level and GCSE in Design & Technology.



EPILEPSY ACTION AWARD



By Mrs Samuel-Jones

Mrs Samuel-Jones (Year 11 Standards' Manager) and Mr Griffiths (Senior First Aider) were thrilled and honoured to attend the UK Epilepsy Action Awards on behalf of the school.

The awards were held in the Civic Hall in Leeds and they were there to receive the amazing recognition for being unanimously voted as the UK Secondary School of the Year for supporting pupils with epilepsy. Our nomination had been made by Kathryn and Jason Favell whose amazing and extremely courageous daughter, Sophia is in Year 11.

Sophia's mum Kathryn Favell quoted: "Sophia has

frequently been in hospital, but her teachers have always sent work home for her. They have also been able to provide tailored work packages to ensure that she would not miss out on any of her lessons. As well as supporting Sophia, the school has held fundraising events on Purple Day." She added that the family was delighted to honour the staff at Pontypridd High School. "To have these incredible people go out of their way to help someone like Sophia is mind-blowing. I could not ask for better teachers, role models or friends who have guided her to achieving her goal of attending college in September."

Mrs Samuel-Jones made a speech to all the award winners at the celebration and shared messages from Pontypridd High School's members of staff. She was so



incredibly proud to share how all members of staff, without exception, agree that Sophia is our hero. She shared that Mrs Dober, our Assistant Head Teacher had commented that she was always very impressed with Sophia's maturity and the fact that she never used her health as an excuse to get out of work. She said that if Sophia was unavoidably absent, she would always catch up and ask for extra work to be sent home. This was reiterated by a quote shared from Mrs Young, our Attendance and Examinations Officer who said that Sophia regularly argues with mum about attending school. She says she must attend school and doesn't want to miss any time off. Even when she is in hospital, the evening before she still wants to come in the next day and Mrs Young says that certainly shows her commitment to her education.

Mr Cripps' message was also shared and he said:-

Sophia deserves huge credit for the very mature and positive way in which she has approached both the opportunities and challenges that she has had to confront in her life and in school. She is both humble and determined and a role model for others. The motto on our school badge is 'Persevere to Succeed.' Sophia has certainly persevered and she deserves all the success that comes her way. We are very proud of Sophia and also to receive this reward. My thanks to everyone who has made a contribution to the progress Sophia has enjoyed at Pontypridd High.

Mrs Samuel-Jones shared that Mr Griffiths had commented how even when she was feeling really under the weather and was close to having a seizure, Sophia would always smile and say she was ok. He stated how her mother, Kathryn is amazing and every time he needs to call her out of work, she is always speedy in getting to us. Because of this, Sophia has never had a full seizure in school. Sophia is always aware of her symptoms and was always able to tell us when she was going to have one. He finished by saying she is a remarkable girl who will be sorely missed when she leaves Pontypridd High School.

Mrs Samuel-Jones shared what a humbling experience it was to be representing the school and receiving the

award on Pontypridd High School's behalf. She shared that throughout her 32 years as a teacher, and having worked in several schools, she felt she had never been so fortunate to now be working in a school whose staff consistently go above and beyond for every pupil. She explained how the staff back in Pontypridd had been overjoyed to have won the award but were all in total agreement that it was us, as staff, who should be thanking Sophia for being such a conscientious, courageous and extremely positive role model to everyone.

She dedicated the award to Sophia and her family, mother Kathryn, dad Jason and older sister, Georgia who support Sophia with her seizures on a daily basis. In her speech, she said:-

I personally want to say a massive thank you to Sophia's family for the way in which they support us and always keep us regularly informed. Their strength and love for one another is so inspiring. Sophia and her family deserve all the recognition for allowing us the privilege to support her through her teenage years and be a part of her amazing journey. She has such an incredible future ahead of her and I personally will miss her so much. She will always have a little place in my heart and her infectious smile will be forever in my memory.

She finished with these final words:-

Sophia, you are such a special young lady and never, ever forget how wonderful you are. You have worked immensely hard to achieve your forthcoming GCSEs and no one deserves success more than you. If I could bottle up your determination to succeed I would have enough to sprinkle over all of year 11 for many years to come.

Always remember my motto - Reach for the Stars!

The stars were certainly shining on Sophia, her family and all the incredibly amazing people who were nominated, and the worthy recipients of all the awards. It was a humbling and inspirational experience.

We are delighted to be this years 'Secondary School of the Year Winner for UK Epilepsy Action'. ■



THE SCRIBBLERS

LITERATURE FESTIVAL



By Florence Morgan-Wood, Ffion Davies, Katie Williams, Taliea Kemlo and Cameron Alexander.

Earlier this term Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to visit the Hay-on-Wye Literature Festival with Mrs Marvelley and Mrs Van-Baaren. The following piece is written by the Year 7 Scribblers group.

When we arrived at the festival we were instantly inspired! There were books everywhere!

24 of us attended and we were split in to two groups. Group 1 had the opportunity to visit David Almond and Group 2 had the opportunity to visit Eric Ngalle Charles. Both workshops were inspirational and we thoroughly enjoyed them.

After the workshops we had time to visit the food hall and taste some of the local produce. The pizzas were amazing and the duck was scrumptious! After food, we had two choices: either to attend the second workshop or look around the wonderful stalls and book shops. Lots of us purchased books and merchandise and had them signed by the authors! Katie Williams said, 'I got my books signed by David Almond! He was such a great inspiration.'

I think that we all agreed that the festival was amazing! Meeting different authors and getting their signatures and feedback on our own writing was so motivating! We rate it 10/10. We recommend the festival to pupils who love, love, love books! ■

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



THESE GIRLS CAN...

By Miss Fleming

We have had a very busy summer term in the P.E. department with much to celebrate and share.

Rugby - Thanks to SOHK and Carys Phillips the Womens Welsh Rugby Captain for coming in to train the girls. Very inspirational! Also, congratulations to Jazmin Harris for achieving player of the tournament in a recent SOHK competition. She received a Welsh shirt from Elinor Snowsill, outside half for the Welsh Womens team.

Cheerleading - Congratulations to Lauren Williams who is now a Cheerleading champion! Lauren competed and won a competition in Bournemouth. Well done.

Kick-boxing - Congratulations to Natasha Mabey who came 2nd in the UK at the Kickboxing Championships held in Birmingham recently.

Natasha has been a member of the Paragon Kick-boxing Academy for 3 years and trains at Cilfynydd. She gained 2nd place at the competition against other Academies throughout the UK. Fantastic Natasha, well done.

Football - Lily Billingham in Year 8 represented Pontypridd High school in June, playing football for RCT girls under 14's against Caerphilly in the final. They came away with a convincing 5-0 win. Lily also scored one of the goals. A fantastic achievement. Well done Lily. ■



THE PASSCHENDAEL PROJECT

REMEMBERING GLYN

On 24th May Pontypridd High School presented the outcome of a collaboration between Just Druid Productions and the pupils of 7T and 8T.

'Futility' is a documentary that tells the story of Glyn Rhys Morgan who was a past pupil of Pontypridd Grammar School and son of the first Headmaster, Rhys Morgan.

After watching the documentary, the pupils of 7T and 8T were inspired to learn more about World War 1 and create their own memorials to Glyn. The result has been a number of impressive projects including poetry, drama, art and historical research.

The work of our pupils was filmed by Just Druid and completes the final chapter of their documentary. On May 24th we invited parents, governors and special guests to view a premiere screening of the film and enjoy a programme of entertainment provided by pupils.

Amongst those in attendance were Vikki Howells AM and David Sargent, Senior Curriculum and Finance Manager for Welsh Government. We were also privileged to be joined by many past pupils of Pontypridd Boys Grammar School.

On the night, Sonny Dowdall and Rhys Meredith (of Year 8) and Taliea Kemlo and Naiya Partington (of Year 7) delivered a presentation of pupil work; Nia Pritchard and Taliea Kemlo read poetry and Leah Pryse stunned the crowd with a moving performance of The Last Post on the trumpet. Guests also enjoyed a beautiful buffet prepared by pupils under the guidance of Mrs Cahill and Miss Brayford.

Following the film premiere guests were invited to an unveiling of the plaques dedicated to Glyn Rhys Morgan and his father Rhys Morgan. Thank you to Mr Chris Evans

for all his work in restoring our memorial boards to such a fantastic condition.

The excellent work that has been produced as a result of this project has been recognized by the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative, who last week presented us with an award and a cheque for £400 from the Moondance Foundation.

As a reward for all the hard work pupils have put in 7T and 8T together with others attended a performance of War Horse at the Wales Millennium Centre on Thursday 19th of July. A perfect way to round off a fantastic learning experience for all! ■





END OF AN ERA

GOODBYE

By Claire Angell

It hardly seems possible that 35 years ago I was asked, by Ms Jane Davidson, to take a temporary teaching post in CoedylanComprehensive School in a place called Pontypridd.

I arrived to find a rabbit warren of a building, part Victorian, part concrete edifice, part Portacabin - with so many stairs, passages and what felt like First World War trenches to negotiate. And then my classroom.....below ground level with thick ivy growing on the inside wall and an array of fungus David Attenborough would have admired, my classroom had desks with ink wells and lift-up lids, an old blackboard and a pungent smell. I wondered where on Earth I had landed. The staff room was straight out of Dickens, an open coal fire, several battered armchairs and their "woe betide you if you sit here" residents. Many engulfed in a fog of pipe or cigarette smoke. They were all amazing characters though, kind and helpful and full of interesting stories and useful tips.

The children were very friendly too, some might say too friendly! I wasn't used to such close contact and personal questioning and I did have a lot of trouble with the accent and some dialect words. What was a "dap" and why couldn't you do P.E. without one? Where were they going when they visited "The Bosch"? How long do you wait when told, "I'll do it now" and when you ask, you're told "Now in a minute"?

I managed to avoid most pitfalls, like the audio-visual room which had a trap door at the back through which your class could gradually disappear over the course of a lesson if you didn't learn to stand on it, and I settled in to life as a teacher, secure in the knowledge that in six months I was off to Arizona with my friends.

35 years later I'm still here! We moved, after much

campaigning, to a brand new school in 1985 although, oddly, leaving Years 7 & 8 in the "old school" for a while with its "stoats", variable temperatures, mould and assorted buckets to collect the rain. The opening of the Lower Block here was the final jigsaw piece; now on one site with all you really need to teach effectively, Coedylan became Pontypridd High and we've not looked back.

So it's very hard for me to look back. There are so many people I'd like to thank for their professional chats, humorous tales and sanity-saving camaraderie, I can't name them here. Fellow teachers, non-teaching staff, students and of course all you wonderful parents it has been my privilege to work with over the years (even teach!).

It's a job that can be tough but brings such immense rewards that all the sacrifices are worth it. It is the best job in the world! And I will miss all of it terribly, but I hope I'll get over it and start a new chapter of life – hopefully not the epilogue.

Thank you all and goodbye. ■



TRANSITION WEEK



It was great to welcome all Year 6 pupils as part of the transition into Year 7 this September.

The weather helped to make the week a fantastic experience and everyone enjoyed different activities both in and out of the classroom. This included work in different subject areas and using specialist equipment and machinery. The Mini-Olympics that took place was very successful and a very good evening was spent with parents and carers going through final plans for the new year ahead. Everything is now in place to make sure the start of Year 7 is a very positive one and we look forward to welcoming Year 7 into School after the summer break.



In July we had a very successful Open Evening at the end of our Transition week for all Year 5 pupils. It was great to see so many people attending and everyone enjoyed taking part in the different activities provided by each subject area. Our thanks to all those parents and carers who provided such positive feedback on our School and the work that we do.

The transition week provided more opportunities for everyone to get involved in making, baking, writing, thinking, singing, drawing and walking - thanks to Mrs Rees for all her planning and to all the children who tried every activity in such a positive way.



The week ended with a fantastic production of Matilda, directed by Miss Passmore. This was performed to a packed hall and the talent on display was very high. It was wonderful to see our own Year 7 pupils working so closely with everyone from Year 5. We will be working closely with all of our primary cluster schools. We shall be working closely with all of our primary cluster schools from September to ensure that we continue to build relationships with all children as they move into Year 6 and we look forward to Year 7 at Pontypridd High in 2019. ■

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

NATIONAL SPORTS WEEK



By Mr Thomas

During National Sports Week, the normal timetable was suspended and pupils (and staff!) took part in a range of physical activities or sporting classroom lessons.

The activities were those which are not usually included on the National Curriculum. This included, Judo, Lacrosse, Dodgeball, Tag Rugby, Ultimate frisbee, wheelchair basketball, as well as the more traditional activities; rugby, football, hockey, golf, basketball, volleyball. External providers gave up their time to

come and help run the week. As well as these sporting activities, trips were also running all week to; Vertigo, Cardiff City Stadium, Ice skating, Pontypridd Lido, White Water Rafting in Cardiff Bay, Go Karting, paintballing, Heatherton Adventure Park, surfing and not forgetting Sports Day at Leckwith Stadium. There was also a whole school Fitness Workout which was led by Team Rees!

What better way to end our fantastic sports week than a friendly "swim off" between staff (Sharks) and pupils (Piranhas.) Well done to all the competitors who took part and congratulations to the Sharks for only just managing to win a very, very close contest. ■



"Congratulations to Ella Tanner in Year 8 who overcame her performances fears and gave a fantastic vocal performance at the 'Night at The Musicals' concert. Well done!" Mr Capel

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CLASS OF



By Mrs Samuel-Jones

Year 11 pupils certainly experienced the red carpet treatment at their end of year Prom. It was held in the Fairway Suite at Bryn Meadows Golf and Spa Hotel.

All the pupils looked absolutely amazing and sparkles were in abundance. The black, white and silver theme chosen was perfect for the occasion and balloons and decorations festooned the suite beautifully and complemented the venue. Everyone enjoyed a welcome fruit mocktail, an enjoyable three course meal followed by tea, coffee and welsh cakes.

Following the meal, awards were presented to staff and pupils and then everyone danced the night away to their song requests. A photo booth was also there to capture some other special memories that we are sure will last for a very long time to come.

The weather was absolutely glorious for the pupils and staff and everyone was treated to the most amazing views from the venue and a sensational sunset too.

Pontypridd High School would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff at Bryn Meadows for their wonderful service and support.

We wish all the Year 11 pupils a very enjoyable summer and will see them all for their GCSE results on Thursday, August 23rd. ■



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



STAR IN THE MAKING

By Mrs Thomas

Sarah Bern, England Rugby International came to visit our school this week. She spent her time mentoring and advising one of our pupils, Paige.

Sarah Bern started her international career with England U20s as a back row forward, but has since converted to prop where she has thrived. During the 2018 Women's Six Nations Sarah played in all five matches, scoring two tries as England finished second.

Advice on scrummaging, tackling and competitive natures were discussed. Paige has only been playing rugby for a short space of time, but has already impressed the School of Hard Knocks project,

particularly El Snowsill who organised the day.

Paige was really nervous about meeting Sarah, but it soon became obvious that they shared a lot in common. The advice she gave Paige will certainly help her develop into an even better player.

Paige said, "I really enjoyed the day, meeting Sarah was a dream come true. We're going to keep in touch, I liked listening to all her rugby stories and the fact that we have a lot in common really helped. I'd just like to say a big thank you to Sarah, El and Stacey."

We would like to say a great big thank you to El and Stacey for spotting Paige's potential, encouraging her development and asking Sarah to visit our school. ■



PRACTICE SPEAKING WELSH

By Ms Thomas

Pupils from Years 10, 11 and 13 have been taking part in an exciting Welsh project with CSC to help primary school teachers from South Wales learn and practise speaking Welsh.

Teachers and teaching assistants from Merthyr, the Rhondda, Bridgend, Aberdare and Cardiff attended the 3 sessions organised by Ms Thomas and Miss Jones. Students included Adam Jones, Abbie Randell, Aled Moore, Megan Groves, Billie-Mai Cox, Leona Gibbs, Ffion Davies, Annaleigh Hall, Kate Barrett, Grace Wilde and Nia Bruce. The pupils played a variety of games, practised pronunciation and encouraged the adults to use Welsh confidently in everyday situations.

The feedback from all those involved was so positive CSC are thinking of holding a similar event next year. ■



PERFORMING ARTS

MATILDA PERFORMANCE

By Miss Passmore

20 KS3 Pupils performed in 'Matilda' with 100 Year 5 pupils from our feeder primary schools this month.

After two months of rehearsals, the long awaited transition project was performed to over 250 audience members to kick-start our Open Evening. There were 6 schools involved in the Year 5 Transition project. Cilfynydd, Craig-Yr-Hesg, Cefn, Coed-y-Lan, Trehopcyn, Trerobart, and Maesycoed primary school.

Each school had three workshops where they rehearsed a scene from the play and learned to sing and dance to 'Naughty' and 'Revolting Children' which every school performed together as an encore.

The performance was an amazing example of the school working together with the primary schools to display the pupils' exceptional talents. The hard working



pupils performed with enthusiasm and sparkle showing the great talent we have in Pontypridd High school and in the primary schools. The pupils danced with passion, sung with beautiful harmonies and acted superbly making the audience laugh and smile throughout the show.

Congratulations to all those who performed on stage!





AWARDS AND PLANTS...

By Miss Bolderson

Here at YEPS we have had a great summer term! The young people have developed skills, overcome barriers and even learnt how to swim to name but a few!

YEPS Celebration

At this years YEPS celebrations event we were very lucky to see Audi Silsuktipapsorn win the Shining Star Award after being nominated by myself. We were all thrilled for Audi as he is an inspiration to us all; he has over come barriers and gained resilience.

We are all delighted that Amy Bolderson was nominated for Youth Worker of the Year award at the same event. Amy is a fantastic member of staff and deservedly won the award. A fantastic reward for all her hard work.

Greenhouse

Big thank you to RCT Public Health and Protection team for working in partnership to create an amazing greenhouse for YEPS and Pontypridd High, this will now be a fantastic learning environment for young people to understand the benefits of growing fresh products. Mr Watson will help lead this with new qualifications from September.

We are sure that such an activity will encourage young people to consider skills in gardening, reduce air pollution and provide a greener environment. We have already began planting and are looking forward to next term when we will have more groups of learners using the facility.

Would you be interested in next terms free activities? Check out www.wicid.tv to find out all the exciting activities and programmes what we have to offer! ■



INTRODUCING THE DEN



By Mrs Finney

The name The DEN says it all. Developing emotion through nurture. The Den is an environment where pupils feel safe but can also access emotional literacy as well as learning how to improve social and communication skills which supports academic progress and achievement.

Inside The DEN we offer ELSA sessions, literacy and numeracy interventions and help pupils communicate socially by means of Lego Therapy and nurture techniques. The pupils thoroughly enjoy their experiences in The DEN and it helps to keep their minds stimulated making friendship bracelets, fairy gardens, lego models, hama beads, sewing, reading and learning basic life skills.

In addition to The Den we have expanded and implemented a sensory suite for our pupils to use. to create an additional safe space. On occasions some of our pupils find that school can be overwhelming, therefore this area benefits their needs. Sensory equipment can help develop key life skills and this suite

creates a therapeutic space for our pupils with the colourful lights, sounds and objects inside. Pupils can explore and interact without risk. Which helps them with their anxieties, and to have time away from their emotions. All of our pupils who access The DEN have spent time in the sensory room and the feedback from them all has been so positive.

The DEN and Sensory suite provide a safe environment for our pupils during unstructured times and is supervised by experienced members of staff that can help support them. The friendly faces are there to meet and greet them every morning which provides them with a structure and routine. Having the provision of time out and a quiet relaxing safe area to think and talk through problems has enabled our pupils to feel valued and cared for.

The grand opening of The DEN and Sensory Suite took place on the 9th July where we welcomed the Director of Education Esther Thomas, the Head of Access and Inclusion Gaynor Davies, the Mayor of Pontypridd Lynda Davies along with the members form the CLA team in RCT including Rhian Smallwood and Damien Petts. ■



FIRE STATION VISIT

By Mrs Shine-Roberts and Miss Ponting

A group of Ponty High pupils were very lucky to have the chance of becoming a firefighter for a day. Working in partnership with YEPs, the pupils along with Mrs Shine-Roberts and Miss Ponting travelled to Caerphilly Fire Station to take part in this amazing experience.

The pupils were introduced to the Caerphilly Fire fighters who made them feel right at home. The morning began with a tour of the station and a fire safety workshop. During the workshop the pupils learnt about the dangers of swimming in rivers and reservoirs, they were shown video clips, interviews and real life stories describing the harsh reality of what could go wrong when young people and children fail to spot the danger signs while swimming in lakes, rivers and reservoirs. After a short break it was time to 'suit up'!

The pupils were fitted with a full firefighter's uniform, from boots to helmets the pupils looked the real part. They even got to practice the special line out all fire fighters must do when they start the day.

After the pupils learnt the fire fighters salutes, they were then taken over to the 'The Beast', the bright red fire engine. Here they learnt all about the different features of the engine and how the fire fighters transport water from the street to their hoses. The pupils got to see for themselves what the inside of the fire engine looked like.

The pupils then moved on to some hard physical team work. The sun was beating down while the pupils were made to run up and down, connecting the long water hose. The pupils worked really hard and even though were hot in their suits managed to complete their task.

Now for the fun part... Once the water hoses were



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connected it was time to pump the water through, the pupils were told to stand in a line to help support each other as the water shot out at an incredible speed. The water reached 30 ft into the air, the pupils were then able to knock down targets to see the incredible strength of the water.

After all that excitement it was then time for 'The Dark Room'. All pupils felt nervous about this section. The pupils had to learn how to check inside buildings in pitch black conditions. They were first taught outside 'The Dark Room' how to 'sweep' the area using each other as support and guides, they were then instructed to use the 'sweep' skills they had learnt to find the three bodies in 'The Dark Room' (not real body's just big dolls). The pupils showed real strength and courage while

doing this task as it was not easy and very scary, the pupils really appreciated what firefighters have to endure on a daily basis while searching and rescuing people in pitch black buildings.

Sadly it came to the end of the day, the pupils were awarded with 'Fire Fighter for the Day' certificates. The Ponty High pupils really did set a high example of good behaviour and team work skills.

Kia Hurley said; 'The day was amazing and made me understand how challenging the role of a fire fighter really is.'

Everyone loved the experience and really would like the chance to do it all over again. ■





THE GOVERNING BODY

OUR SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The role of the school governor is demanding but very rewarding. School governing bodies are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good

quality education. Together with the headteacher, who is responsible for day-to-day management, they set the school's aims and policies. ■

Mr William Davies (Chairperson, L.A. Governor)

I am a governor nominated by RCT LA and I am in my second 4-year term of office at the school. I was appointed chair of the governing body in December 2015. I worked in education departments in three different county councils for a period of 43 years before retiring in January 2007. I try to use my previous working experience to support the school and the governing body as much as I can.



Mr Ian McClean (LEA Governor)

I was appointed in 2017 as a Local Authority Governor and have thoroughly enjoyed my first year in that challenging role. I must admit that I was a complete novice and had no idea what being a Governor meant or what it took to run a school. I am therefore full of admiration and respect for all the teachers and staff, who without their dedication and professionalism, the smooth running of this school would be impossible. I am now looking forward to the start of my second year.



Mr John Collins (Community Governor)

Although now retired, I have been involved in education both as a Teacher and University Lecturer. For the past 43 years I have been connected with the school as a parent, teacher and for the last 23 years a governor. Pontypridd High has always been a caring and inclusive institution that places the welfare of its pupils at its heart. It is always striving to ensure the best provision for all and constantly reviews its achievements to guarantee that it is continually moving forward.



BOUNCE

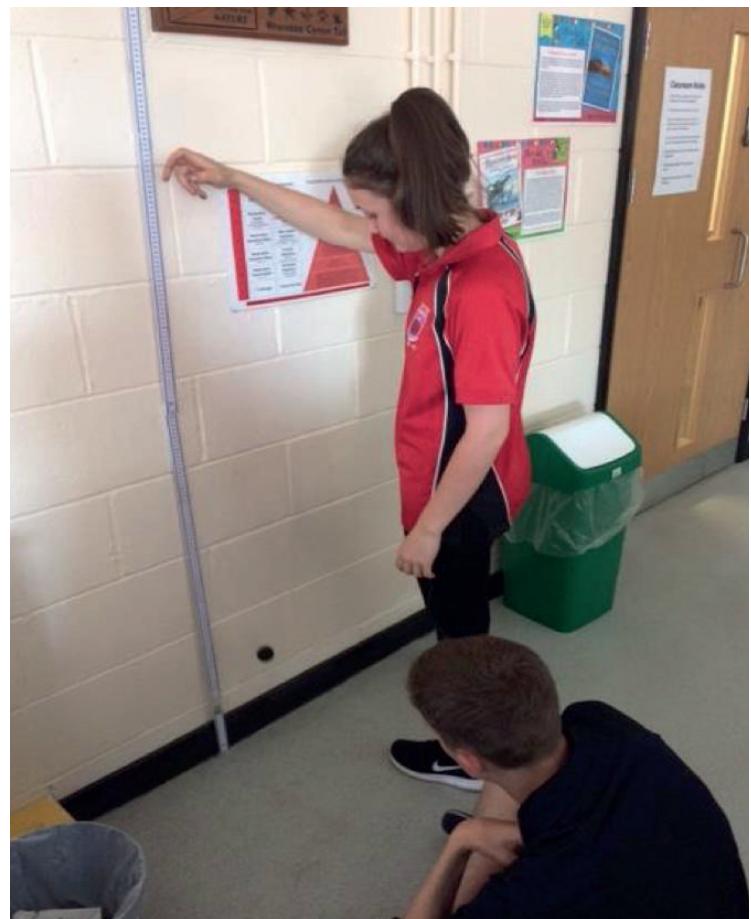


By Miss Williams

In Sport's week this year the Science Faculty decided to investigate the bounce of a ball and the factors that could affect its bounciness. We chose squash as our sport to investigate.

Year 10 students then designed their own experiments to investigate the effect of varying temperature on the bounce of a squash ball. In teams, they heated the squash balls then measured the 'bounciness' by dropping them onto a hard surface and recording the height of the bounce.

All the students enthusiastically took part and discovered that squash balls heated to 70 degrees centigrade bounced the highest.

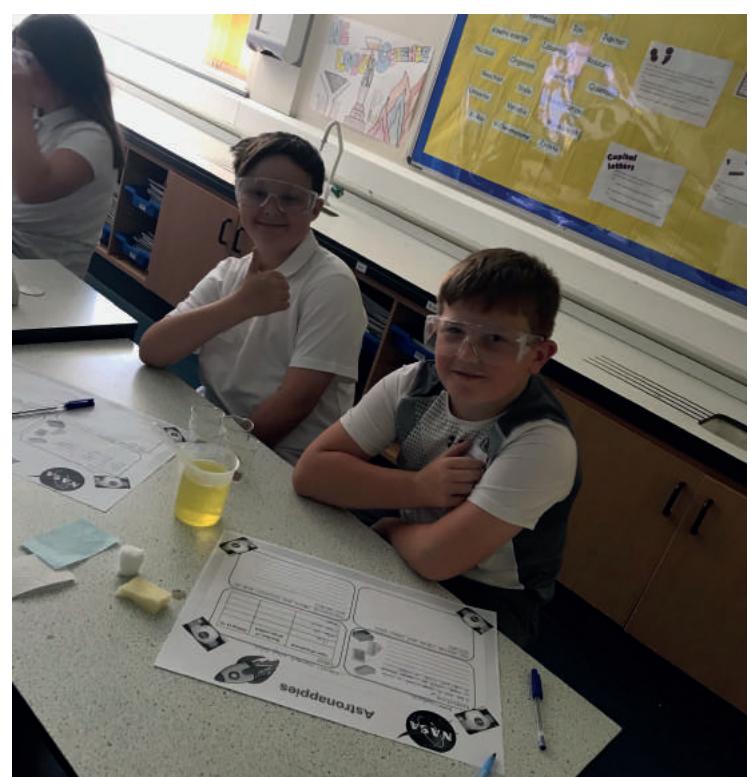


SPACE TOILET

By Miss Hopkins

Year 5 pupils became space scientists for the day as part of their transition week in July. Pupils designed an 'astro nappy' to make sure astronauts don't get caught out when they are on a space mission.

They tested 4 different materials (sponge, blue cloth, cotton wool and kitchen roll) to see which material was the best at absorbing urine. Many pupils predicted that the sponge would be the best material. However after many tests and measurements they found that cotton wool was the most absorbent and most comfortable product.



WHAT'S GOING ON

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES

As a school we understand the importance of being regularly informed of any upcoming events and important dates.

As well as sending out letters, emails and text messages the school website is full of information and current news - www.pontypriddhighschool.co.uk

How to contact us:

Email: contact@pontypriddhighschool.co.uk

Tweet: [@pontypriddhs](#)

Phone: 01443 486133



SCHOOL EVENTS

September

Monday 3rd - INSET Day

Tuesday 4th - All pupils return to school

Thursday 13th - SLT Surgery

Tuesday 18th - Year 11 Preparation Evening

Wednesday 26th - Year 7 - Meet the Form Tutor Evening

Thursday 27th - Awards Evening

October

Thursday 18th - SLT Surgery

Thursday 25th - Year 11 Parents Evening

Monday 29th - Friday 2nd November - Half Term

November

Monday 5th - All pupils return to school

ROOM HIRE

Pontypridd High School regards the school buildings and grounds as a community asset and will make every reasonable effort to enable them to be used as much as possible.

Charges – Lettings September 2018 to August 2019

Hire of School Hall	£25.00/hour
Hire of School Gym	£25.00/hour
Hire of Sports Hall	£25.00/hour
Hire of Drama Studio	£20.00/hour
Hire of Training Room	£20.00/hour
Hire of Classroom	£15.00/hour

Tea/Coffee charges at an extra cost of £2.00/head. Caretaking costs (hourly) will be charged for any lettings outside of school hours. This cost is in addition to any room hire charge.

