



The  
PHS

# NEWSLETTER

JULY  
2019



# MOONDANCE



**Pupils from Pontypridd High School hosted a live event for their parents, governors and members of the community in July to showcase what they have learnt about bowel cancer, the symptoms and the importance of taking part in the screening programme, as part of an initiative by the school, Bowel Cancer UK and other NHS partners.**

For the past eight weeks, a group of Year 8 school children have been learning about bowel cancer, how to reduce the risk of the disease and were also given a unique opportunity to visit the training and education centre at the University Hospital of Wales to learn through the latest augmented reality technology. They also had the chance to speak to a bowel cancer patient

# AROUND THE SCHOOL



about their diagnosis and treatment, and learn about the equipment used in surgery.

After returning to school, the children created a video about the importance of eligible people taking part in the national bowel cancer screening programme, which they premiered at the live event.

Huw Cripps, Headteacher at Pontypridd High School, says: "We are incredibly proud of the pupils who took part in the programme and have showcased their work brilliantly at this very special live event. What they learnt links strongly with the planned curriculum changes in Wales, placing a clear focus on health and wellbeing."

Lowri Griffiths, Head of Wales for Bowel Cancer UK, says: "Public awareness of bowel cancer, the symptoms and screening programme is quite low in Wales, but it's the second biggest cancer killer in the country and the fourth most common cancer.

"That's why it is so exciting to see such an impressive intergenerational education programme for school children to inspire them to make good decisions about their own lifestyles and for them to encourage their loved ones to take part in the national bowel cancer screening test when they receive it in the post for free." Julie Cornish, Colorectal Surgeon at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and a key delivery partner for the initiative, says: "I have really enjoyed working with



the children and I have been so impressed by how engaged they have been and how they have developed their awareness around this issue in such a short time. It is clear to me that through this, we have been able to equip the children with information that will help them make positive, healthy choices for their lives which will have a definite impact on their future."

Every year more than 900 people die from bowel cancer in Wales, making it the second biggest cancer killer. However it shouldn't be because it is treatable and curable especially if diagnosed early. Nearly everyone survives if diagnosed at the earliest stage but this drops significantly as the disease develops.

This initiative is part of the Moondance Bowel Cancer Project, an ambitious programme that aims to transform five year bowel cancer survival rates in Wales within a decade. Over the next 18 months, thanks to generous funding from the Moondance Foundation, and motivated partners from across the bowel cancer community in Wales will work together to deliver a series of activities to improve all areas of the patient pathway.

Project partners include: Bowel Cancer UK, Royal College of Surgeons of England, NHS Wales Health Boards, Bowel Screening Wales, Pontypridd High School, and NHS Wales pharmacy colleagues.



## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

**The end of term has almost arrived but our School remains a very busy place for students and staff. In the last term a large number of trips and events have been organized which really enrich the learning experience of the young people involved. Staff are spending time reflecting on what we have achieved and what we need to do in the new School year. Without doubt we have a great deal to be proud of but there is always a need to change and adapt the way we work in order to give everyone the best possible experiences.**

I am pleased that our students continue to respond positively to the expectations we have of them and the summer break will be an opportunity for many to reflect on a year where they have worked with resilience, good humour and a commitment to doing their best. Likewise I am proud to work alongside a team of staff who continue to work with skill and dedication, delivering the best teaching and support that your child deserves. I would also like to thank the school Governors who give a huge amount of their time to support the effective running of the school. Your work is very much appreciated.

As is the case every year we have a number of staff leaving us for pastures new and some retiring. Three colleagues who have given many years of service to our school are Mrs Andrea Samuel-Jones, Mrs Claire Thomas and Mrs Rhian Evan- Jones. There will be many people reading this newsletter who have been taught by these staff and we thank them for their service. We appreciate the commitment of Mr Alun Thomas as our Head of PE and wish him well as he starts his new post as Assistant Headteacher in Tredegar CS. Our thanks and appreciation also to Mr Barr (Science), Ms Brayford (Food and Child Development), Mrs Murphy (Science) Mr Rees (ICT), Mr Williams (Technology) and Ms Hawker (Bus. Studies). Our students receive great support from many staff and we also thank Mrs Davies, Mrs Herman,

Mrs Shine-Roberts and Mr Williams and wish them well. In September we look forward to working with a number new colleagues who will be joining our School.

A highlight of the last few weeks has been the transition work with our incoming Year 7 students and also the work we have undertaken with our Year 5 children from each Cluster primary school. Many days of induction activities plus a fantastic stage production of different musical songs and dances presented by all Year 5 students was a real highlight. The time we spent together really gave these young people a chance to learn about Pontypridd High and to feel prepared and excited about starting in September or in the next year ahead. We know it is crucially important to get this transition right and we appreciate the support of parents and our primary feeder schools in helping make this work so well.

We have celebrated the commitment and contribution our Year 11 and 13 students have made to Pontypridd high through two fantastic 'Prom' events, both evenings proving to be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to share experiences and memories of their time in School. I would like to particularly thank all parents and carers for the support you have given these young people and to our School in successfully navigating all of the different assessments and examinations over the last year where students have sat more hours of exams than ever before. We wish them all the very best for a bright and successful future and look forward to welcoming back so many students back into our Sixth Form in September.

On behalf of everyone at Pontypridd High School, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer holiday and look forward to us all learning, achieving and succeeding together when we return in September.

Huw Cripps - Headteacher

# MUSICAL MEDLEY

By Miss Passmore

**In July a production of 'Musical Theatre Medley' featuring Year 5 pupils from 7 local primary schools was performed.**

Each transition school showcased a dance and song from a selected musical. They also all performed an opening dance and closing dance together. There was an amazing, supportive audience filled with Primary school teachers and parents and family members.

Each school had four Performing Arts sessions lead by a Pontypridd High pupil. In these sessions they have explored Dance, Singing and Drama to create a mini musical.

Maes Y Coed presented 'Wicked' with Amelia Lowrey. Trerobart presented 'Hairspray' with Sophie Harris. Coed Y Lan presented 'Annie' with Lili Griffiths. Trehopcyn presented 'The Sound of Music' with Thea Davies. Cefn / Craig Yr Hesg presented 'Hairspray' with Aimee Lyddiatt and Cilfynydd presented 'Oliver' with Millie Davies.

Finn Johnson-Denny recorded videos of each school and created a mini movie trailer to introduce the performance! Congratulations to all those who performed on stage and also to those who worked hard behind the stage!







# hairspray

# THE SOUND OF MUSIC





## ROA CEREMONY



By Mr Ivins

**In May we held our annual Record of Achievement Ceremony to celebrate Year 11 pupils reaching the end of their compulsory schooling. Mr Ivins hosted the ceremony, with Mr Cripps, Mr Ally and Mr Longden also assisting.**

Each pupil was presented with their Record of Achievement folder which includes mementoes of their time at PHS, exam certificates and messages from staff.

A highlight of the ceremony was the PHS Oscars which were voted for by the pupils themselves. Awards were given to the pupil most likely to be Prime Minister, the next headteacher of PHS and the pupil most likely to



score the winning try in the 6 nations amongst many more. Mia Morgan was presented with the Positive Achievement Award for her fantastic attitude to learning throughout her time at PHS.

The ceremony ended with a special message from Mrs Samuel-Jones wishing our pupils the best of luck for their remaining exams.

Congratulations year 11 on reaching this milestone in your lives. We have experienced highs and lows over the past 5 years but each of you, in your own way, has made a special contribution to Pontypridd High School. We wish you the best of luck for your exams and your future pathways, whether that be returning to 6th form, going to college or starting work.





## CLASS OF 2019

By Mrs Dober

**In June we celebrated the end of Year 11 with our Leaver's Prom at Bryn Meadows Golf and Country Club.**

We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 11 pupils have worked over the course of their time at Pontypridd High School and particularly over the last year. Year 11 presents many challenges for pupils including coursework deadlines, lots of after school revision sessions and a tightly packed timetable of examinations spread throughout the year.

The class of 2019 have taken all of this in their stride, engaging positively with all the help and support provided by staff to ensure the best possible chance of success.

After all of this hard work the prom was a perfect opportunity for pupils and staff to enjoy a night of celebration together. Year 11 pupils were impeccably dressed and represented the school in an exemplary manner. Pupils took the opportunity to thank all of the teachers at PHS who have worked so hard to support them and have been so incredibly generous with their time.

Mr Cripps also took the opportunity to thank Year 11 for their contributions to our school and to wish them all a very happy and successful future. The evening ended with the crowning of Harry Jones and Elli Mai Collins as Prom King and Queen followed by plenty of dancing!

Well done to the class of 2019 – we look forward to welcoming many of you back into the Pontypridd Sixth Form in September.



# FESTIVAL OF CHEMISTRY

By Miss Davies

**Earlier this term eight of our super scientists from Years 7 and 8 competed against local secondary schools in the annual Salters' Festival of Chemistry at Cardiff University. The aim of the whole day was to promote the appreciation of Chemistry and related sciences amongst young people and this event was in partnership with The Royal Society of Chemistry.**

Our budding Chemists were organised in two teams of four and had 'The Salters' Challenge' to complete. They had to work together using their practical techniques and problem-solving skills to identify an unknown compound. This task involved the use specific separation techniques such as Chromatography and Filtration along with chemical identification tests to discover the chemical identity of the compound, all this had to be carried out in a tight timescale!

The afternoon saw a 'University Challenge' being set.

The teams, had to create all the colours of the pH Scale using acids, alkalis and indicator. They were then judged by the professors on the accuracy of the colours.

All of the students were excellent ambassadors for the school and the Science Faculty. They thoroughly enjoyed the tasks and the competitive element of the day along with being in 'real-life' laboratories and using the equipment. They engaged fully with all the fun and asked very pertinent questions throughout the day.

Although they weren't declared the winners, they came very close and all showed fantastic communication and collaboration skills. The day ended with useful goody bags given to each and them all having a strong desire to enter again and win next year!

If you'd like to take part in science competitions like The Salters Festival, please see Miss Davies to find out more about the STEM club that will take place next academic year.





# YEAR 5 VISIT



By Miss Pritchard

**In July, we were very excited to welcome approximately 140 Year 5 pupils to spend a few day's experiencing school life at Pontypridd High School. It was the first time that many of the children had visited our school and we could not wait to give them an extremely positive experience.**

The pupils were put into mixed groups from different primary schools. It was brilliant to see so many of them interacting so positively with their peers and making new friends.



Throughout the week the pupils took part in a range of activities, taking every one in their stride. From bike riding around the school, cooking (and eating) fairy cakes, to using their animation skills and making their own cartoon using the iPads, a thoroughly enjoyable week was had by all. In fact, a lot of the suggestions for improvement was to allow Year 5 to stay at PHS even longer!

The final day of transition week ended with a very successful Open Evening. This was an opportunity for all to gain an experience of other subjects on offer and key areas of the school. No doubt the star attraction of our Open Evening was the majority of Year 5 pupils performing their musical medley extravaganza. This was an extremely impressive show.



The pupils did very well to learn all the routines and lyrics of the songs. We are very grateful to the primary schools for allowing us time to coach the children in the weeks leading up to this show. We really look forward to the Year 5 pupils returning to us next year for more transition activities, when we can get to know them even better.

# YEAR 6 VISIT



By Miss Pritchard

**In June, we welcomed over 150 Year 6 pupils from 15 different primary schools as part of this year's transition week. It was a hugely successful week with pupils and staff enjoying getting to know each other in preparation for the upcoming academic year.**

To give a real insight into what school life will be like in September pupils were arranged into their form groups giving them an excellent opportunity to meet fellow peers and make new friends from different primary schools.

The first day of transition consisted of pupils experiencing core subjects. They demonstrated writing skills in an English lesson, playing probability games in Maths, and finally being subjected to an explosive science lesson full of exciting experiments.

The following day our Youth Engagement Programme team (YEPs) delivered different activities from the after school provision that is on offer to our pupils. This was a great way for pupils to sign up to youth club and summer holiday activities such as boxing, horticulture and arts and crafts.

The remaining part of the week gave pupils the chance to study a range of subjects. They enjoyed singing Spanish and Welsh songs within the Languages faculty. Also travelling around the world in Humanities by undertaking research to find out where lots of different items of clothing are made and transported from. Another popular activity during the week was in Technology, where pupils designed a wooden key ring and had their initials cut out using the laser cutter.

The final day of transition focussed around health and well-being activities. Pupils enjoyed the sunshine





# TRANSITION

whilst they took part in different sports and experiencing cooking lessons by making flapjacks. Pupils were also taught about diet and nutrition and counted their footsteps whilst walking around their new High School.

We held an information evening during the week which allowed parents and carers to find out more useful information about school transport, uniform, our achievement and behaviour policy, homework and the curriculum. It also enabled parents and carers to ask any questions and meet staff that will be working with each child.

During transition week we surveyed all of the Year 6 pupils and asked them to score their experience. 97% of pupils scored transition week 10/10 which is a really pleasing result.

We look forward to welcoming the Year 6 pupils back in September for their very first day as official Pontypridd High School, Year 7 students.





# LEADERSHIP TEAM



By Miss Stickler

**We are excited to introduce you to the new Leadership team at PHS. Over the next year these four students will be working closely with many of you to ensure that your voices are heard, and that our school continues to succeed.**

During the interview process, all students discussed a number of ideas that they would like to implement throughout the next academic year. Here are a few of them...

**Billie Mai Cox – Head Girl**

*My name is Billie Mai, and I have been recently appointed as Head Girl of PHS. I am excited for the year ahead. Over the next year I would like to implement the following:*

**Tutoring/Mentoring Sessions** - *We believe that older pupils should help tutor those in the younger years for their exams. They have had a first-hand experience with sitting similar exams and would be able to provide more support than a teacher is often able to. Pupils may also feel more comfortable asking someone closer to their age for*



help than they would a teacher. This could happen in registration time, lunch times, or in certain lessons.

**Hardship Fund** - We believe that learning and educational experiences are something that everyone should be able to take part in. We plan to set up a fund to which pupils are able to apply for money to help cover the cost of opportunities that they would not be able to afford otherwise. The money for this fund would be fundraised by the pupils in addition to donations from the school itself.

### **Liam Hooper – Head Boy**

I am Liam, and I have just been appointed the role of Head Boy. I am looking forward to working with the team next year.

**Your school, your suggestions** - We would like to implement two suggestion boxes and a weekly meeting where the pupils can either write down or talk to a leadership team member to discuss their ideas and problems. This will improve the pupil voice around the school as these ideas can be taken to the school council or to staff to try and show the pupils that their thoughts are being acted upon.

**Fundraising** - We would like to start discussing fundraising activities earlier in the year. We can calculate the funds needing to run events such as the year 13 prom and then set targets for how much we would like to raise in each term. We are thinking about fundraising both in school and outside of school by running a tuck shop during lunch or bag packing in a supermarket.

### **Emilie Williams - Deputy Head Girl**

My name is Emilie Williams and I will be the new deputy head girl for the upcoming school year. I'm really excited to join the leadership team and have the opportunity to share my ideas for school changes and to support my fellow pupils.

**Wellbeing** - My vision for this role in the leadership team is to improve the facilities in our school that support our mental health and wellbeing as I know from experience

the importance of dealing with school pressure or anxiety before they become problems. I wish to ensure that all Pontypridd High pupils have the support that they need to progress through their academic lives.

### **William Thomas - Deputy Head Boy**

My name is Will and I am looking forward to the adventures of next year. I want to ensure that you all have a voice in the school.

**Head Boy and Girl of each Year** - We want each year to have a pair of representatives who will voice the opinions from everyone in their year group. This would give each year an idea of what is going well and what needs improving. We would hope this would also improve relations between each year group.

**Student Council** - We will use the Student Council as a forum for discussion and decision making. Emilie and I will take responsibility for this and will hold meetings most weeks to look at what needs to be improved and who will go about making the changes. In addition to this, we will lead assemblies, showcasing what impacts we are having. Also, we want the Student Council to be very approachable and we want anyone who has an idea to feel comfortable to come to anyone on the Council and make a suggestion.



# LINEAR PLASTICS

By Mr Thomas

**Year 10 Product Design students further developed their knowledge of the injection moulding process by visiting Linear Plastics in Pontypridd this term.**

Students were able to follow the whole design and manufacturing process from initial computer aided design drawings, testing of mould designs, the production of the moulds using CNC milling machines and finally the variety of injection moulding machines used to make a range of parts.

The Faculty have been very lucky to establish excellent links with Linear Plastics and Andrew Harrison General Manager has provided our students with a fantastic insight into the industrial practice involved. It was great for the students to experience the scale of production in a factory setting and have a better understanding of how products they use every day are made.





GWASANAETH YMGYSYLLTU  
A CHYFRANOGIAD IEUENCTID

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT  
AND PARTICIPATION SERVICE

MAE CLWB IEUENCTID  
PONTYPRIDD  
YN SYMUD!

PONTYPRIDD  
YOUTH CLUB  
IS MOVING!

DYDD MAWRTH A DYDD IAU  
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

@ THE MUNI

(MYNEDFA MAES PARCIO / CAR PARK ENTRANCE)

5:30-8:00

GWEITHDAI DJ | TENNIS BWRDD | PS4 | CELF / ANIMEIDDIO | BOCSIO | ARDAL YMLACIO  
DJING | TABLE TENNIS | PS4 | ART / ANIMATION | BOXING | CHILL OUT AREA

Am ragor o wybodaeth am y Gwasanaeth Ymgysylltu a  
Chyfranogiad Ieuenctid / For more information on YEPS provision:

**www.wicid.tv**

Mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu â ni yn y Gymraeg  
You are welcome to communicate with us in Welsh



@YEPSRCT



# 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



### SCHOOL EVENTS

#### September

Monday 2nd - INSET Day

Tuesday 3rd - All pupils return to school

Wednesday 18th - Year 11 Preperation Evening

Thursday 19th - Year 7 - Meet the Form Tutor Evening

Thursday 26 th - Awards Evening

#### October

Wednesday 9th - Year 6 Transition Evening

Thursday 17th - SLT Surgery

Thursday 25th - Year 11 Parents Evening

Monday 28th - Friday 1st November - Half Term

#### November

Monday 4th - 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.

