



The  
PHS

# NEWSLETTER

JULY  
2017



## THE NEXT ADVENTURE



By Miss Katie Churchill (Year 7 Wellbeing Manager)

**It does not seem that long ago that we were welcoming Year 7 pupils into Pontypridd High last September. Another year later and it is that time when we get prepared for a new cohort of children and with that in mind the Year 6 transition week proved to be a very positive experience.**

It was very reassuring to hear so many comments from pupils and parents about the excitement of coming to

our school rather than the anxious concerns that some expressed a year ago when we met on our Open evening. The Year 6 week included time with children from all other schools and everyone has now been placed in their form class for September. It is clear many of the children have already started new friendships and all seem to know their way around and what the food is like in the canteen!

Given their confidence to get going we are all looking forward to welcoming our new *(continue on page 2)*

*"I would like to commend Casey Lloyd in Year 11 for the tremendous effort and commitment she showed in preparing for her GCSE Mathematics exam. Well done Casey, I am so proud of you!"* **Mrs Dober**

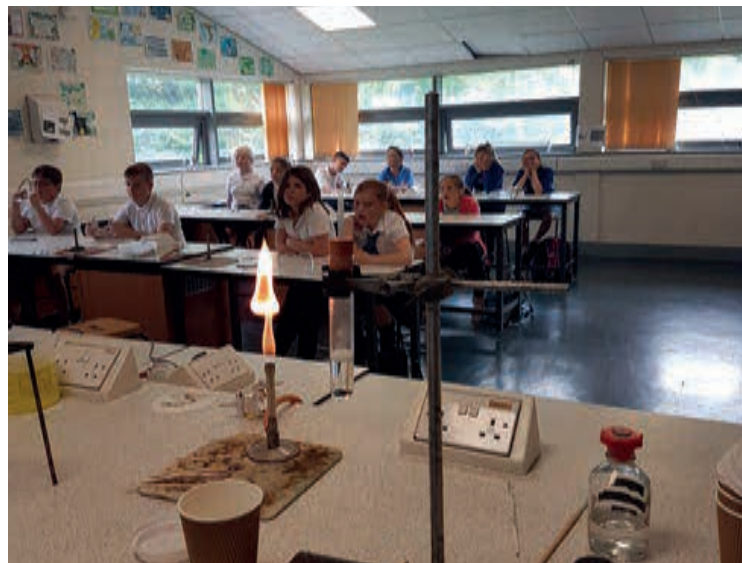


# TRANSITION WEEK



Year 7 into school in September and I am sure this will be the start of a very enjoyable and successful relationship.

At the start of July all Year 5 children came to school for three days and this proved to be a fantastic experience and the first of a transition journey into Pontypridd High. Everyone participated in different learning activities that covered different subjects and skills. This also included all Year 5 pupils mixing in different groups and at one point all on stage together performing the hit song from Matilda, 'When I grow up'. This was done so well that in the meeting for parents at the end of the week, a number of the children performed the song on stage – fantastic !



As with Year 6 it was pleasing to hear such positive comments from pupils and parents about the week and the different activities they had undertaken. For some this included using our fantastic animation resources and also making a 'sweet dispenser' in Product Design. Such experiences have already made the children think about new subjects and skills they can use. By working closely with each primary school we can be sure that such experiences will be available to all pupils in Year 5 and 6 over the next year.

Well done Year 5 and thanks to our primary colleagues for their help and support in making this week such an enjoyable experience for all involved. ■



*"Audi in Year 8 has brought so much enthusiasm and happiness to the group. A real pleasure to have as part of our LEGO club. Well done Audi!"*

**Mrs Morgan-Jenkins**

## HEADTEACHERS CORNER

By Mr Cripps (Headteacher)

**As I write my thoughts for this final newsletter of the school year the days are warm and in school terms the contrast between the end of a calendar year and an academic year could not be greater. This is a time to issue the final progress reports to each student and reflect on those things that have worked well, the experiences everyone enjoyed and the most interesting and effective way to move forward in the new school year.**

After all the commitment and time spent around examinations in the last year we look forward to the A Level results on August 17th and GCSEs on August 24th. Building on the success of 2016 we have been delighted with the positive response our students have shown to all the advice and support and it will be very pleasing to see the effort and commitment of students and staff rewarded.

It goes without saying that we want the very best results for Pontypridd High students and when all indicators of school performance are looked at we can reflect proudly on our position in the top 25% of schools in Wales. This does not happen by chance and in order to lay the foundation for such success it is essential that

the learning experiences we provide each day are of the highest quality. You can be reassured that this is a constant source of conversation between my colleagues and a great deal of time is spent planning new experiences and thinking carefully about the inherent skills young people need in order to be successful. Having the mental strength to manage different situations with confidence is an essential skill and something we shall continue to develop with all our students.

The year 2016/17 has both confirmed and uncovered great talent amongst the young people that we work with and care for. It never ceases to amaze how humble, modest and self-effacing they can be, often in the face of very testing circumstances. Whether it be caring for family members, creative arts, sport or the academic field there is every reason to be optimistic about the future and the reports in this newsletter show how different experiences have also allowed students to thrive. From September we will continue to do this and very much look forward to sharing them with you.

Many thanks as always for your support and on behalf of all the staff I wish you a very good summer and together we can look forward to another enjoyable and rewarding school year. ■

## MATHS SUCCESS

By Mr Astley (Maths teacher)

**During May it was Year the turn of year 8 to take place in the 'UKMT Maths Challenge.' Ten Pontypridd High pupils competed in the Junior edition of the programme organised by the UK Mathematics Trust.**

The competition tests the best young Mathematical minds from across the UK with over four thousand schools taking part.

Huge congratulations to Jarrad Carter and Mason Owen who both gained the prestigious Bronze Award. Jarrad also achieved a certificate for Best in School.

No doubt these two young Mathematicians will continue to achieve great things throughout their time at PHS. ■



# AROUND THE SCHOOL

# THE HAY FESTIVAL

By Mrs Thomas (Standards Manager)

**We were delighted to take pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 to the 30th Hay Festival in May. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate great writing from poets and scientists, lyricists and comedians, novelists and environmentalists.**

Pupils attended workshops and readings by authors including Daniel Morden, Kim Salisbury, Katherine Webber and Ali Sparkes. These sessions were also enjoyed by pupils in their English lessons via a live streaming link. This meant that our pupils on the trip and back at school could ask questions and interact with the authors.

Following the talks, pupils visited the various attractions on offer, including the ice-cream stands and book shops. We were lucky enough to see the Duchess of Cornwall, who was also enjoying a visit to the Festival. Many pupils used their free time as a chance to have their newly purchased books signed. Both staff and pupils enjoyed an excellent day filled with fun and exciting learning experiences. ■



*"Chloe Jordan, Year 12 is an inspiration as our Platinum Young Ambassador for Sport. Her leadership skills are outstanding and she never fails to give of her time freely. The PE Dept is so proud of you Chloe."* **Mrs Samuel-Jones**



# AROUND THE SCHOOL

## 'OXFLORE' SUCCESS

By Miss Moses (Assistant Headteacher)

**As part of our More Able and Talented program, Year 9 and 10 pupils visited Oxford University. The day gave everyone a taste of student life, the application process for Oxbridge and taking part in an 'Oxlore' workshop during which students entered a competition with their own 'Big Questions'.**

We were all taken on a tour of Oxford and got the chance to ask a variety of questions about university life. Everyone did the school extremely proud, with exceptional 'big questions' being asked and discussed. This led to several healthy debates. Credit to all but there were two stand out performers. Liam Hooper and Usman Khalid from Year 10 were commended by

students and fellows at the University for their big question, 'If we stop pollution what would happen to the Earth?'

Dr Alex Pryse from Oxford University has contacted us at school to congratulate the boys on this excellent piece of work. Both will receive a goody bag from Oxford University and their achievements will be recognised in the school's annual awards ceremony. Well done boys you have done our school proud.

The visit proved to be a great success in more ways than expected and this experience certainly gave everyone something to think about in terms of their aspirations for a future education and career path. ■



*Caitlin Gibbs in 10R has been a pleasure to have in my form class this year. She is always polite and helpful in the morning and comes in with a smile on her face. She is also doing extremely well in GCSE Geography! Keep up the good work Caitlin!"* **Miss Pritchard**

# THE GOVERNING BODY



## ANNUAL TRAINING DAY

By Mr Davies (Chair of the Governing Body)

**In addition to the termly full governing body meeting and different committee meetings the headteacher arranges an annual training day for all members of the governing body. The training day this year was held in school on 5th July.**

Through the year governors are involved in staff appointments, presentations from staff with responsibilities and the performance management process amongst others. The training day is another welcome opportunity to meet with pupils, staff and see the school in action. This year we received excellent presentations from staff on a number of new initiatives taking place within the school. These included the new provision for pupils with additional social and emotional needs, where governors were able to talk with pupils and see the excellent progress they are making. Another presentation was on the Digital Competency Framework and governors met the pupils

leading this initiative who showed their skills at using different technology.

Governors were also informed of the changes to the curriculum provision in light of the Donaldson Report. Again we were able to discuss these changes with pupils and to listen to their views on the impact this is having. Mr Diehl, Deputy Headteacher also informed and updated governors of the requirements for safeguarding children.

Governors felt it was an excellent day in that we were able to not only be informed of different initiatives but we were also able to meet and discuss things with some of the pupils involved. Governors also appreciated the hard work and the enthusiasm of staff in striving to ensure that each pupil achieves his/her potential. The added bonus was a fantastic lunch prepared and served to us by hospitality and catering students.

We all look forward to the session next year. ■

*"I have been proud to work with William Mansell this year in maths as his enthusiasm and effort has been commendable."*

**Miss Jones**



# AROUND THE SCHOOL

## THE LONGEST DAY...

By Mr Cripps (Headteacher)

**The Welsh Government puts all secondary schools in Wales into 'similar' groups. As such Pontypridd High is part of a 'Family of schools' from across Wales'. We are not that familiar with the work in any of these schools and because we are very proud of the work we do it seemed sensible to combine two aims – to take an opportunity to meet and share ideas with a new set of schools and also to give staff and pupils the opportunity to present their work.**

With one exception, all schools committed themselves to attend a full day event at our school looking at different themes which included - Teaching and Learning, Pupil Wellbeing, Standards and data, Literacy and Numeracy, Digital Competency and the implementation of Successful Futures.

On the day at least three staff gave presentations in each of the themes that was based on practice in their own school. Needless to say what we listened to and discussed was new to some, interesting to all and a stimulus to think collectively about what could be better. Everyone commented very positively on the 'walking tour' around our school that was linked to each theme.

The format of the day gave everyone the chance to speak informally, present formally and experience a school day with opportunity to speak with pupils and staff. The lunch, planned, prepared and served by hospitality and catering students was restaurant standard and gave further 'food for thought' as we discussed the nature and challenges of providing the right provision and challenge to our learners.

We ended suitably warmed by the record temperatures and optimistic about future plans to meet and share. All had gained an idea, something new that could help make a change. Partnerships are best based on good personal relationships and whilst these are in their infancy they are the foundation from which we can gain a great deal and no doubt this will benefit pupils and staff alike.

The longest day ended with the light still shining... ■



*"Teaching maths to Cerys Bird has been an absolute pleasure this year. Her positive approach to learning along with her huge smile brightens up my day. Da lawn Cerys! You are a star!"* **Mrs Finney**

# UNIVERSITY LINKS

By Mr Roach (Head of History)

**On a warm and sunny Wednesday morning, an unconditioned bus filled with hot and bothered year 11 pupils, set off on the long and winding road to the University of South Wales campus in Treforest. After a gruelling eight minute journey, the pupils arrived with wide eyes and excitement in their hearts as they met up with their future sixth-form co-habitants from Hawthorn High School.**

They were visiting the campus to get a feel for University life, undertake a series of introductory sessions surrounding life in the sixth form and, you never know, maybe even meet their new best friend.

The two day event was a partnership between Pontypridd, Hawthorn, First Campus and the University of South Wales. On day one, the pupils took part in several team building activities run by members of

staff from both Pontypridd and Hawthorn. They took on the challenge of how to safely drop an egg from a two-metre height (without cracking the shell), attempted to build a pyramid of plastic cups (but with the stipulation of not being able to physically touch the cups) and they also took on the challenge of creating a sturdy bridge structure with only masking tape and a few straws for building materials.

On day two, the pupils took a tour of the campus, engaged in sessions that will prepare them for their studies next year and revisited the very popular canteen facilities.

The two days were very successful and the pupils were a credit to both schools. The provision provided by First Campus and USW was outstanding and we will certainly look forward to future events with both organisations and strong subject links so we can work in partnership together. ■



*"It has been a delight to work alongside Christopher Owens (Year 7) whilst he has been working on Success Maker he is extremely polite, always happy and a pleasure to have in the lesson. The effort and enthusiasm he has put in is proven in his results. Miss Francis*



# SIXTH FORM PROM

By Mrs Crozier (Head of Sixth Form)

**In order to celebrate their time at Pontypridd High School, Year 13 pupils enjoyed a magnificent prom on Saturday 1st July at Jury's Inn Cardiff.**

The pupils were joined by members of staff and they enjoyed a lovely three course meal together. Pupils looked wonderful in their prom outfits and whilst they posed elegantly for their formal photos, they also had lots of fun posing in the photo booth.

Both staff and pupils enjoyed each other's company throughout the evening. There were some serious moves on the dance floor, directed by the dance master himself Simon Humphries! The pupils gave out awards to everyone and they were very appreciative of all the help and support given to them throughout their seven years at Pontypridd High. They said that they had enjoyed every minute of their time with us and that

they couldn't believe how quickly the seven years had gone.

The pupils have worked very hard during the last two years and are now looking forward to their A level results in August. The majority of the pupils are hoping to go to university to pursue degree courses in subjects such as Architecture, Business, Dentistry, English, Graphic Design, Geography, History, ICT, Law, Philosophy and Medicine. Other students are looking to start apprenticeships or join the military forces. Special thanks must be given to all those who helped to organise the sixth form and particularly Ben Gooding, Head Boy and Olivia Davies, Head Girl. The pupils represent a huge variety of qualities, skills and talents and they have been great ambassadors for the school.

We will miss each and every one of them and we wish them the very best for their future. ■



*"9T you have been an absolute pleasure to teach this year. Your enthusiasm, creativity and distinctive personalities have made you a class I will never forget. Studying 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and doing '15% Time' have been particular highlights!"* **Mrs Marvelley**



# TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



# TRANISTION PROJECT

By Mr Thomas (Technology Teacher)

**Year 5 pupils from Cefn Primary and Craig Y Hesg had a great transition day in the Technology Department making sweet dispensers.**

Using a variety of workshop tools and machines pupils learnt how to measure and mark out pieces of pinewood and how to saw them accurately. Pupils also learnt how to use the disc sander, bench drill and pillar drill safely.

One of the pupils from Cefn said, "It is great using the machines as we don't have them in primary school"

At the end of the visit each pupil took away a sweet dispenser and a Health and Safety competency certificate.

The pupils had a great day, they were enthusiastic throughout and were a credit to both Cefn Primary and Craig Y Hesg Primary. ■

*"I was very impressed with the attitude and work ethic throughout the day and I look forward to seeing the pupils back for another tranistion project in Design & Technology".* **Mr Thomas**



## CREATIVE LEARNING

By Mrs Marvelley (Head of English )

**This year Pontypridd High School became an Arts Council Wales 'Lead Creative School.' A team of teachers worked with a Year 8 class and a set designer to build a creative space in which they learned their 'Health and Nutrition' Science topic in creative ways – including building a giant sculpture of the human body, painting word walls, performing role plays, preparing food and writing music.**

The topic culminated in the Year 8 pupils delivering a Creative Science workshop to Year 6 and Year 7 pupils. The event was organised and run by the pupils and they did an incredible job as the younger pupils carouselled

through stations that involved games, experiments and the stomach-turning 'Gums to Bums' demonstration.

Teachers saw huge developments in the pupils' skills in collaboration, resilience and self-discipline. The final testimony to the success of the creative learning approaches was the outstanding results the pupils achieved in their end of topic assessment – with many pupils gaining two or three grades higher than they had in previous Science assessments.

The team have since run training for all staff and we look forward to seeing the development of creative pedagogy and more creative learning spaces throughout the school. ■



*"Year 8 boys are doing exceptionally well in the gardening Explore class, a special mention to Liam Viles who has really impressed us with his hard work and enthusiasm."* **Tammy and Janine**



# SUCCESSFUL FUTURES



By Mr Diehl (Deputy Headteacher)

**What and how we teach is a constant source of discussion and debate in Wales and the Government recently appointed Professor Graham Donaldson to make recommendations about the best way forward. The result is a report entitled 'Successful Futures' which has proved to be a radical review of the curriculum being taught across primary and secondary schools in Wales.**

Amongst the recommendations are that a new curriculum should give opportunity to learn new skills and apply subject knowledge more confidently and creatively. Children should also receive a deeper understanding of how to thrive in an increasingly digital world. In order that to deliver this type of learning teachers will have more freedom to teach in different ways and through different themes. The purpose of the new curriculum is to support young people so that they can be:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising and creative, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

There will also be new 'progression points' like the present end of key stages. These will be points at which learners, teachers, parents and carers can see whether appropriate progress is being made. Such points relate broadly to ages 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16.

At Pontypridd High we have already implemented changes, in particular for Year 7 and 8 children. Such change has been put in place to enhance the learning experience and broaden knowledge and



understanding through enjoyable activities.

In September, we will be introducing a thematic skills based-learning provision in Year 7 and 8 called 'Discover' in order to provide even more engaging and high quality learning experiences.

### Themed Weeks

Children learn in many different ways and sometimes, following the same timetable continuously can be restrictive. For certain weeks of the year, our regular curriculum is replaced with a shared, creative theme for children in Years 7 and 8. Visiting speakers, external trips and visits, workshops, dress-up days and whole school performances and rewards characterise these weeks. Themed weeks this year have included Shwmae Week, World Book Week and Sports Week.

### Lead Creative Schools Project

As a designated 'Lead Creative School' in Wales we have the opportunity to develop an innovative and bespoke programme of learning that combines creative arts with other subjects. We are able to recruit professional artists from the Arts Council of Wales to improve the quality of teaching and learning for Year 7 and 8 children.

In our first year the focus was a scientific one with the appointed 'Creative Agent' supporting children through the project though learning is shaped and directed by

the pupils themselves. Whilst this has been fantastic fun and very enjoyable, outcomes show that everyone improved understanding and the test results were among the best ever.

### Animation

The role of digital technology is leading to new approaches, skills and topics being taught that are developing the learning of our pupils in areas they would not normally be exposed to. One such example is through 'animation' which is being expertly led by Mr Craig Husband. Work within PHS and our cluster of primary schools is giving opportunity for children to develop their stop-animation skills in addition to numeracy and research skills. Historical knowledge of the area in which they live is also improving in leading to a stop-motion animation that explores the rich heritage of our local area.

### A Successful Future

'Successful Futures has given us greater control over the curriculum which develops the skills of our teachers and impacts positively on our students. Donaldson called his curriculum review 'Successful Futures' and we have received excellent feedback on our provision from the Local Authority, Central South Consortium and Estyn. They believe our provision is inspiring, enthusing and challenging our learners who as a result will no doubt become very successful individuals in the future. ■



*"Jack Trilloe is outstanding in construction, he always goes the extra mile to learn and achieve together. I have no doubt he will go far in the industry."* **Mr Steve Jones**



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT



## A 'NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS'

By Mr Capel (Head of Music)

**Pupils from years 7 to 13 put on a fantastic 'Night at the Musicals' in the school hall. Musical number from hit west-end shows such as Hairspray, Rent, Wicked and Les Miserables were performed to excellent standards throughout the evening.**

The evening also saw many performers, from all year groups, performing solos for the first time in a concert. This provided a fantastic confidence building experience for our young talents in front of a wonderfully warm and appreciative audience. Two of our Year 13 pupils, Amy Herman (Drum Kit) and Jocelyn Churchill (Bass Guitar), also performed to highly

professional standards in the band.

The show would not have been possible without huge support from Miss Nia James, who provided choreography and stage direction for all the musical numbers, Mr Simon Bracey who organised and ran the sound and lighting for the evening, Mr Ashley Meredith who supported many rehearsals and performed on the guitar and Mr Nathan Griffiths who supported the show with ticket sales and refreshments.

The evening, once again, displayed the amazing talent that we have in Pontypridd High School and the opportunities that our pupils have to perform. ■

*"Congratulations Rio Pugh in S7, for representing the school in Shot Put and for gaining 130 Achievement Points. Fantastic!"* **Mrs Thomas**



# SPORTS WEEK

# NATIONAL SPORTS WEEK



By Mr Thomas (Head of P.E. )

**During National Sports Week, the normal timetable was suspended and pupils took part in physical activities or sporting classroom lessons.**

The activities were those which are not usually included on the National Curriculum. This included, Judo, Kick Boxing, Geocaching, 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, Laser Tag, Ice skating, Pontypridd Lido, White Water Rafting in Cardiff Bay, Mountain Ranch (Caerphilly) and horse riding and Go Karting, Caving and walks up Pen-y-fan! There was also a school fun run and the week ended with a fantastic whole school Fitness Workout which was led by Team Rees.

Feedback off from the pupils was very positive and we are already planning next years! ■



*"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**





*"I've been incredibly impressed with the professionalism and creativity that the Year 9 media studies class have displayed during the production of their horror movie trailers this term. Excellent effort!"* **Mr Bracey**



# SPORTS WEEK GALLERY



*"9E have been fantastic with their work with the iPads this year. I have loved sharing all your work with parents and other teachers."* **Miss Stickler**



# AROUND THE SCHOOL



## THE CLASS OF 2017

By Miss Jones and Mr Ally

**On Friday 12th of May 2017 Year 11 celebrated their achievements over the past 5 years with a memorable Record of Achievement Assembly. Pupils were able to reflect on their time at Pontypridd High school and share fond memories.**

There were many highlights including a wonderful solo singing performance by Lauren Harrison. Alex John received the Positive Achievement Award for his overall success and efforts in school. The ceremony included

some humorous moments as pupils were nominated for some carefully chosen awards, with winners being chosen by their peers. This included the next Head Teacher of PHS, the next Posh and Becks and the next Alan Sugar. Well done to all the winners.

This ceremony is always a special occasion for both staff and pupils. Form tutors paid heartfelt tributes to each of their classes, which provided much amusement and tears. All in all it was a fantastic way to say goodbye to the Class of 2017 as they enter the next chapter of their lives. Good luck to you all! ■



*"Sophie Bennett and Alisha Toogood Year 12 are two wonderful pupils who have helped out in my Year 7 and 8 classes this year. They have a lovely way with the pupils and nothing is ever too much bother for them. Definitely two teachers in the making."* **Mrs Scrine**



## PROMISING FUTURES

By Mr Longden (P.E. Teacher)

**It has been a remarkable season for past pupil and Dragons 2nd row Cory Hill. The 25-year-old was called up to the Wales squad last autumn and went on to be capped against Australia, Japan and South Africa before featuring against Italy and England in the Six Nations.**

Following his two senior caps Cory had four more Welsh caps as he was selected for Wales' tour of Tonga and Samoa this summer. Half way through the tour Cory had the phone call that every rugby player dreams of, the call up to the British and Irish Lions squad who were on

tour in New Zealand. A fantastic achievement!

Meanwhile two of our current Year 11 pupils - Kieran Gough and Ioan Evans were selected for The Cardiff Blues Under 16's and played against Ospreys Under 16's at St Helens in Swansea. The two boys played extremely well and just another stepping stone in which hopefully promises to be very successful careers.

From these games Ioan Evans was then selected to represent Wales Under 16's in two tough games against England Under 16's. This was an amazing experience for Ioan and hopefully a sign of things to come from this talented young man. ■





## DIY SOS

By Atalya Edwards (Year 12)

**Twelve Year 12 pupils, along with Mr Roach and Miss. Jones, gave up several days in their half term to undergo a mission of redecorating the sixth form study, transforming it from its regular dull grey tones to a brighter, more inviting room.**



On day one eight pupils arrived ready to paint the study. They realised when they arrived just how much work had to be done, and so set to work straight away. With just a few rollers and buckets of paint, the pupils worked non-stop to get the study painted. It proved quite the challenge to paint over the grey walls but that didn't deter the pupils. On the contrary, pupils worked even harder (ensuring there was a music playlist to accompany the work). There was a great atmosphere throughout the day and by the end of day one clear progress had been made.

Two days later a slightly different group of pupils took to the study with just as much determination as the previous. They raced against the clock in a 60 minute makeover-style operation to finally transform the study into a more vivid, positive place. After almost six hours of hard work the job was finally done! With free paint supplied by Wilko's the pupils had managed to complete their task - the study had been transformed, and not a spot had been missed.



The pupils now look forward to adding more to the study with their own designs and creations ready for the new school year in September.

Thank you to Atalya Edwards, Lucy Thomas, Spencer Reddy, Chloe Bartlett, Abbie Randell, Mia Lloyd, Dafydd Prichard, Tazkia Choudhury, Luke Chorley, Abigail Williams, Logan Hill and Jess Howells Mullen for their hard work. ■

# HISTORY DEPARTMENT

# POLITICIAN VISIT

By Bethany Howells (Year 12)

**Holding a strong interest in politics and world affairs, when Mr Roach introduced the prospect of meeting a working Politician I was enthused alongside the rest of the class. Originally the opportunity of meeting Jeremy Corbyn was pitched to us by our ever ambitious teacher, who throughout the year has worked exceedingly hard to nurture and inspire people to make a change and become involved in current affairs. Of course, the class was awed by the chance to interact high level politics and I argue that Vikki Howells walking through our history classroom door and not Jeremy Corbyn was perhaps even more inspiring than the original idea.**

Vikki Howells visiting our school was personal and showed our class how careers in politics were

not unattainable, but a feasible option for those looking to make a change. Despite sharing my last name with the politician, I also share the same home town, the same community – a common interest which could not be shared with Jeremy Corbyn. The candid, honest nature in which she spoke about current issues, and problems within the labour party itself worked to ease my somewhat disillusioned ideas about the UK political system. I dare to imagine that the visit was also beneficial to Vikki herself, who I hope was stunned with our class intellect and no-nonsense questions.

I left my classroom that day with a different outlook on politics and on my own personal goals. Regardless of whether politics was of interest to you or not, you could not fail to take away from the session that success is possible as a woman and as a person from the valleys in which we live. ■



*"The following Year 10 Welsh pupils pulled out all the stops to achieve top marks in every piece of their course work – Megan Groves, Abigail Holvey, Seren Hopkins, Seren James, Molly Jones, Aled Moore, Trudy Pounder and Abby Watkins. – Ardderchog!"* **Ms Thomas**



# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

# YEPS SUCCESS



By Miss Bolderson (Youth Engagement Officer)

**Congratulations to our Year 11 Agored class at Pontypridd High for winning the YEPS (Youth Engagement and Participation Service) Award. The class who consist of Corina Hayes, Gabriella Mabey, Lee Shepherd, Demi Doel, Rhydian Williams, Keelie Towell and Sam Griffiths.**

The ceremony which took place at Aberdare Coliseum was a fantastic evening of celebrations. The award was well deserved due to their dedication, commitment and positive attitude. The group continuously supported



each other to complete a Level 2 in Agored.

In addition, our congratulations to Ffion Davies who successfully was awarded the Youth Engagement and Participation Health and Wellbeing award for 2017. Ffion is an asset to Pontypridd High School and a gold sport ambassador for RCT. Ffion was nominated for her dedication and commitment in providing sport and health activities for young people, promoting disability sport and providing everyone an opportunity to engage!

Very well done Ffion and Year 11 Agored! ■

*"William Pennell in Year 8 has worked exceptionally well in PE this year. Always giving 100% in lessons, he is the captain of the school football team and has represented RCT schools this season. Well done Will you are a true role model for all pupils." Mr Longden*





# SKIING IN CANADA

By Mr Longden (P.E. Teacher )

**This year 40 pupils travelled to Canada to embark on a ski trip of a lifetime, the pupils were accompanied by Mr Longden, Mr Astley, Miss Moses, Miss Churchill and Miss Pritchard. The group stayed at The Banff Inn located in the centre of Banff, one of Canada's premium ski resorts.**

The pupils had six full days of ski instruction at two stunning resorts. Sunshine village had many beginner slopes which were both challenging and fun, the pupils really enjoyed "the rollercoaster" a short run with lots of small jumps and bumps. Lake Louise provided longer more advanced slopes with postcard views of evergreen trees and a large frozen lake.

On the Thursday saw the best snow conditions I have ever encountered with two foot of fresh powder being dropped over night. During the week the pupil's

progression was unbelievable with every pupil advancing from the beginners slop after the second day. All pupils were a credit to themselves and the school with comments from the instructors that they were the best school group they had taught.

Its wasn't all just fun on the slopes, there were activities most evenings. One night was bowling and pizza, another we went to the hot springs to relax some aching muscles and of course the pupils favourite evening - shopping. One of the funniest evenings was the quiz night hosted by Mr Astley with the guess the teacher round taking centre stage, the winners were the trio of Marley, Harveer and Lewis. This however wasn't Lewis Hipperson's best reward of the trip, for his constant entertainment, motivation and all round helpfulness he was awarded pupil of tour.

Next year we head to France to the world famous Alpe D'huez ski resort. ■



# 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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Why not keep up to date with our departments...

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Geography Department	@PHS_geogdep
History Department	@PHShistorydept
ICT Department	@PHSICT
Maths Department	@PHS_md
Performing Arts Dept.	@PHSpad
P.E. Department	@PontyHighPE
Pupil Parliament	@PHS_PupilPar
Science Department	@PHSScienceDept
Sixth Form	@PontySixthForm
Technology Department	@PHSTD
Welsh Department	@PHS_Cymraeg

### SCHOOL EVENTS

#### July

Thursday 20th – Last school day for pupils for the 2016/17 School year

Friday 21st – INSET/Training Day

#### August

Thursday 17th – A-Level Results Day

Thursday 24th – GCSE Results Day and Year 12 (Sixth Form) Registration

#### September

Monday 4th - INSET/Training Day

Tuesday 5th – All Pupils Return to School

Friday 8th – Year 12 (Sixth Form) Induction

Wednesday – Preparation for Year 11 Evening for Year 11 parents/carers

Wednesday 27th – Year 7 parents – Meet the Form Tutor Evening

Thursday 28th – Awards Evening

#### October

Thursday 5th – Open Evening

Friday 6th - INSET/Training Day

9th – 13th – Languages Themed Week

Monday 30th – Half-Term Starts

#### November

Monday 6th – All pupils return from half-term

6th – 13th - GCSE Maths, Numeracy and English GCSE Exams

Thursday 16th – Year 11 Parents/Carers Evening

#### December

Thursday 7th – Christmas Carol Concert

4th – 15th – Year 10 Internal Exams

11th – 21st - Year 11 Internal Exams

18th – 22nd – Year 10 Work Experience

Thursday 21st – Last school day for pupils for 2017

Friday 22nd – INSET/Training Day. End of Term



*"Senora Crozier thinks that Year 9 Spanish are fantastic! I am going to really miss you and I wish you all the best –bueno suerte!"* **Mrs Crozier**