

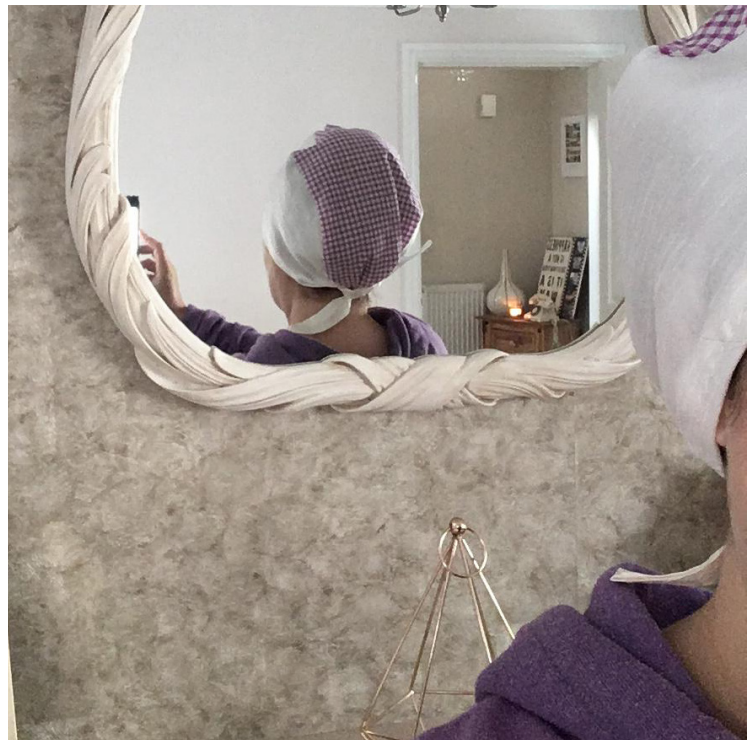


SUPPORTING OUR NHS



Nia Monk in Year 9 has been making a difference during the 'lockdown'. She has been busy making scrub hats for the ICT unit at the Heath hospital where her Godmother works.

She did her first mock up a few weeks ago and after feedback on the fit, Nia has gone on to make more. She she really has taken on this challenge and made



some lovely hats made out of old material and has even bought new material too.

Nia is also the 'Pupil of the half term' in English' having been recognised by the English Department because of how hard she's working on home learning too. Well done Nia, you should be very proud of yourself!

ACHIEVERS

Excellent Home Learning in Maths

Kaiden Burton, Daniyal Malik, Caitlin Powell, Lowri Thomas, Lucy Taylor, Moli Turner, Ellie Walker. Sampreet Kaur, Connah Evans, Caitlyn Howells, Samuel Price, Misa Crockett, Nia David, Evans Davies, Tomos Jones, Iwan Lewis, Cole Saunders, Solomon Thomas, Joshua Warren, Joshua Williams, Ethan Nurton, Rhys Humphries, Jack Greig, Nathan Batten, Aron Lewis, Chloe Hayward, Tiana Paull, Joshua Lewis, Ellie Mitchell, Cally Morgan, Sophie Bowden, Shakira Duggan, Jack Thomas, Jay Morgan,

Joshua Thomas, Charlotte Hooper, Tomas Dackins, Ffion Davey and Maddie Rees.

Excellent Home Learning in Humanities

Lowri Thomas, Scott Bishop, Alexia Bindczus, Florence Morgan Wood, Alisha Hernandez, Cally Morgan, Caysha Matthews, Carys Lewis, Nia Monk, Ffion Rowe and Rio Newman.

Excellent Home Learning in Product Design

Alexia Bindczus, Chloe Hazzard, Alisha Hernandez, Florence Morgan-Wood, Maddison Baldwin, Rio Newman, Ffion Rowe, Briar-Rose Allen, Brandon Carter, Lowri Thomas, Joseph Griffiths, Sampreet Kaur and Carys Lewis.



CORNER



By Mrs Sidoli

With a creamy filling and buttery biscuit base, who can resist this classic dinner party dessert?

Ingredients

150g digestive biscuits

75g butter

225g Philadelphia cheese

125ml double cream

50g caster sugar

1 lemon OR chocolate orange OR 200g strawberries

Method

1. Blend the biscuits in food processor
2. Melt the butter in a saucepan and add the crumbled biscuits. Mix well.
4. Grease a dish
5. Place the biscuits in the tin and press down firmly. (use the end of a rolling pin) Place in fridge.
6. Whisk the cream in a large mixing bowl until thick and creamy.
7. Add the Philadelphia, and sugar.
8. Melt the chocolate in the microwave and stir in to the mixture.
OR blend the strawberries/raspberries and stir into the mixture.
OR grate the lemon rind and add to mixture and juice the lemon and pour into the mixture.
9. Pour the mixture onto the biscuit base and place in fridge to set.
10. Decorate.

STAFF BLOG

Hi everyone, I really hope you are all keeping well and staying safe. I have been keeping very busy helping my children with their school work, housework and even some DIY projects around the house!

I know that lockdown is hard but it's really important to still have a laugh and as the old saying goes "laughter is the best medicine". With this in mind, I thought I would share with you some of the fun things I have been doing.

Over the weeks I have had lots of fun times whether it be on Facetime, House Party, Zoom and even TikTok. These are fantastic ways of keeping in touch with family and friends. I have also had friends whose birthdays have been disrupted due to the lock down so we have all been making funny video messages to cheer us all up. Myself and Miss Griffiths even held a virtual baby gender reveal for Miss Bolderson (Amy) which was lots of fun and I think Amy appreciated it. I speak to Amy and Miss Griffiths (and her pets!) almost everyday.

Every Saturday my family, along with six of my friends and their families, hold a Zoom quiz night which is always hilarious and some weeks we even have to wear fancy dress!! We try to do a different style of quiz each week, so far we have played Bingo, Linkee, Family Fortunes and a Question of Sport, I didn't realise how competitive we all are. I also take part in the school staff zoom quiz night on a Tuesday and my greatest achievement was coming joint first with Mr Smith, even beating Mr Cripps!

I've also realised that it is extremely important to keep active so I have been going for a daily walk. It's surprising but it has taken this lockdown for me and my family to realise how privileged we are to have such beautiful scenery and areas to walk in and all on our doorstep. Before all this began we definitely took this for granted.

This week myself and my family were making a list of

the things that we would like to do once the lockdown restrictions are lifted and we are able to get out and about once again. My youngest son said he can't wait to go camping in Saundersfoot, West Wales and have fish and chips on the harbour front!! My husband said that we could still go camping, but it will have to be in our garden and not in West Wales. So, we got all our camping equipment out and set up camp for the night in our very own garden. My boys loved it we and we managed to play cards, chess, the Logo game and we topped it off with fish and chips. We didn't realise that we have a family of foxes that live very nearby, they were extremely noisy all night!

Maybe you and your family could make up a list of places you want to go, people you want to see and like me restaurants I want to visit? Here are some examples; go to the beach, bowling, McDonalds have a think! I understand things are difficult at the moment and these are very strange times that we are living in, but please try to take time have a laugh, enjoy yourselves use your imaginations to create wonderful memories of our "crazy" time in lockdown.

Please stay safe, abide to the rules and remember this won't be forever. I'm missing you all and hopefully we will all get to see each other soon.

Keep well.

Mrs Morgan-Jenkins



'DISCOVER MORE' TASKS

By Miss Griffiths

The 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' Discover More challenge before half term was an opportunity for our pupils in Year 7 and 8 to do their bit towards being kind to the environment.

I was impressed with the creativity and imaginative designs our pupils came up with when creating something new out of rubbish they would usually throw away. I am surprised with how much you can create with a plastic bottle; bike mud flap, PPE visor, plant pots, shovels, bird feeders, pencil cases, desk organisers and many more! I have included some of the excellent creations, well done to everyone who has taken part!





My Recycled shovel

First we found our old, long smoothy bottle from the bin and give it a wash. Then we cut off the bottom. After that we cut a triangle slit to make the hole bigger. This allowed us to transfer our soil into our new plant pots.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE 9

By Miss Griffiths

To remember your time in lockdown your challenge is to create a lockdown time capsule.

You will need to decorate a box/container to create the capsule and then decide what you would like to put inside it (ideas below). Once you are happy with it you will find somewhere safe to hide it and how long you want to hide it for.

You can include:

- A message to future self
- Pictures/Photos
- Newspaper articles
- Your favourite thing during lockdown
- Top 3 moments from this experience
- What have you been doing to keep busy?
- Interview someone you live with.

Please send in your work to: griffithsr@pontyhigh.co.uk

TRANSITION

By Mrs Enos

Hello everyone! We hope that you are safe and well and have enjoyed the half term break. This week's information video introduces you to a few very important people.

If, like many young people, you are fan of extra-curricular activities, this week's video is a must see! There are so many lunchtime and after school clubs to get involved

in, and they range from sports to hair and beauty! Mr Longden and Miss Fleming (PE Team) talk about the Ponty High clubs and teams and Amy Bolderson from the RCT YEPs service introduces you to the variety of activities that the YEPs service also provide. Remember that you can watch this video on the school website, Facebook and the Transition Instagram page.

Our next 'big' transition event is going to be a Question and Answer live stream. This will take place in the next few weeks and will be an opportunity for year 6 pupils, parents and carers to ask us any questions that you may have. Please look out for more information on this on our website and social media pages in the next few days and continue to email us questions – we will aim to answer these during our live stream.

ALN SUPPORT

By Miss Lee

Approximately one third of our pupils will use one or more of our ALN provisions at some point in their school career. One common concern of many parents or carers is how we support those pupils during breaks and lunchtime, when structured learning is not taking place.

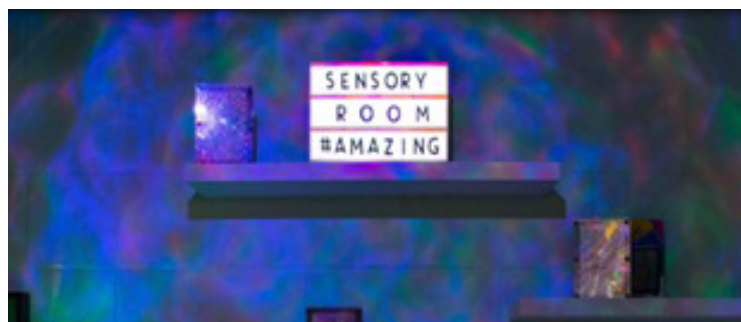
At Pontypridd High we have a variety of outdoor and indoor areas for pupils to meet friends, eat, chat, and play during break and lunchtimes, and there are staff situated in each of these areas. Recognising that some pupils struggle in crowded, loud environments, we have additional infrastructure in place to support them. We have many specific areas within the school to run sessions for ALN pupils. We not only use these during lesson times to run interventions, but also at break and lunchtimes for those pupils to relax and socialise.

Specifically, there are three staffed rooms available to

use. Pupils who need to use the provision are given passes that they can use to access one of the three areas where they can play games, access computers, use the craft equipment or relax in the sensory room.

The DEN is particularly popular with Year 7 and many of the pupils who regularly attend the room at break and lunchtime have become very good friends, and thoroughly enjoy attending the provision.

We want you to know that the care and concern we have for the health and wellbeing of all our pupils is not something that switches off when lessons end. At Pontypridd High School we pride ourselves in making lasting, beneficial impacts on the lives of our pupils. In these testing times, we want to assure you that your child can feel safe in an environment that suits their needs.



PUPIL BLOG



Hi, you will probably remember me, but if you don't, I'm Sophie and I was in your situation 12 months ago. I was a Year 6 pupil at Trehopcyn Primary School getting ready to transition to Pontypridd High School.

I remember how I felt back then, it was a very scary feeling but at the same time I felt excited too. I had the opportunity to visit Pontypridd High School and spent time there. It seemed huge compared to the primary school. I kept thinking to myself, how was I going to find my way around, would I get lost and late for lessons and have a row? Would I see my friends who I had been in class with for so long and played with in the school yard? Not forgetting how would I manage without my teachers who had looked after me, been patient and kind and prepared me for High School. As the time got closer and closer the thought of moving school became more terrifying and reality set in when we had our school leavers assembly.

I remember everyone being upset, both pupils and teachers. Now I think those tears were sadness about leaving but happiness too, about moving on in our school life. During the six weeks holidays, I had mixed emotions. I felt that I was suddenly growing up and things would be so different but I was also very nervous. Although, I knew that there would be lots of support

at Pontypridd High School because of the visits I had through the transitioning process.

The night before my first day, my uniform was ready hanging up and my school bag was all packed, remembering my school bus pass and phone, of course. I remember my alarm going off at 6:30 on my first day and my stomach turning, I was soooooo excited to go to the bus stop to see what it was all going to be like. I got on the bus and sat with my friends from primary school. We talked all the way from the bus stop to the school, it was a strange nothing had changed really other than having to catch the bus. All my worries were disappearing already.

We got to Pontypridd High School and we were given a planner to tell us what subject we had and where and when we had it. I then said goodbye to my friend and went to my registration class and I met my teacher Miss Edmunds. She settled everyone down and made us all feel welcomed. She fully explained what the week would look like which made things so much easier. I then went to my first lesson, and I was so scared when I first saw the work, but now I know, there was nothing to be worried about because soon everything just fits into place. At the end of my first day I felt really happy, no worries, no fears and pleased with my first day. I returned home with a beaming smile from ear to ear and that has not changed.

When you first go to the school you might get lost a couple of times, well I did! It is new and it is much bigger than you may be used to, but there's always help around. The teachers will help you and there will be pupils in year 8 who you will recognise and who will happily show you where to go. After a few days you will get used to the school and you will soon know your way around and you will wonder why you were ever worried. What was really noticeable, the small pool of friends I had, became bigger and bigger within weeks which was a relief and I never once felt lonely.

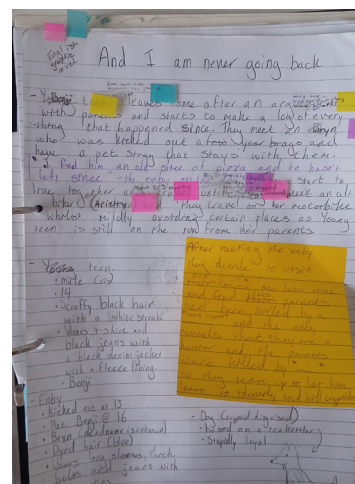
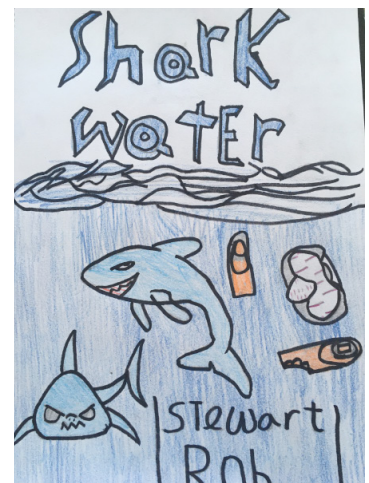
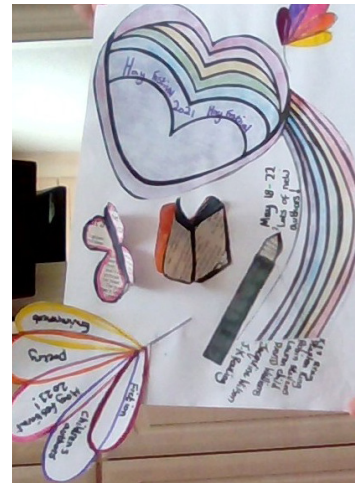
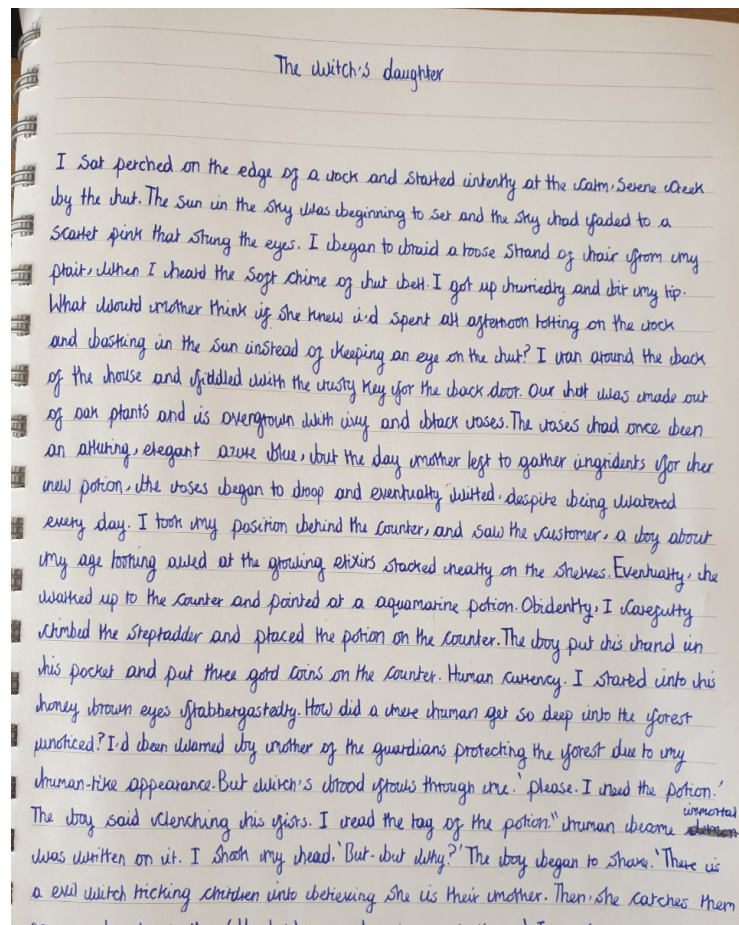
I have been in Pontypridd High School for nearly 1 year and my advice is, don't worry like I did because I can tell you, you will enjoy your transition and you will have fun.

ONLINE HAY FESTIVAL

By Miss Williams

The English Department thoroughly enjoyed looking through the many examples of how our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils were inspired by Hay Festival 2020.

Pupils watched performances and talks from award-winning authors, TV presenters, hip hop artists, performance poets, young campaigners and illustrators. They sent us many unique pieces: children's storybooks, illustrations, alternative book covers, reviews, posters, character creations and poetry. We hope some of the images below inspire you to keep reading and to keep exploring the creative arts!



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

As a school we are going to try and walk the 'Welsh Coastal Path' which is 870 miles = 1,740,000 steps.

In order to achieve this, we'd like you to send us your steps each day via email or social media and at the end of each week we will update the pupils where we are on the map.

We have set ourselves a target of 1 month to achieve this and so this will begin tomorrow 1st of May. We would be really grateful if you could promote this on your social media pages and more importantly to send us your steps.

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.

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

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. Answer to the following brain teasers in the next newsletter.

Last weeks answer: £40.00

This weeks riddle... The numbers one through 10, below, are listed in an order. What is the rule that causes them to be in this order?

8 5 4 9 1 7 6 10 3 2



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