



The PHS NEWSLETTER

MONDAY
27TH APRIL



MAKING P.P.E.

By Mr Van-Baaren

Last week we begun production of protective face visors through machines and resources we have in our Technology faculty.

Having asked for additional funding through social media we have been overwhelmed by the response in only one day and as such we have temporarily closed the funding site. A big thank-you to everyone who has contributed and this will enable us to purchase resources given the limited capacity we have available in school to make the visors.

Hopefully it will not prove necessary, but if it does we will re-open the funding opportunity soon and make as many visors as we can for those who need them in our local community. If you need help now with this type of PPE please read details on our school website.



ACHIEVERS



CORNER

Excellent Home Learning in Science

Amelia Creedon, Nia David, Harry Hughes, Sophie Burton, Luke Pritchard, Mason Riley, Poppy Sorensen, Griffin Williams, Alan Rogula, Corey Foggerty, Iwan Bedgood, Nia Monk, Aimee Barrett-Franklin, Shakira Duggan, Demi Samuel, Molly Davies, Sophia Hughes and Cara Peplow.

Excellent Home Learning in Maths

Rory Beckley, Kecia Samuel, Adam Harries, Jay Morgan, Joshua Thomas, Oliver Lloyd Thomas, Carys Lewis, Jack Kirby, Jacob Jones, Connor James, Joseph Griffiths, Jack Davies, Ben Dackins, Sasha Bond, Seren Davies, Rhys Humphries, Charlie Stott, Mason Riley, Ceri Palmer, Brooke Rattray, Courtney Chopping, Jac Jones, Joshua Lewis, Caitlin Cartlidge, Millie Davies, Shakira Duggan, Jack Thomas, Lucy Davies, Lilia Fortt, Nia Stacey, Briar-Rose Allen, Ellie May Mann, Demi Samuel, Chelsea Mander, Daniyal Malik, Evelyn Cartlidge, Mia Crockett, Tomos Jones, Nia David, Shaunagh James and Cole Saunders.

Excellent Home Learning in English

Harry Hughes, Jac Jones, Cai Phillips, Jacob Booth, Tillie Barker, Danny Webster, Sarah-Beth Phillips, Megan Stock, Nia David, Brooke Rafferty, Tomos Jones, Ellie Mitchell, Mason Riley, Charlie Stott, Alisha Hernandez, Joshua Lewis, Cally Morgan, Naiya Partington, Thea Davies, Cody Jones, Connor James, Jack Davies, Sasha Bond, Ben Dackins, Josh Drinkwater, Miles Owen, Millie Jones, Molly Davies and Alisha Galea.



By Mrs Sidoli

Everyone loves a Victoria sponge. This is a simple recipe to follow.

The ingredient (serves 6)

- Victoria Sponge
- Ingredients Serves: 6
- 150g soft butter
- 150g caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 150g self raising flour
- 150ml double cream
- 3-4 tablespoons Jam

Method

1. Preheat the oven 180oC gas mark 4.
2. Weigh out all the ingredients.
3. Sieve the SR flour into a large mixing bowl.
4. Add the 150g margarine, sugar and eggs and mix until smooth and creamy with a mixing spoon.
5. Divide the mixture between 2 Victoria sandwich tins.
6. Place in the oven and bake for 15-20 minutes until the sponge is springy to touch.

Filling

7. Pour the cream into a clean bowl and whisk with an electric whisk until thick.
8. Remove cakes from oven and tin and place on a cooling rack. (leave to cool)
9. Spread cream on top of one of the cakes.
10. Spread Jam on the underneath of the remaining cake.
11. Sandwich the two cakes together.
12. Dust with a little icing sugar.

13. Take a pic of what you have made and share it with the Technology Faculty Instagram account!

ACHIEVERS OF THE WEEK

By Miss Griffiths

I have been so impressed by the effort that has gone into the Indoor Scavenger Hunt this week in Year 7 and 8.

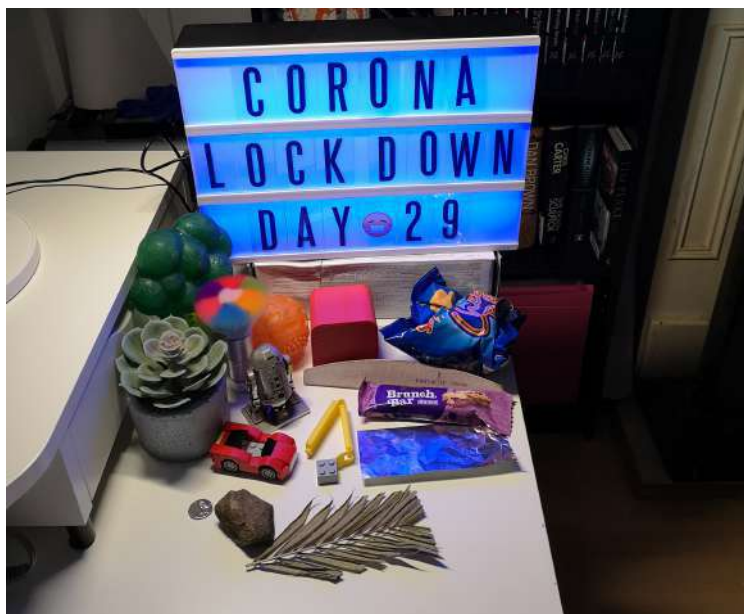
I hope that everyone had lots of fun completing the hunt and it was lovely to see lots of pets, little brothers / sisters, parents and even grandparents who are self-isolating getting involved! Although there were too many excellent examples to choose from, so I have chosen a few.

Well done to all pupils and families who got involved and keep up the excellent work.

Star achievers for the Indoor Scavenger Hunt

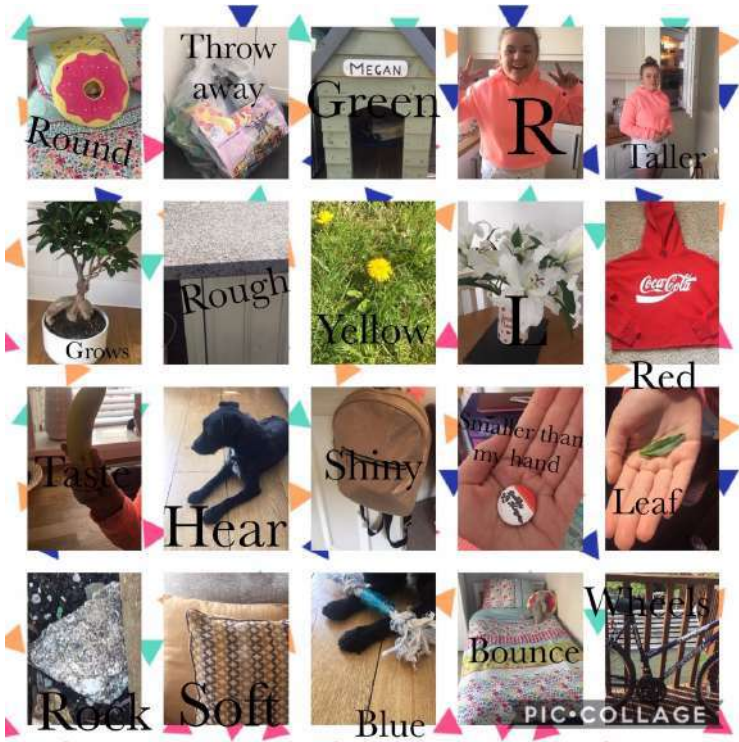
Year 7: Iwan Lewis, Cole Saunders, Ruby Brookman, Nia David, Cai Phillips and Thomas Stawski.

Year 8: Mason Riley, Morgan and Alfie Fear, Jack Greig, Joshua Leach and Sarah Beth Phillips



STAY SAFE STAY HOME

SCAVENGER HUNTERS





WEEKLY CHALLENGE 5

By Miss Griffiths

You can be as creative as you like to share with other Year 6 pupils your experiences of moving to Pontypridd High. This will help Year 6 pupils feel excited about moving in September as they are unable to attend transition days.

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



Moving to Big School



Many Year 6 students across the UK are moving to Big School without having their last Summer term at primary.

This is a big step for a young person.

Year 7 & 8's we need you!

Share your experiences of moving to Big School with us to get Year 6's all excited about their move.

Express yourself in any way you like – writing, painting, dancing, animation, singing – it's up to you!

Please ensure you have parents and guardian's permission before sharing and use the #MovingToBigSchool



STAFF BLOG

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all keeping well and safe and staying at home. The last five weeks have been the strangest of our lives and an experience we are unlikely to go through again in our lifetimes. We are living through a historical event! It has taken a lot of adjustment which has been difficult for us all. We need to remember that we are all in this together and the Pontypridd High School community is second to none so if you need anything you are sure to find a person at school who can help you.

At the start of this lockdown I felt completely out of my depth. I like being in control of situations, to have structure to my day, and I love visiting my friends and family, especially my twin sister, parents and younger sisters. We are best friends and the thought of weeks without seeing them was daunting. I felt I had suddenly got thrown into the unknown. I didn't know how I was going to teach you all, how I was going to communicate with you, how I would mark your work, how I would walk my dog even. A life of uncertainty was upon me, along with the rest of the world. However, each day I woke up and I was thankful, and I am still thankful. I am thankful for my health and the health of my family. I am thankful for the time to be able to slow down and appreciate the smaller things in life such as extended mornings in my pyjamas cuddling the dog on the sofa and taking her for long walks with my husband, listening to the birds sing and the river flow in a world that is suddenly more quiet than it was before. I am thankful for family and friends who check we are ok and entertain us with zoom quizzes, bingo sessions and playing board games over FaceTime. But what I am most thankful for is that I have people in this world of pandemonium to care about.

This pandemic has taught me what is important. I've learnt that it is important I get to see your faces

everyday and have communication with you and now that that isn't possible, virtual communication has become paramount. How brilliant is it that we live in a world of technology so nothing (not even a pandemic) can keep us apart? We have all these different platforms available to us so we can stay in touch. Staying in touch, caring about each other and finding the bright side is what is going to get each of us through this, individually and collectively as a school. Please reach out to someone you haven't heard from in a while.

So, during this pandemic I haven't managed to learn a new skill or a new language, but I've managed to learn to slow down, stop, breathe and appreciate my surroundings. I can't wait to hear all about your pandemic experiences through the student blog. Get writing!

Love Mrs Stockman x



YEAR 6 TRANSITION

By Mrs Enos

Hello everyone, and welcome to the second edition of the PHS Transition Newsletter.

This week, we would like to start by sharing some information on how the school day at Pontypridd High will run. We know that our school day may be a little different to what you are used to, but we are sure that you will quickly become used to your new routines.

Our pupils arrive at school in different ways. Lots of pupils catch the school bus, many pupils walk to school and others are dropped to school by a car. Once you have arrived at school you are able to meet your friends and have the opportunity to purchase and/or eat breakfast in hall, spend your time in the Lower Block yard or getting to know your surroundings a little. Pupils arrive to school at different times but almost all pupils will get to school between 8 – 8.35am. If you are due to catch a bus, please don't worry about this, information on the school bus, bus passes and pick up times will be shared in this section of our newsletter in the coming weeks.

As you will already know, when it is time to start the day, move between lessons or begin and end your break and lunch time, a bell will sound. This bell is used to help all of us at Ponty High be on time for each part of our day. Our day begins with registration and is then made up of five one-hour lessons.

Our day is structured like this:

08:40 - Registration	12:20 - Lesson 4
09:00 - Lesson 1	13:20 - Lunch
10:00 - Lesson 2	13:55 - Lesson 5
11:00 - Morning Break	14:55 - End of day
11:20 - Lesson 3	

On your first day at Ponty High, when the first bell of the day rings, you will make your way to the school hall where Mrs Rees, Miss Pritchard and your form tutors will be awaiting your arrival.

Your day doesn't have to end at 2.55pm though. On a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday there are many different extra-curricular activities that you can take part in. These activities are run by both Ponty High staff and by YEPs with Amy Bolderson. In a few weeks there will be a video dedicated to giving you more information on this.

VIDEO MESSAGE

As we mentioned in last week's newsletter, 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.

We hope that you enjoyed watching last week's video with Mrs Rees and Miss Pritchard and we hope you spotted yourself in some of the Year 5 Transition photos.

This week's video is an introduction to the Attendance & Wellbeing Team.

Just a reminder, 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.)



YEAR 7 PUPIL BLOG



Hi my name is Joshua Williams and I went to Craig yr Hesg Primary School. This is how I felt going through the transition from primary to secondary school.

On my first day attending Pontypridd High School I felt very nervous. I was anxious about catching the school bus as I'd never had to catch a bus before on my own, so I left my house early to make sure I didn't miss it! When I got on the bus I saw some familiar faces that really calmed me down.

I felt very excited to be starting at PHS. I was looking forward to all the new subjects I would study and all the new friends I would make. When I arrived at school I met up straight away with my friends and we went into the

hall. Here you can relax and have breakfast if you want.

I then went to registration. I knew which registration class I was in because we'd had transition week in year 6, although I did have a new registration teacher. In registration, I met new classmates as well as being with some of my friends from Craig Yr Hesg. Miss Edmunds told us all about the school day, when our assemblies would be and gave us our planners. I felt really happy, relaxed and ready to take on my new school year.

If you are worried about making new friends, don't be, as everyone feels the same in year 7. I have made many new friends and also see all my old friends from primary. Teachers are always around for you to ask if you have any problems and it's a really caring atmosphere.

I have had loads of great lessons since being in Pontypridd High, my favourites include Maths, ICT, Product Design and Drama. You will have the chance to go on school trips to places linked to your learning, which give a great experience and really bring learning to life!

You will do lots of different activities in Pontypridd High compared to primary, such as cooking, PE and Science. You will also have the opportunity to join lunchtime and afterschool clubs. I attend a Science STEM club on a Thursday lunchtime, Champion bloggers on a Monday lunchtime and have joined YEPS Cricket club, Boxing club and Computer gaming club which run afterschool. I have also been on a cinema trip with YEPS in the school holidays and am going on a trip to NASA in Florida next year, which is being run by the Maths Department.

Even though I was anxious, I had nothing to worry about as Pontypridd High is such a welcoming school. I look forward to going to school every day and have so much fun with all my new friends. I hope this has given you some insight into what to expect in September and I hope you will be as excited as me to attend PHS!

ALN DEPARTMENT

To Parents/Carers of Year 6 pupils,

One of the most common queries we receive from parents and carers is how and when we test our pupils to establish whether there are any areas of their learning in which they would benefit from extra support. For example, how do we know if a pupil has dyslexia?

Therefore, in this edition of our newsletter we would like to let you know how we test our pupils to ensure that any Additional Learning Needs are identified, so we can ensure the most effective interventions are available to them.

During the first school term, all of our year 7 pupils will undertake the WRAT 4 spelling and reading tests. The scores from these tests are only used to help us identify those who need support – please reassure your children that they do not need to revise for them!

A selection of our pupils will also take part in Lucid tests or diagnostic maths tests. These tests enable us to screen for a range of learning issues including:

- Dyslexia
- writing speed
- reading speed
- word recognition
- mathematical skills
- memory skills.

Once we have used these tools to screen and diagnose learning needs, we are able to offer pupils personalised support for their learning.

We also work very closely with our Educational Psychologist, and a minority of our pupils may have an assessment with them to diagnose conditions.

Our staff attend many training events and are continually updating their skills and knowledge to ensure we can correctly identify and support our pupils with Additional Learning Needs. If you have any further questions, please contact us by email.

In next week's newsletter we will be sharing details of the interventions we currently use.

We look forward to working with you and your child in the future.

Catherine Lee

Emerging Leader ALN - leec@pontyhigh.co.uk

Claire Finney

ALNCO - finneyc@pontyhigh.co.uk

CONTACTS

Contact information

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Mrs. Katie Rees - Wellbeing Manager – Years 7 & 8
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Miss. Katie Pritchard - Standards Manager – Year 7 & 8
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Mrs. Claire Finney - ALNCo
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Dedicated Transition Team
transitionteam@pontyhigh.co.uk

STAY SAFE STAY HOME

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 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

Whole School

All pupils in Years 7-11 should have received a message about their remote registration this week, please log in and have a chat with your form tutors. This will be done through Microsoft teams!

Pontypridd High School



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



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. A candle 2. A secret. 3. Tomorrow. 4. Pawns on a chessboard.

1. What begins with an "e" and only contains one letter?
2. I am a word of letters three; add two and fewer there will be. What word am I?
3. What word is pronounced the same if you take away four of its five letters?
4. What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?
5. I have lakes with no water, mountains with no stone and cities with no buildings. What am I?



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