



The
PHS

NEWSLETTER

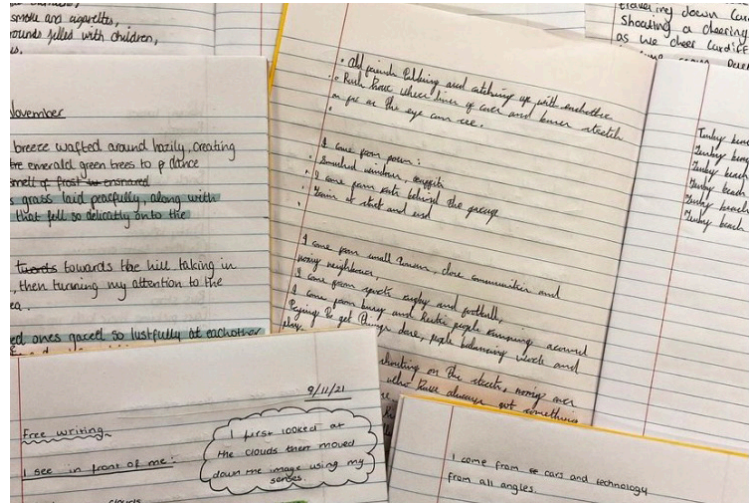
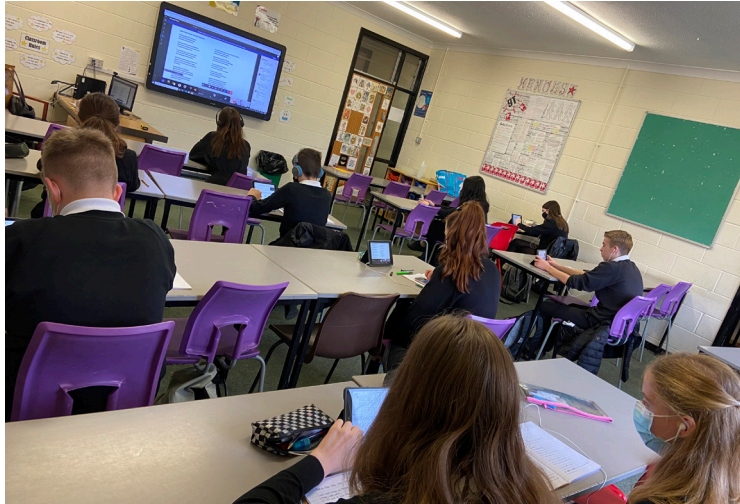
Edition 32
December '21



Christmas cover designed by the SEBD class

LEARNING & TEACHING

ONLY TOGETHER PROJECT



By Rebecca Enos

We have been given the opportunity to take part in a Learning and Teaching project called 'Only Together'. The purpose of the project is to combine creative writing skills with photography to explore what Wales means to us.

This project is being led by Emma Beynon, a writer and creative facilitator, and Richard Greatrex, a photographer. A group of 12 year 9 pupils have taken part in four creative writing workshops with Emma and Richard over the last half term. Each workshop has given the pupils opportunities to write creatively, learn tips and tricks to improve their writing, ask questions and give opinions by exploring a variety of poems and photographs.

The pupils have engaged so well in all sessions and have enjoyed activities such as free writing, creating their own poetry and describing the many different photographs that they have been shown. The pupils have also shared aspects of their own written work in each session; so much of which has been outstanding.

Whilst looking at the different photographs Richard has

led discussions and question based sessions about the way in which photographs are taken and the importance of understanding that many photos, if taken a few seconds later, could be very different. Following this, the pupils have now been tasked with taking a photograph of something that shows what Wales means to them. The pupils will meet again in the Summer term with Emma and Richard to begin the photography aspect of this project.

Here are a few comments from the pupils involved:

Maren: 'I have enjoyed expanding my knowledge on poetry and photography. It has motivated me to do it more often'.

Cole: 'I've enjoyed the fact that we can be very creative and unique and don't have to worry about right or wrong answers'.

Oliver: 'I feel like the workshops have really helped me improve my inference skills'.

Evan: 'I've really enjoyed learning how to use objects as an emotional background'.

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Dear Parent / Carer

My thanks to everyone for all your support through 2021. Of course our time in school has not proved to be the experience we are more used to but we should reflect on the fact that we have maintained a positive outlook whatever the circumstances.

Of course a priority for us all has been on keeping everyone as safe as possible and establishing and maintaining systems and routines that allow everyone to be in school together, working to the best of their ability. Without question there have been issues for us to manage but in that context I am pleased that we have been able to adapt, find solutions and see progress and success in so many different areas throughout the last year. I certainly want to acknowledge the perseverance and resilience that has been shown to make that happen.

Many students completed their time in PHS during 2021 and we were delighted with the GCSE and A level grades achieved last summer. It has also been very encouraging to see the positive start our Year 7 children have made in addition to the achievements across different subjects by students in all year groups. We are fully aware of the impact that reduced attendance has had over the last 20 months or so but the breadth of our provision support is allowing students to reset and move forward confidently.

At the present time it remains the plan for all students in Years 10 to 13 to complete their GCSE or A Level qualifications through the examination series next summer. It is essential that every student contributes to their own success by maintaining their best attendance in school on our return in January and staff will be fully committed to all the planning and preparation necessary to help each individual achieve their very best next summer.

On behalf of everyone I would like to thank staff who are leaving us this term. We offer our best wishes to Mrs Lindsay Lawyer (Maths) and Miss Daniela Davies (SNSA) as they move on to new opportunities beyond PHS.

We understand that the pandemic has had more significant impacts on some families than others. At the end of this year it is important for us to recognise this and our thoughts and best wishes go to everyone who may have lost a loved one, suffered with the virus or is caring for others at this time.

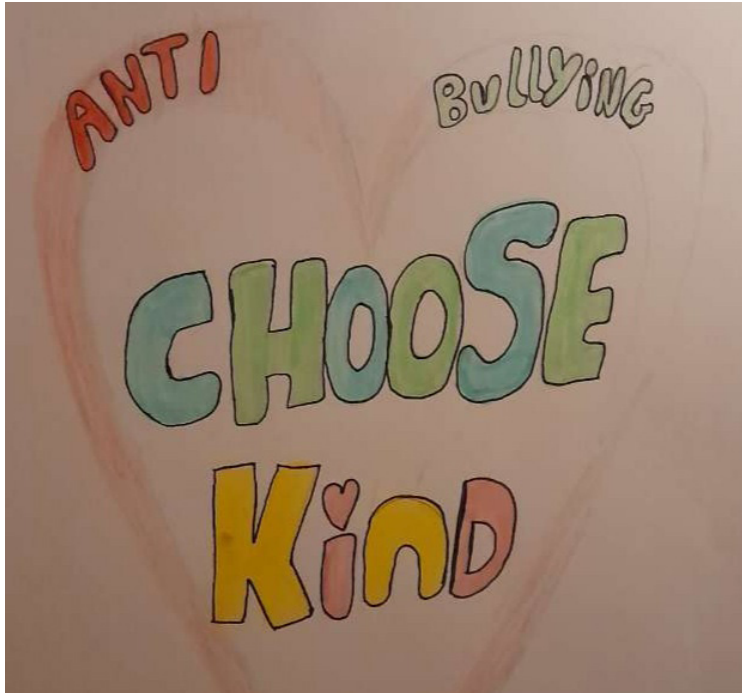
Obviously we all hope the present situation regarding COVID improves as we move into, and through 2022. At present we must accept that on our return we will still have to operate under the guidance and measures which will help to keep us as safe as possible. In doing so we can maintain attendance in school and students will be able to make the progress they aspire to.

My thanks for all your support and I trust you will enjoy a very happy Christmas break whatever your plans. Together, and with a positive attitude I am sure we can also make 2022 a year in which we all have the opportunities to achieve what we want and deserve.

Huw Cripps
Headteacher

SIXTH FORM LEADERSHIP TEAM

FORM TIME MENTORING



What have we got up to so far?

Our first project was to create some colourful and informative posters to raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week. Each form class was designated 2 sixth form students to help them complete their posters, answer any questions and discuss with the pupils any thoughts they may have regarding bullying.

The Year 7 and 8 pupils worked really hard on their posters and the anti-bullying message was really enforced by all pupils.

Our project on the run up to Christmas was to design Christmas jumpers for World Christmas Jumper day. The best designs were then selected to attend a mini celebration where they had the opportunity to ice their own jumpers onto some Christmas biscuits and take part in some fun Christmas activities.

We have also run several assemblies on different illnesses to raise awareness such as type 1 diabetes and Mental Health Day.

Our future plans to look out for as a Leadership Team

We hope to carry on the form time initiative with a focus each term to celebrate, or raise awareness of different events/concepts. Keep a look out for our Spring Term project!

What else are we doing?

We are in the process of creating a new art board in the lower block to showcase the work of students.

We also plan on carrying on our work raising awareness of different illnesses and beating stereotypes that young people face each day.



By Hannah Okon

The Leadership Team has been working hard the last term to establish a mentoring programme between the sixth form students and years 7 and 8 during registration time. There have been a range of projects to complete, and the sixth formers are more than happy to answer questions the pupils may have.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT



By Ellie May Davidson

I started motocross at 9 years old as a hobby. My dad and uncle were the people who got me involved in the sport. My dad had always wanted me to have my own bike but I had always been scared.

I got my first motorbike in 2018 and became obsessed, spending all of my spare time watching videos of people racing the GP. Further into my experience I decided to try racing. My first season began in 2019 and I raced with the British Women's Motocross Association (BWMA). My season didn't go well at all, resulting in last place overall.

Once the Coronavirus pandemic hit we had to take a year off racing but tried to get out to do some training as much as possible, through this we did get a lot of improvement for my 2021 racing season. This year I had a lot of crashes but luckily nothing so serious that I broke any bones. I raced in the 85cc class and had 3 podium finishes giving me 5th overall. This year my goal is to stay top five as I will be moving up into the adult class. I enjoy trying new things and developing my skills when riding and I wouldn't change what I do for anything in the world.



By Jordan Jones

Along with Ellie May, Jack Jones (Year 9) has also won the Pupil of the Half-Term Award for Health and Wellbeing, for his outstanding contribution to sport.

During Jack's PE lessons, he regularly shows an excellent attitude and gives 100% within his practical lessons. He is a real team player and acts as a role model to his peers.

As well as Jack's outstanding attitude within PE, he also represents many football clubs, including Barry Town Academy, Newport County Academy, Treforest Grassroots and RCT Schools. He has also received a Welsh County Cap in recognition of representing RCT Schools for three years.

Jack has shown excellent commitment and dedication to the sport and regularly trains four times a week, while playing two matches on the weekend. This has resulted in Jack being selected for the South Wales Regionals Camp this week.

We are very proud of your achievements Jack, well done!

TEEN TECH

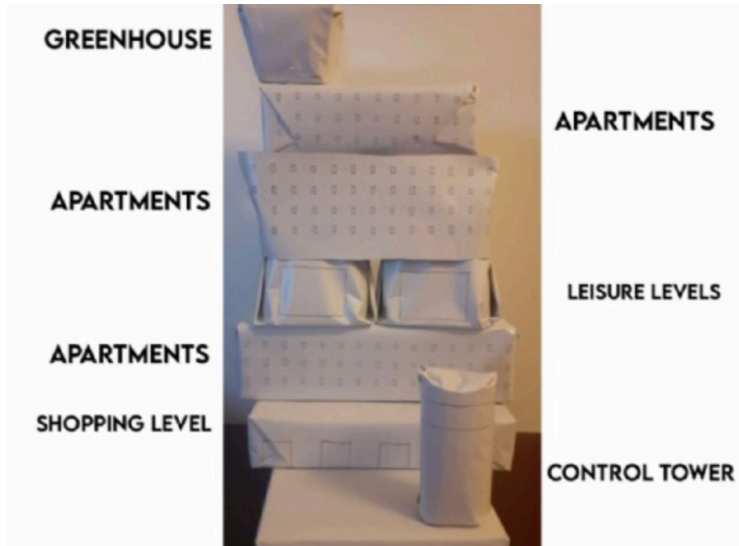
By Rhian Davies

Emilie Doxsey, in Year 9, carried out a STEM activity for Teen Tec during the last Whitsun holidays and her design was selected to go through to the TeenTech City of Tomorrow National Showcase 2021 Virtual Event, which took place this summer. This showcased Emilie's work 'Water Deck' all around the country!

Emilie's design was so good, that it came second in the overall final competition! This was an exciting celebratory occasion, as it was judged by several industry experts. Emilie's design had beaten many projects created by young people across the country. It was innovative and economically viable, as well as being carbon friendly!

Emilie received an award which was presented in school.

This is a fantastic achievement, and myself, the Science Department and STEM club are very proud of Emilie's achievement! Well done Emilie!



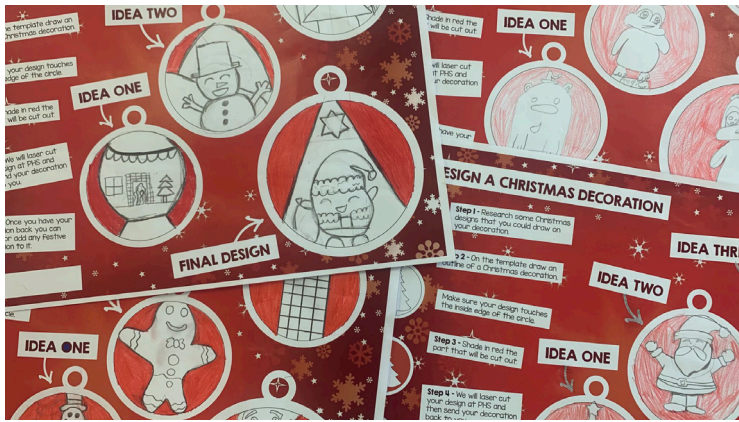
TRANSITION

By Lee Van-Baaren

Year 6 pupils this month have been getting creative with their Christmas bauble Design & Technology skills - and the outcomes have been amazing!

We have thoroughly enjoyed supporting our cluster schools this month with their laser cut decorations. The creativity shown by all Year 6 pupils has been fantastic. Each pupil designed a number of different bauble ideas before developing their final design. All the designs were then cut out on the laser cutter by the Technology Department.

We are excited for the new year when we will be launching our Spring Term Year 6 Design & Technology Transition Project.



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

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 are now on sale.

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](https://www.instagram.com/performingartsphs)



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



January

Tuesday 4th - Return to school

Thursday 27th - Year 11 Parents Evening

February

Thursday 3rd - Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening

Tuesday 15th - School Show

Wednesday 16th - School Show

Thursday 17th - School Show

Friday 18th - End of Half Term

Monday 28th - Return to school

March

Thursday 31st - Year 8 Options/Parents Evening

April

Friday 8th - End of Half Term