



GCSE & A LEVEL RESULTS



By Mr Cripps

Given the exceptional circumstances everyone has faced in the last 18 months I would like to congratulate each of our students who have achieved success with their A level, AS and GCSE results. It is a testament to their perseverance and commitment that they have met all the challenges put before them. Year 12 students have made a successful transition from GCSE to A Level and their results are very encouraging for the year ahead.

Through the course of their A Level, AS and GCSE studies each student has been required to adapt to new expectations and to the procedures by which grades

have been awarded. What we know about our school is that support has been offered in so many different ways by staff and through strong friendships amongst the students. This has proved to be an essential part of maintaining a positive outlook when times were difficult. Alongside this, I am also very much aware of the very positive relationships and partnerships we have established with each family over a number of years and as staff we greatly appreciate the support you have given.

We are also delighted with the positive outcomes achieved by many of our students in Year 10 who have received GCSE grades in different subjects. They now have a very firm foundation from which to start Year 11 and the confidence to know they are capable of achieving greater success in the year ahead.

We are extremely proud of every student and I am sure everyone will find time to reflect on their experiences at Pontypridd High and in particular the last 18 months or so. Without question it is now the time to look forward and make the very best of all the opportunities that lie ahead knowing that the offer of support, help and advice will always be there if needed.

We thank those students who are now leaving us for their contribution to our school and wish them well as they move on to new opportunities.

YEAR 7 LITERACY FOCUS

By Rebecca Enos

In September, our Year 7 pupils began their secondary school learning journey. We have dived into many exciting learning experiences that are helping us develop our Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competency skills.

During the Autumn Term all of our learning experiences in year 7 explore our theme:

'No one is too small to make a difference.'

The English, Humanities, Languages and Creative Arts Faculties wanted to share a little sneak peek into what has been going on in Year 7 lessons this term . . .

Creative Arts

Pupils have been exploring The Lion King in Performing Arts and preparing presentations based on some of the key themes. One of the themes they have been researching is Simba's bravery when returning to Pride Rock to defeat Scar. They have been presenting their excellent research using the Lego blocks to present orally and listen as an active audience.

Languages

Pupils have been thoroughly enjoying lessons in the Language Faculty so far this term. This year, as we present the new curriculum to our Year 7, not only have they been attending Welsh lessons but they have been participating in Spanish lessons too.

In Welsh lessons, pupils have been busy learning patterns to introduce themselves and been creating personal profiles. In the upcoming weeks, pupils will be learning how to discuss family members in Welsh.

In Spanish lessons, pupils have been busy learning greetings such as '¡Hola!', '¡Buenos días!', and '¡Buenas tardes!' as they start their journey of learning a third language! In the upcoming weeks, pupils will be learning how to introduce themselves in Spanish.

The teachers in the Languages Faculty would like to thank everyone in Year 7 for their hard work so far this term! Da iawn a diolch! ¡Muy bien y gracias!

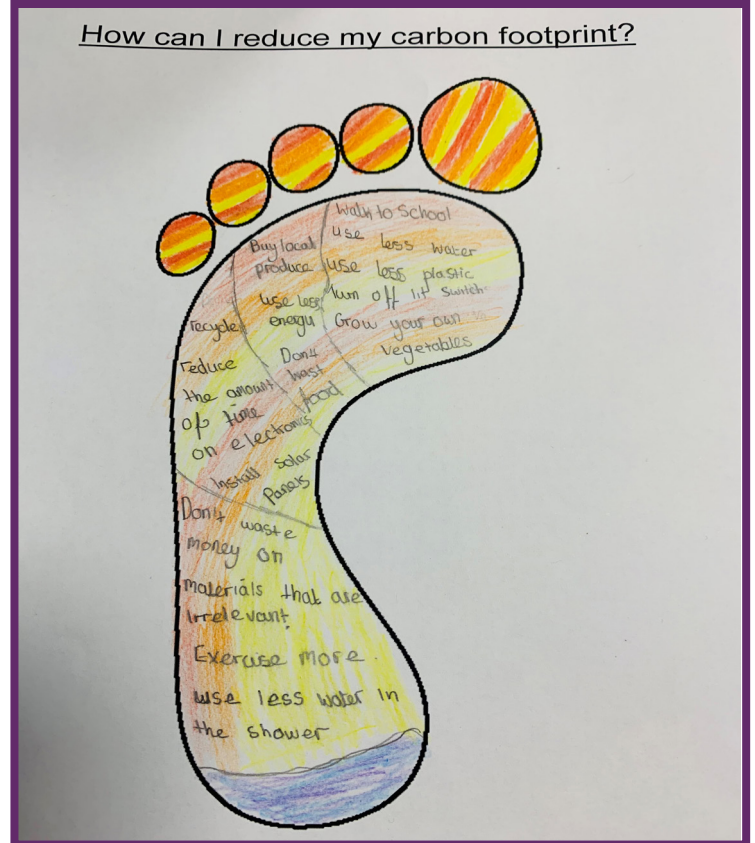
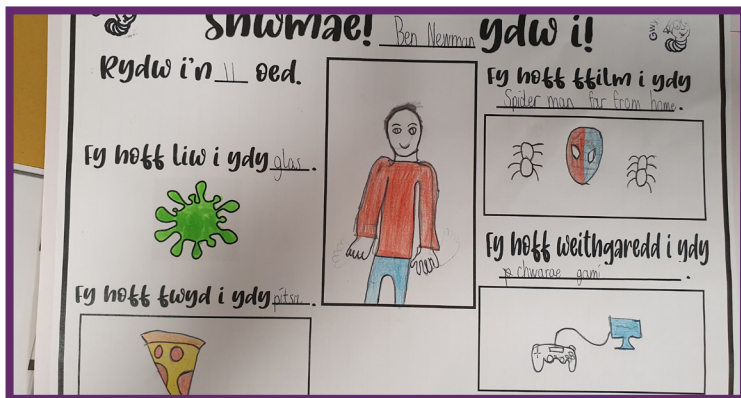
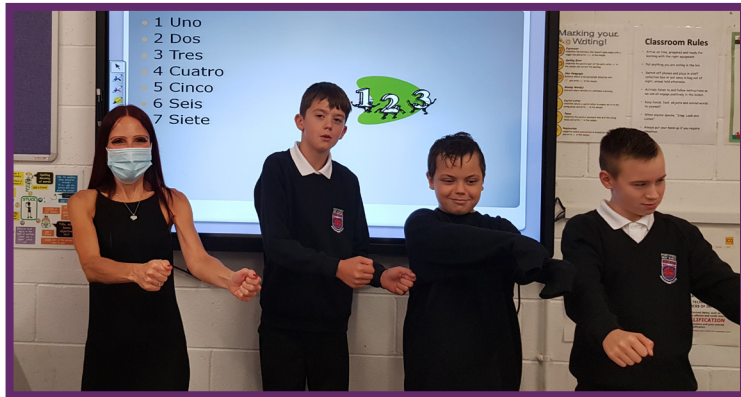
English

Year 7 have spent time exploring the wording of our Autumn term theme. We have zoomed in on key sections of the quote to stimulate thinking on their own beliefs, their own evidence to support or contradict Greta's views and other young people who have made a difference in the world. Year 7's brains have been warmed up and are ready to tackle challenge of reading little Bilbo's adventures in The Hobbit over the next few weeks. We will be exploring the world of 'The Hobbit' whilst focusing on developing our reading and oracy skills through a variety of exciting and challenging tasks.

Humanities

In Humanities, our pupils are focusing on Greta Thunberg's passion for climate change awareness, activism and delivering speeches. During this theme, pupils will explore climate change causes, effects and solutions whilst having the opportunity to share their opinions about something they feel passionately about. We are working towards an oracy assessment in which pupils will be writing and performing their own speeches about climate change and its effect on our planet. Pupils will also have the learning experience of taking part in a school litter pick, interactive virtual sessions run by a local recycling plant and discovering different career pathways relating to sustainability and climate change.

TEACHING & LEARNING



MY FIRST SCHOOL TERM

By Miss Pritchard

The transition from Primary School to High School is a big step for all pupils. Miss Pritchard recently caught up with a some pupils in Year 7 to find out how well they have settled into their first term.

Emily Casati

Previous Primary School: **Coedylan**

My first week in high school was great. I felt so secure even though I'm in a big school. My favourite part of my first week was meeting all my new teachers and new friends. All the teachers I have had so far are lovely, especially Mrs Rees and Miss Allen. I love doing art in this school. I have made new friends really well at break time in the canteen and on the playground. I have also made new friends whilst trying to find all my new classes. On my first day, I had a bus pass problem, but I knew where to go to sort it out as pupil services helps with lots of things.

Tristan Moore

Previous Primary School: **Hafod**

My first week in Pontypridd High School has been excellent! I have loved Science lessons as you get to do really different stuff to primary school. I have met lots of new teachers which has been really nice and making friends has been a lot easier than I thought it would be. I haven't really got lost either as the teacher's explanation of the floors and buildings is really helpful. I am excited about the next few weeks.

Steele Clarke

Previous Primary School: **Trerobart**

I feel like I have settled in really well so far. I know all of my teacher's names and have made lots of new friends already. I really enjoyed my first week and I like all of the subjects. My favourite part of the day is break and lunch as there is lots of different and new food and drinks in

the canteen and the playground is a lot bigger, so we have a lot more space.

Ben Newman

Previous Primary School: **Trehopcyn**

My first week in my new school has been really exciting. I was very nervous on my first day, but I have enjoyed making friends and this has made me less nervous. I have even made four friends from other primary schools. My favourite part of the week has been talking to new people and going to Maths and English. I really like my English teacher, Miss Williams. I have also been to lots of new and fun lessons like cooking where we are making a fruit salad in our next lesson. It has been easy to find my classrooms as all of the door numbers are on our timetables. I have enjoyed getting achievement points and I think I have 14 already.

Mia Stroud

Previous Primary School: **Coedpenmaen**

I have really enjoyed my first week in Ponty High. My favourite lesson so far is Art as you get to be really creative. I have enjoyed making new friends and we have had lots of extra time to speak to people from other primary schools during break and lunch. The majority of work is straightforward to complete, some of it has been quite difficult but you get lots of support from the teacher, so it is fine.

Bailey Kerslake

Previous Primary School: **Craig yr Hesg**

My first week in Ponty High has been amazing! I have met loads of new friends and I feel really settled already. I love Maths and I have learnt lots of new things already. I love the work as it is not too easy or too hard. I really like having more lessons a day and moving from classroom to classroom. The day goes so fast! All of the teachers have been so nice and have helped me settle in. The subject that I like the most so far is Music with Miss

Allen. You get to play on the keyboard and sing. I also like registration with my form tutor.

Evie-Rae Charles

Previous Primary School: **Cilfynydd**

My first week in Year 7 has been really fun. I was very nervous about moving to high school but I'm not anymore. My favourite subject is English as you are able to write creatively and there are fun challenges like the 'Write it' challenge. I have made lots of new friends which I was worried about, but I have made new friends during registration and in my teaching classes. I have been having school dinners which has been nice as there is a variety of food and Year 7 get to have their dinner first.

Zak Brown

Previous Primary School: **Cefn**

My first week at Pontypridd High School has been amazing. I've made new and awesome friends. I was really nervous as I entered the gates on my first day but after I met all of the teachers, I felt safe and happy. The environment around the school is very nice and I love

being part of this school already. I don't have a favourite subject as every lesson I have been to I have enjoyed. I have had a lot of achievement points from Maths though which has made me feel really good. All of the teachers are nice and calm. My favourite part of the first week is probably meeting all of the new teachers and pupils in Year 7. The work has been really interesting, and I have no problem with the seating arrangements as it is a good way to meet people you wouldn't normally talk to.

Emi Price

Previous Primary School: **Abercynon**

I wasn't supposed to come to Pontypridd High School originally, but I changed my mind last minute and I am so glad I did. A lot of my friends went to a different school but that hasn't made a difference to my experience. I have felt really supported by staff and they are happy to help if you have any questions or need support. I have needed some help finding my classrooms but there is always a teacher close by to show you where to go. I have really liked going to different subjects and learning such different things. I have a feeling I am going to like it and it's only been a week!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

By Miss Fleming

Wednesday. There is no late bus on a Thursday.

The Health and Wellbeing Faculty are excited to launch our new extra-curricular timetable.

The activities take place after school with sessions starting at 3pm and finishing at 4pm in time for the pupils to catch the late bus which is available on a Tuesday and

For all after school sessions, pupils will have to bring their PE kit, and boots will be required for the rugby sessions (girls and boys). If any pupil is concerned about not having the correct boots or kit then please ask them to speak to a member of the PE faculty.

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Lunch Time	5-a-side Boys Year 11 Sports Hall	5-a-side Boys Year 7 Sports Hall	5-a-side Girls Years 7-9 Sports Hall	5-a-side Boys Year 10 Sports Hall
After School	-	Netball Year 7-9 Sports Hall Rugby Years 7-8 Field	Netball Year 10-11 Sports Hall Rugby Years 9-10 Field	Basketball Year 9-11 Sports Hall Rugby Girls Years 7-8 & 9-11 Field

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Lunch Time	-	5-a-side Boys Year 8 Sports Hall	5-a-side Girls Years 10-11 Sports Hall	5-a-side Boys Year 9 Sports Hall Gymnastics Years 7-8 Gym
After School	-	Netball Year 7-9 Sports Hall Rugby Years 7-8 Field	Netball Year 10-11 Sports Hall Rugby Years 9-10 Field	Basketball Year 9-11 Sports Hall Rugby Girls Years 7-8 & 9-11 Field

FOR THE CALENDAR

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

How to contact us:

Email: contact@pontypriddhighschool.co.uk

Tweet: @pontypriddhs

Phone: 01443 486133



October

Friday 22nd - End of term

November

Monday 1st - Return to school

Thursday 18th - Year 9 Parents Evening

December

Thursday 9th - Christmas Concert

Thursday 16th - End of term

Friday 17th - INSET Day

January

Tuesday 4th - Return to school

Thursday 27th - Year 11 Parents Evening

GREASE THE MUSICAL

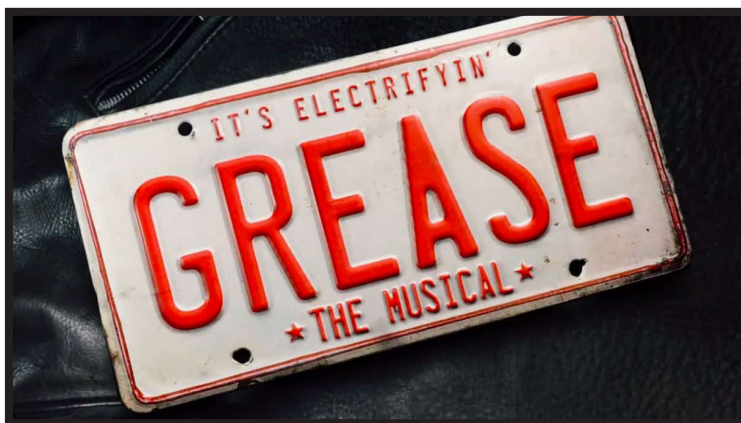
103 pupils from Year 7 – Year 13 have auditioned for our upcoming school show Grease the Musical.

The pupils auditioned performing a monologue and a song from the hit musical. The casting team were so impressed with the auditions that they decided to triple cast the show for many of the lead roles such as Sandy, Danny, Pink Ladies and the T-Birds.

The rehearsals will take place every Tuesday and Thursday after school with Mrs Barrett and Miss Allen.

Grease the Musical will be performed at Pontypridd High on Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th February 2022. Tickets will be on sale from November.

To keep up to date with rehearsal information or general Grease information please email barrettl@pontyhigh.co.uk or follow the Performing Arts Instagram account @performingartsphs





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