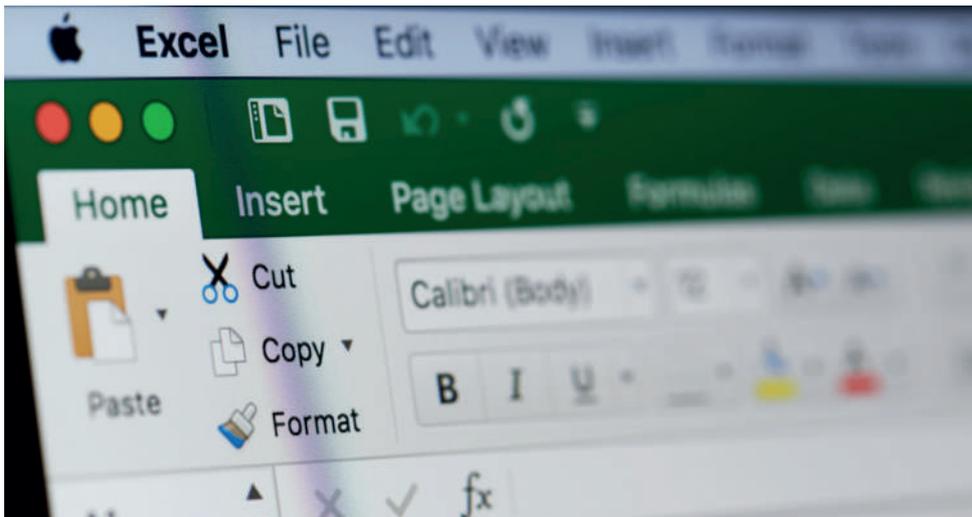




DEVELOPING I.C.T.



By Mr Eldridge

The last section of work that Year 8 we're studying in ICT in class prior to schools being closed was Excel and spreadsheets.

Excel extends mathematical skills through creating formulas and functions, and working logically and developing reasoning skills. The pupils were asked to complete any of their assignments at home, if possible, during these tough times. Some pupils have worked hard to complete their work and have handed in their work through Teams.

Corey Vbranch has gone a step further, challenged himself and has successfully completed the Microsoft Excel for Beginners Certificate. Congratulations Corey on achieving this certificate! This course involved 15 hours of online learning which shows dedication, commitment and enthusiasm towards ICT.

Successfully completing the course has shown that Corey has been focused in class, has worked hard and challenged himself further with high expectations of himself to advance his excel skills to the next level. These skills will provide Corey with a greater understanding and skills level in the coming years. ■

Pontypridd High School



Bringing a voice to our education.

We are calling for pupils to take part in our blog as part of their home learning. The blog does not need to be long and can be about anything you like.

Blog Ideas could include positive messages, thoughts and Feelings, book review, film/TV review, physical activity review, cooking recipe you have tried, activities you think your peers may enjoy. You can add images, videos and links to your blog. Send your blog to Miss Griffiths - griffithsr@pontyhigh.co.uk

ACHIEVERS

Excellent Home Learning in Product Design

Year 9: Florence Morgan-Wood, Alexia Bindczus, Ffion Rowe, Chloe Hazard, Alisha Hernandez, Oliver Needs, Nia Monk, Rio Newman, Niya Partington

Year 10: Rhys Meredith, Lewis Carys, Briar-Rose Allen, Brandon Carter, Charlie Edwards, Cody Jones, Lowri Thomas, Maddison Baldwin and Ryan Watkins.



CORNER

By Mrs Sidoli

Everyone loves chocolate chip cookies! Here is a simple recipe for making a delicious cookies at home.

The ingredients

- 100 g butter
- 75 g soft light brown sugar
- 2 x 15 ml spoon (2 tbsp) syrup
- 175 g self Raising Flour
- 100 g chocolate chips
- 2 x 15 ml spoon (2 tbsp) milk

The method

1. Heat oven to 180°C, 350°F, Gas Mark 4.
2. Grease a baking tray.
3. Beat the butter until soft, add the sugar and mix together until light and fluffy.
4. Sift in the flour, Stir in the syrup, chocolate chips and milk and mix well.
5. Place spoonful's of the mixture on the prepared trays and bake for 8-10 minutes. (They will still be soft but will harden as they cool)
6. Remove from the tray immediately and place on a wire rack to cool.



ACHIEVER OF THE WEEK



By Miss Griffiths

I received so many excellent films and television reviews over the Easter holidays. This was a very popular Discover More challenge task.

The achiever of the week for their film review of 'RV' is Joshua Lewis in Year 8. All pupils have been given an achievement point for their fantastic effort and I will certainly share the reviews that have been submitted. Well done Joshua.

Joshua Lewis' Year 8 Film Review

Title of Film: RV

Director: Barry Sonnenfeld

Setting: The events take place on a road trip to Colorado during the summer holidays.

Plot: Bob Munro is a businessman working for a nasty pasty boss, Bob thinks he'll get fired if he doesn't do a presentation, but he promised a family vacation to Hawaii to his family. So he takes them on a road trip, but they don't know he's using the road trip to get to the presentation.

On the way the family makes new friends who are hippies, but they don't want to be there friends, so they kept running from them, but in the end they become good friends. At the end Bob does attend to do the presentation but realises during it that family is more important than work, he then leaves the job but is able to find a better job with nicer people.

STAY SAFE STAY HOME

Main Characters:

Bob Munro/dad-Robin Williams – hard working daddy
Jamie Munro/mum-Cheryl Hines – loving mother
Cassie Munro/daughter-Joanna Noelle Levesque – normal teenage girl
Carl Munro/son-Josh Hutcherson – tries to be cool to fit in
Todd/nasty pasty boss-Will Arnett – nasty pasty
Travis Gornickle/friend – Jeff Daniels - hippie guy
Mary Jo Gornickle/friend – Kirsten Chenoweth - hippie wife

The Soundtrack: The soundtrack goes well with the film. It was like country music or rhythm and blues music which was happy and energetic. The most popular song was Route 66 by Bobby Troup.

Important technical elements: There is a scene when a racoon jumps out of an oven, they smoke bombed the

RV which meant that they could not go inside the RV. It started to rain so they tried to find shelter but ended up sliding down a large mountain side. The RV also gets stuck on a summit of a hill and is balancing over the edge. Bob has to climb onto the windscreen of the RV to change the balance so it can move again. The RV then rolls down the hill when he was on the front of it, through the woods and passing his family and back into the camp site.

Theme: No matter how much you argue with your family and friends they are still more important than work and money, and that it is important to spend time with family and friends.

Overall Opinion: A good enjoyable film which is also funny to watch with the family. It has a good moral within the film. I recommend the film to all ages.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE 4

By Miss Griffiths

The Discover More 'Weekly Challenge' this week is a scavenger hunt. Take part in our indoor scavenger hunt! Either independently or with your family you need to look for as many of the items that you can find on the list that are in your home/garden.

Send them to Miss Griffiths - griffithsr@pontyhigh.co.uk

Your challenge:

- Take a photograph of as many things listed.
- Be as creative as possible
- You can make a collage of all the photographs.

Discover More **Challenge 4:**



Indoor Scavenger Hunt

- ❖ Something red.
- ❖ Something blue.
- ❖ Something green.
- ❖ Something yellow.
- ❖ Something with wheels.
- ❖ Something round.
- ❖ Something shiny.
- ❖ Something you can bounce.
- ❖ Something that starts with the letter R.
- ❖ Something that starts with the letter L.
- ❖ Find a leaf.
- ❖ Find something that grows.
- ❖ Find a rock.
- ❖ Something you throw away.
- ❖ Something smaller than your hand.
- ❖ Something taller than you.
- ❖ Something soft.
- ❖ Something rough.
- ❖ Something you can taste.
- ❖ Something you can hear.

HOME LEARNING

By Mrs Dober

We hope all of our pupils and their families have enjoyed a restful Easter break under the circumstances. As we are unable to return to school on Monday 20th of April, we will instead return to our home learning arrangements for the next few weeks at least.

In response to feedback gathered from parents and carers before the break we have made a few alterations

to our home learning provision which will restart on Monday.

In order to help pupils manage their workload we have agreed that all new work from core subjects (Mathematics, English and Science) will be released to pupils on a Monday of each week. Work from all remaining subjects studied will be released on a Thursday. Pupils should firstly log into Class Charts to find details of the tasks they need to complete. From here they may be directed to a range of online learning



Pontypridd High School Suggested Remote Learning Timetable Years 7 & 8



Core work (Maths, English, Science) will be released on Monday of each week
Discover More/Other Subjects will be released on Thursday of each week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Registration 8:30	Virtual Assembly				Virtual Assembly
Fitness 9:00	Joe Wicks Workout PHS PE Challenges				
Session 1 10:00 - 12:00	Core Work	Core Work	Core Work	Discover More Other Subjects	Discover More Other Subjects
Lunch 12:00 - 13:00	Prepare own lunch if possible				
Session 2 13:00 - 15:00	Core Work	Core Work	Core Work	Discover More Other Subjects	Discover More Other Subjects
Reading 15:00 - 15:30	Accelerated Reading				



TIMETABLE



tutorials and resources provided through platforms such as Microsoft Teams, YouTube, and the school website. For those pupils who do not have access to laptops or computers we will ensure that as many resources as possible can be accessed using mobile phones or tablet devices. Teachers have been very busy working at home to create resources that will support pupils learning most effectively. As always we are keen to continually review and develop our work on this and will ask for more parent/carer feedback over the next few weeks to further improve this provision.

For those pupils who need help structuring their day we have put together a suggested home learning timetable. We do appreciate that family circumstances are very different and it may not be possible for a variety of reasons for all pupils to follow this timetable rigidly. This is completely fine. The timetable is there for guidance for those pupils who are able to follow it and may be adapted as appropriate to suit your situation at home.



Pontypridd High School Suggested Remote Learning Timetable Years 9 & 10



Core work (Maths, English, Science) will be released on Monday of each week
Option Subjects will be released on Thursday of each week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Registration 8:30	Virtual Assembly				Virtual Assembly
Fitness 9:00	Joe Wicks Workout PHS PE Challenges				
Session 1 10:00 - 12:00	Core Work	Core Work	Core Work	GCSE Option Subjects	GCSE Option Subjects
Lunch 12:00 - 13:00	Prepare own lunch if possible				
Session 2 13:00 - 15:00	Core Work	Core Work	Core Work	GCSE Option Subjects	GCSE Option Subjects
Reading 15:00 - 15:30	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

By Mrs Enos

Hello everyone and welcome to the Year 6 Transition Section of our School Newsletter.

At Pontypridd High we are very much aware that we are all living in a very strange time and each of us keeping safe is of utmost importance right now; but we also understand that Year 6 pupils, parents and carers will be thinking about the transition to Year 7 and secondary school in the weeks ahead. Usually, the summer term would have been filled with visits from PHS staff to year 6 classes, Transition Days and Information Evenings – all of which would have given you time to ask questions and be given the important information that you need to know.

With that in mind we have decided to create additional pages within our newsletter to allow us to give you key information each week. In this week's pages you will see ways in which you can contact us with questions that you would like to see answered; a weekly blog post from current year 7 pupils, detailing their thoughts on transition to secondary school and information from our Additional Learning Needs team.

We will also be posting weekly videos to introduce pupils, parents and carers to staff across the school. We hope that lots of these faces will be familiar from all the transition experiences present Year 6 children spent with us at PHS through Year 5.

We hope that you find this information helpful and please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team through the email contacts included in this part of the newsletter.

Mrs Rebecca Enos

Leader of Wellbeing

Each week, this section of our newsletter will be filled with the important information that you will need, and want, to know. Over the next few weeks we will be discussing: School Routines, School Uniform, School Transport, School Lunches/The Biometric System, Free School Meals & Grants, Pupil Services, Trips and Visits, After School and Extra-Curricular Clubs and much more!



Mr H. Cripps
Headteacher



Mrs K. Oliver
Deputy
Headteacher



Mrs L. Dober
Deputy
Headteacher



Mrs R. Ivins
Assistant
Headteacher



Mrs R. Enos
Leader
of Wellbeing



Mrs K. Rees
Wellbeing
Manager



Miss K. Pritchard
Standards
Manager

YEAR 7 PUPIL BLOG



Hello my name is Cole Saunders, and I went to Maesycoed Primary school. This is my experience of joining Pontypridd High School.

My first day at Pontypridd High School started off with butterflies in my stomach as every pupil starting that day would have felt, however when I got to school and met my friends from my primary school, my nerves settled. Teachers were kind and friendly as they greeted me to the school. I went to the dinner hall to have the best breakfast I have had in a long time, the food is mouth-watering. I enjoyed every single minute of my first day in Pontypridd High School as all of the teachers gave me a helping hand through the day which made me feel awesome about this new step in life. Teachers announced all of the lessons we were going to study for the year ahead. Coming out of my first day in school my emotions were happy, comfortable and I was intrigued to see what day two was in for.

Finding my classes was the stand out worry for me as I'd never experienced so many classrooms in my whole life, however finding your room was super easy as all room doors had an allocated room number to show which classroom it was. I adapted as easy as clicking my fingers to finding my classes. As you will have been told there is an upper block and a lower block and they have room

numbers from 100-200 and 300-400, so you will always know where you are.

All of my friends were anxious of which form class they were in. Your form class will have some of your friends and new and amazing other peers to collaborate with. You will be in your form class for 20 minutes every morning waking you up by doing small activities with your newly made friends and there will be prizes to win.

Every new pupil thinks that the lessons are really hard, however you will be put into rough sets to find out which level of work you can be successful in. Don't worry about the work and the sets, just listen and carry on progressing to the higher grades.

As you know most of you will be taking the school bus and you're all thinking of where to go once you get to school. As soon as you get off the bus go and meet your friends as you probably haven't seen them in a while. Then all you need to do is concentrate and listen to the instructions ahead.

There are ten times more pupils going to Pontypridd High School than your primary school, consequently there is so many friends that you can make. Go and have a chat to someone you don't know to feel more comfortable because those are the steps I followed and have got twice as many friends than I did have. To help have a better bond with teachers and other pupils join some of the after school activities such as football, rugby, cricket and boxing. This time after school will help you be free and take your mind if anything negative.

Pontypridd High School has been an amazing experience so far. I'm looking forward to a trip to Austria next year with the Health and Well-being faculty. I have been learning so much with the help from all of the teachers and I am looking forward to the future.

A.L.N. DEPARTMENT



By Mrs Finney

We wanted to get in touch to let you know that, even though times are very strange for us all, we are still busy preparing for you to start with us in September and we are very much looking forward to getting to know you.

We are very proud of our ALN department and we are confident that we can help you achieve your very best. Our department currently has 22 highly skilled and well-trained staff that can address all additional needs

Over the next few weeks many of our staff and different teams within our school will be making videos to introduce themselves to you, give you some important information and hopefully answer some of the questions that you may have. These videos will be posted on a Monday morning on the PHS Website and PHS Transition Instagram Page (Please follow this page, if you haven't already!)

Our first video, an introduction, is posted by Mrs Rees (Wellbeing & Attendance Manager for Year 7) and Miss Pritchard (Standards' Manager for Year 7)

to help you. We offer literacy and numeracy support, and help with Dyslexia, ASD, ADHD and Physical and Medical Needs.

We have been working closely with your primary school, so we will already be aware of the ways in which your current school supports you, and we aim to build upon those current interventions and methods of support. There is no need to be worried or anxious.

Over the next few weeks, we will include the following information in this newsletter:

- How we test and diagnose learning needs to ensure you have the correct support.
- Details of our most successful literacy, numeracy and wellbeing interventions.
- Information on some of the fantastic facilities we have available for you to use.

If you have any specific questions or concerns, please send them to the school transition email address found in this newsletter and one of us will get in touch with you.

The ALN Department

Contact information

Mrs. Rebecca Enos - Leader of Wellbeing
enosr@pontyhigh.co.uk

Mrs. Katie Rees - Wellbeing Manager – Years 7 & 8
reesk@pontyhigh.co.uk

Miss. Katie Pritchard - Standards Manager – Year 7 & 8
pritchardk@pontyhigh.co.uk

Mrs. Claire Finney - ALNCo
finneyc@pontyhigh.co.uk

weekly UPDATE

Please regularly check the school website for any new information. Below are just a few things that we would like to remind you about this week:

Health and Wellbeing Faculty

A fitness video will continued to be posted on Instagram and Twitter each day at 10am for all pupils to access.

Miss Edmunds has made a fitness time table which will be on the school website and social media so pupils know what exercises will be taking place each day.

Whole School

Remote registration classes will continue running this week. Please access these at 9am Monday, Wednesday and Friday, access will be from the school website.

ELSA/Thrive

There are now a wide range of ELSA/Thrive resources available on the school website for you to download and complete.

Login Details

If you still need login details such as Class Charts, MathsWatch, Accelerated Reading or Office 365 usernames, please email Mr Nathan Griffiths and he will reply directly with any information you need.

griffithsn@pontyhigh.co.uk

Technology & ICT Faculty

The Technology & ICT Faculty have lanuced a 30 day food challenge on their Instagram page. A fun way to do something 'foody' everyday. Do what you can, when you can - don't worry if not in order or if you have to adapt them to what you have available. Share your results with the faculty on their Instagram page.



Education TV

Whole School

The BBC will offer daily programmes to help parents and pupils with schoolwork at home during the lockdown.

Starting on April 20th , videos, quizzes, podcasts and articles will appear on BBC Bitesize Daily via the BBC iPlayer, red button, BBC Four and BBC Sounds. A fantastic range of resources to help you learn.



Solving logic problems boosts brain power and keeps your memory strong. Answers to the following brain teasers in next weeks newsletter. Last weeks answers: 1. Your name 2. An egg. 3. 59 days.

1. I'm tall when I'm young and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?
2. If you have me, you want to share me. If you share me, you haven't got me. What am I?
3. What is always on its way but never arrives?
4. The eight of us go forth not back to protect our king from a foe's attack.