



The  
PHS

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH  
2018



## UGANDA

By Miss Moses

**In February half-term Miss Moses and Miss Pritchard travelled to Uganda for the very first time. There was a sense of apprehension and anxiety about travelling so far but mostly it was real excitement. We travelled with a group of like minded people through the charity organisation PONT.**

PONT has been established for many years and links with Pontypridd High are very strong. We are working in partnership with a school called Bubutu High School which is in a town called Mbale. The group consisted of doctors, a retired police man, *(continue on page 2)*





# UGANDA TRIP

teachers and a business manager - quite a mix.

We arrived in Entebbe airport late in the evening and were fortunate enough to spend our first night in Entebbe Wildlife Centre. Staying here meant our first morning was going to be an adventure to say the least and once awake we were greeted with a monkey at our door, a camel strolling past and a giraffe looking through the bathroom window. Breakfast with a difference to say the least.

We travelled to our destination and home in Mbale for the next 7 nights. It was here we met the locals, visited local orphanages and visited our partner school, Bubutu High. We started our experience by visiting an

orphanage. We spent time singing songs, chatting to staff and mixing with the children. To say this was a humbling experience is an understatement. After an eventful journey in which I (Miss Moses) ended up with mild concussion, we arrived in the beautiful setting of Bubutu. Staff, locals and pupils were very pleased to see us and we had the warmest of welcomes.

During our time at the school we were fortunate enough to teach a class (of approximately 200 pupils) a lesson on Geography, comparing climates in Wales and Uganda. Massive thanks to Miss Pritchard for organizing this. Pupils were engaged and inquisitive throughout and the lesson was a pleasure to teach. They displayed a strong desire to learn and were constantly striving to







achieve excellence. Everyone wanted to know about Ponty High and loved hearing us explain about our life in school. We had taken letters from our pupils to give our friends in Bubutu High and pupils were keen to respond and write letters back to pupils. At Bubutu they are all very keen on sport and this was definitely an area we felt we could support and develop.

Before leaving for Uganda we had raised a great sum of money and we spent time in the evenings deciding what we could spend our money on. We finally settled on buying new sports equipment for the school. This included volleyball nets and balls, footballs, rounders equipment, skipping ropes and whistles. We also spent money on mosquito nets for the girls hostel. Most of

this had been built with support of students and staff who visited Bubutu from Ponty High 5 years ago. It was built as some pupils spend over 2 hours walking to school and by having the hostel the young children are safer and can study more. The rest of the money we raised was spent on local families struggling to provide for their children. We will choose two families to help and support over the coming months.

Following our time in the school, we took values and lessons away with us which we will remember forever. The experience was tough, hard, emotional but life changing. ■

[www.pont-mbale.org.uk](http://www.pont-mbale.org.uk)



# LEAD CREATIVE SCHOOLS PROJECT

## CREATIVE WRITING



By Mrs Dober

**As part of our Lead Creative Schools project, funded by the Arts Council of Wales, two classes from Year 7 and 8 have been working with a script-writer and film maker to develop their writing skills by creating their very own short films.**

With the help of set designer Ruth Stringer we started the project by transforming room 101 into the 'Writing Room.' Pupils helped Ruth to design the room that includes features such as a magnetic wall, an art corner, and a tree that pupils can use to share their ideas. During each of the sessions pupils used the Writing Room to develop their independent learning skills as they were set to work in different areas of the room.

Our creative practitioner Bill Taylor-Beales visited each week to work with teachers Miss Jones, Mrs Stockman and Mr Roach in the Writing Room to incorporate creative techniques into lessons. Bill contributed his skills as an artist, writer and musician to introduce innovative strategies into lessons designed to inspire pupils to want to write and create memorable learning experiences. Through these sessions pupils began to write their own script.

At the end of the script writing process Kevin Phillips from Green Valley Productions came in as our second creative practitioner to film the documentaries for each class. During this session pupils worked on their oracy skills whilst also learning about camera techniques and professional film production.

Pupils from 8K used their sessions to learn about World War 1 whilst also developing their Welsh language skills. So what did the pupils think of the sessions?

*"It was nice for someone like Bill to come in to our school. We were really lucky as he helped us to be more creative."*



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru  
Arts Council of Wales



# AND SHORT FILMS

*There was nothing I didn't enjoy. I learnt lots of skills with Bill and he's helped me be more confident. I would really like to do more stuff like this in the future."*

**Molly Davies 8N**

*"My favourite part of the project was working in groups. This will really help me in the future. I would like to do something like this again to prepare me even more. It was really fun."*

**Alfie Bailyes 8N**

*"With Bill we pretended we were part of World War 1 and wrote postcards to our mothers back at home. Bill also sang us a song about war. I would like to do something like this again because I think it really helped to develop my learning skills."*

**Finlay Mansfield 8O**

Pupils from 7T used their sessions to learn about food and digestion whilst also developing their Welsh language skills. Here are some of our their thoughts about the sessions:

*"I learned how to write with a fountain pen and I am now less camera shy after using the big cameras. I also feel a lot more independent."*

**Iestyn Witchell 7R**

*"Working with Bill was really fun. He was so kind, he helped us with anything we needed. Designing what we wanted the room to look like was fun and the best was taking everyone's ideas and making it into one room."*

**Alexa Taylor 7N**

We look forward to our special live event on Tuesday 27th of March that will feature a premiere showing of the film for parents, staff and governors. Many thanks must go to all our creative practitioners and our creative agent Yvonne Murphy for their commitment to making our project so successful.



Ariennir yn Rhannol gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**

Part Funded by  
**Welsh Government**

**ARIENNIR GAN  
Y LOTERI  
LOTTERY FUNDED**



# DISNEYLAND PARIS



By pupils Chelsea Davies and Kate Barrett

**On Thursday, March 9th, we travelled to Paris by bus with Miss Jones, Miss Eveleigh, Mrs Young, Ms Thomas and Mr Griffiths.**

We boarded the ferry at 2am and the ferry was the worse experience of our lives! We all felt very sick and let's just say that it wasn't the best boat journey. However we were all very excited to arrive at Disneyland the next day.

We continued our journey to the hotel, watching lots of films such as UP to get us in the true Disney spirit! Then, we finally arrived to the Explorer Hotel. After a quick freshen up we went straight back out to the park and began our day of fun!

On Friday morning we arrived at the Disney studios and began our day at the park. We went on many different rides and had great fun! There were so many amazing rides, for example, the Hollywood Tower of Terror, which was the most thrilling experience ever! The Rock n Rollercoaster was also fantastic!

Later that evening we all met up for food in King Ludwig's castle. We also had some time to go shopping for souvenirs such as our Disney ears. Last thing at night we went to watch the Star Wars show full of fireworks and fun.

On Saturday after an early morning call went to the Disney Park. All of us were so excited to see the castle before entering the park. There were so many fabulous rides such as the Space Mountain, which was the best one in the park. Another ride that we all found thrilling was Pirates of the Caribbean.

After such an amazing day in the park we all went for food at Planet Hollywood where we had the most delicious food! After that we went to see the fireworks at the castle again which were outstanding.

After such an amazing weekend we travelled back Sunday morning reflecting on all the experiences of the previous days. The weekend was one of the best weekends we have had. We all had such a fabulous time at Disneyland Paris and we all said that we cannot wait to go again next year. ■



# SCRIBBLERS WORKSHOP

By Miss Pullen

**In January, Year 7 and Year 10 pupils attended Scribblers workshops at the University of South Wales, Newport.**

The workshops were organised by the Hay Festival and provided pupils with the opportunity to listen to authors talk about their work. Pupils were also lucky enough to take part in various question and answer sessions with the authors and there were multiple opportunities for them to get their books signed. Year 7 attended the workshops of Daniel Morden and Eric Ngalle Charles and Year 10 attended the workshops of Steve Camden and Gemma Cairney.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and as a result we have launched our own PHS Scribblers group. Every Wednesday lunchtime pupils are invited to work on and develop their creative writing skills with Miss Pullen. We hope to share some of their writing with you soon! ■





# EXPLORATION



By Miss Hopkins

**As part of our annual British Science Week celebrations (9-18 March 2018), pupils have taken part in lots of fun activities, as well as cross curricular lessons linked to the theme of exploration and discovery.**

In Science lessons, Years 7 and 8 have undertaken Astro-Nappy investigations to find out which material would be the best for making a new adult diaper for astronauts. We have written predictions and conclusions, as well as graphically representing our results. Some pupils were even lucky enough to make video advertisements for their Astro-nappies!

In Art, our pupils explored the use of colour, and created some fantastic sugar skull masks. In English lessons pupils across the school wrote detailed descriptions on the discovery of creatures living on the moon. In their Humanities lessons pupils looked at how scientific discoveries may support the theological view that Jesus lived.

We were enjoyed a water pollution field trip, where we investigated the water quality of a local stream using biological indicators. In addition there was an inflatable space dome for Year 8 and 9 to explore the





# & DISCOVERY



hidden wonders of the night skies.

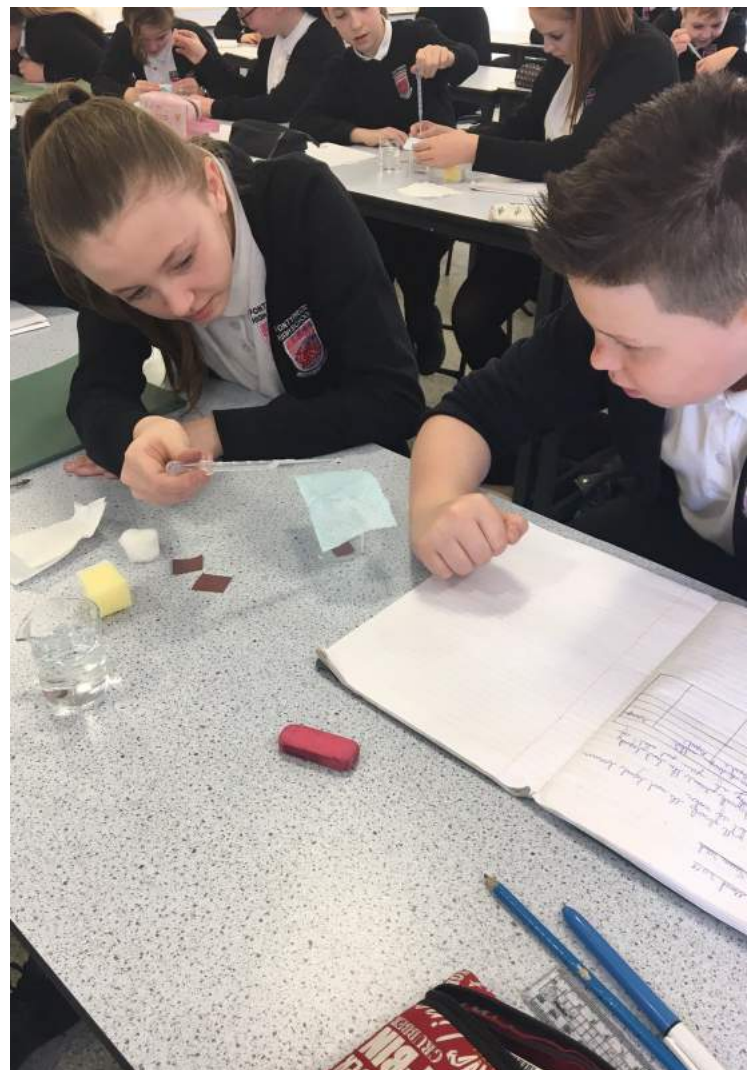
During registration that week our Year 7 and 8 pupils enjoyed matching the teacher to the scientist, science dingbats and guessing the science film. We had some fantastic suggestions from them for a 'Mars Survival Kit' including pizza, smartphones and make up!

The lunchtime activities enjoyed by pupils were science bingo and quiz, along with a science themed treasure hunt. On Wednesday lunchtime the faculty facilitated an outdoor 'Demo Day', where pupils were able to watch some large scale explosions and experiments.

The week culminated with a trip for year 7 and 8 pupils to the Science Museum in London. Pupils took part in exploratory workshops and enjoyed taking in the interactive ambience of the Museum.

The evaluation of the week from pupils was positive; with pupils citing experiments and demo day as highlights of the week. The faculty will use this feedback to inform next year's British Science Week celebrations.

For further information about the Science Department, please follow us on instagram @phs\_science\_dept ■





# ORIENTEERING SKILLS

By Mrs Samuel-Jones

**Last half term all the girls in Years 7 and 9 participated in outdoor adventurous activities during their PE lessons. Following several group work sessions and problem solving activities all the girls then focused on orienteering activities.**

The girls began by improving their map reading skills and then creating their own courses. These were subsequently used by other pupils. The girls studied checkpoints and grid references and the girls in Year 9 then progressed onto some challenging 6 figure grid reference courses.

All of the girls in both year groups were entered into a whole year group competition. Each lesson, the girls had to work with a different partner and their lesson by lesson results were recorded and saved. They were judged on how many correct answers they had combined with how quickly they had finished each course.

At the end of the half term all the results were collated and the top 3 places are as follows:

<b>Year 7 Girls</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Rosie-Mai Mahoney</b>	<b>7P</b>
	2nd	Megan Rees	7Y
	3rd	Lucy Tarr	7Y

<b>Year 9 Girls Group 1</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Georgia Pritchard</b>	<b>9P</b>
	2nd	Poppy Pounder	9P
	3rd	Deena Wattley	9R

<b>Year 9 Girls Group 2</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Julia Truszcwaska</b>	<b>9R</b>
	2nd	Alisha Jones	9P
	3rd	Lousie Hughes	9N

The girls have received a certificate of commendation and the PE Department would like to congratulate not just our highest achievers but all the girls in Years 7 and 9 who worked so hard and progressed so well. ■







## FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES

By Mrs Farrow

**On a cold, clear and very sunny February day Year 13 Geography students went on a field trip to The Knap in Barry to collect data for their independent investigations.**

The Knap beach is a perfect location for studying the size and shape of different pebbles that have been deposited there by the waves. It was a highly successful and enjoyable trip and students particularly enjoyed thawing out at the local café after collecting the data,

where they ordered a stack of pancakes with syrup and bacon!

Also this term, Year 12 A Level Geographers travelled to Cardiff to complete the fieldwork element of their investigation. This is worth 20% of their final grade and is an important geographical experience. Currently, the class are investigating internet shopping and every student completed their work in a very professional and mature way, interviewing many different people in the city centre. ■





# INTERGENERATION PROJECT



## NURSING HOME VISIT

By Mrs Shine-Roberts and Miss Pointing

**A group of 9 students have been looking back to the 1940's, 50's and 60's as part of a project called 'How times have changed'.**

They have researched what teenagers were like during this time and looked at things like fashion, music and what young people did to entertain themselves over 50 years ago. We have found many pictures online and films and news clips. Everyone has been greatly interested by the work and have wanted to know more, in particular we wanted to compare a 1940's / 50's teenager to a 2018 teenager.

We decided to go and find out and as such organised a trip to Pontypridd nursing home. When we got there students were able to meet and talk to the elderly residents and ask them what it was like for them being a teenager. All students made up 'all about me' booklets and the interviews were a fantastic success with everyone gaining confidence to ask the right questions.

The students learnt so much about how much harder it was to be a teenager in years gone by and many said how lucky they are today. The students are now going to send letters to the residents and we are inviting them to our School to have some tea and cakes and to show them what school is like today. ■







## BOOK WEEK



By Mrs Marvelley

**World Book Day, a global celebration of books, took place on Thursday 1st March but at PHS we extend this day into a week-long celebration of all things booky!**

All Key Stage 3 pupils took part in Book Week assemblies, with fantastic performances from our Wizard of Oz cast. In form time they played our 'Guess the Shelfie' competition, guessing which book shelf belonged to which member of staff, as well as completing book related dingbats and quizzes. At lunchtimes, pupils attended Scribblers workshops and prop making for a Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

Booky going-ons continued in lessons, with a wide range of activities including making Willy Wonka's chocolate bars in Catering, designing Lord of the Rings monsters in Art, storyboarding the Jungle Book in Humanities and equipping oneself for Hogwarts in Maths!

The 'Beast from the East' intervened and kept us all at home at the end of the week but that didn't stop us from promoting reading. Teachers' reviews of their favourite books were tweeted throughout the day – with some tweets even prompting responses from the authors mentioned.

The following week we were able to reschedule our final Book Week celebration - with staff and students dressing up as favourite literary characters and gathering together to celebrate as competition winners were announced and 'Book Week Stars' commended. A great way to end our celebration of all things booky. ■





# THE PASSCHENDAELE PROJECT



By Mollie Harris, Alexia Bindczus and Taliea Kemlo

**Year 7 students (class 7T) are taking part in a project about the Battle of Passchendaele and the history of Glyn Morgan, a former student and his father, a former headmaster of our School when it was called Pontypridd Grammar.**

A film is being made about this Battle and the reason we are involved is because Glyn Morgan, a former student was killed in that Battle in 1917, one year before the end of World War 1. His story is being told through the film and there are many interesting things for us to study.

During this project we have completed a number of fun things and had many great ideas and opportunities to express our creative talents. This project has given us freedom to use think creatively and work together, adding our own little thing each to the project. For example, using our creativeness to make models,

writing poems, creating murals and editing mini films on iMovie. We have focused our projects on the battle of Passchendaele and the experiences of the Welsh soldiers that gave their lives to protect our country.

We have worked in groups and have all had a different role and responsibility. We have looked at the history of the Battle of Passchendaele and we are using the school website to show case each project. We even got to interview Mr. Cripps!

Why are we doing this project you may ask? Well, we believe that it is not only important to remember this important part of European history but to commemorate the people of Wales during World War One. We have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this project and look forward to the final film that will include our work about Glyn Morgan, his family and the incredible story about his part in Passchendaele. ■



## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This term the Year 11 and 10C Child Development pupils had their controlled assessment where they had to produce four dishes for a child. Each pupil had to plan and prepare different meals which promoted protein and calcium in a child's diet. These dishes had to be a range of sweet and savoury foods. Both classes did exceptionally well showing a wide range of cooking skills and ways to present their foods. It was a really enjoyable week for pupils and myself and some fantastic marks were awarded. Well done Girls. ■



## MATHS

To celebrate Science Week the Maths department invited Technquest to School to offer different numeracy workshops. Students were required to take on the roles of designers and engineers in order to produce a vehicle to meet the specifications of a design brief. The vehicles were then tested to see if they met the criteria and to assess how they performed.



Well done to all the groups who managed to start their vehicles and get them to stop exactly 2 metres from the start line. Special mention to the group of Year 8 students who managed to create a vehicle that didn't move. All part of the learning experience!



Students demonstrated great budgeting, problem solving and communication skills during task whilst having lots and lots of fun. Well done everyone. ■

## WELSH

Year 13 A Level Welsh students visited the BBC studios in Cardiff to watch the filming of the popular S4C television programme JONATHAN. The guests for the week were Iwan Rhys, from the series Gwaith Cartref and the television presenter Alun Williams. As usual, Nigel "ref" Owens was only too willing to stay behind after the filming to have photographs with the audience. This was a great experience and in addition to being good fun it was a useful opportunity to use our Welsh language skills. ■





# 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](http://www.pontypriddhighschool.co.uk)

How to contact us:

**Email:** [contact@pontypriddhighschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@pontypriddhighschool.co.uk)

**Tweet:** @pontypriddhs

**Phone:** 01443 486133

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### SCHOOL EVENTS

#### April

Monday 16th - Summer Term starts. Year 9 Exams Week

Wednesday 18th - Year 8 Parents Option launch

Thursday 19th April - Year 10 Reports

#### May

Wednesday 2nd - Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 3rd - SLT Surgery

Monday 7th - May Day Bank Holiday

Tuesday 8th - GCSE exams start

Wednesday 9th May - Year 9 Reports

Thursday 10th - Year 9 Parents Evening

Monday 14th May - A-Level exams start

W/B 28th - Whitsun Half-Term

#### June

W/B 4th - Year 7 Exams Week

Wednesday 6th - Year 8 Interim Report

Thursday 7th - SLT Surgery

Tuesday 19th - Year 7 Reports

W/B 25th - Year 6 Transition Week

W/B 25th - Sports Week

Tuesday 26th - Sports Day at Leckwith Stadium

Tuesday 26th - Year 6 Parents Evening

Wednesday 27th - Year 11 Prom

Thursday 28th - GCSE and A-Level exam series finishes

Friday 29th - INSET DAY

#### July

W/B 2nd - Year 5 Transition Week

Wednesday 4th - Year 4 and 5 Open Evening

Wednesday 4th - Year 10 Interim Reports

Thursday 12th - SLT surgery

Saturday 14th - Year 13 Prom (Cardiff Castle)

Monday 23rd - Activities Day

Tuesday 24th - Last day of term

#### August

Thursday 16th - A-Level Results

Thursday 23rd - GCSE Results