



GCSE & A LEVEL RESULTS



By Mr Cripps

Given the exceptional circumstances everyone has faced in the last 2 years and the return of an examination programme for the first time since 2019, I would like to congratulate each of our students who have achieved success with their A level and AS and GCSE results. It is a testament to their perseverance and commitment that they have met all of the challenges put before them.

In relation to our A Level results, particular mention must be given to Hannah Okon with A*A*A*AB, Ella Furmage A*A*AB, Jenna Coley A*A*BB, Will Pennell A*A*BC, Aidan Pritchard AAAB, Amy Cartwright AAAB, Mason Owen,

A*ACD and Cameron Hall AAC. Also to Harry Davies ABCC, Deena Wattley ABBC, Oliwia Urbanska ABCC, Chloe Foggarty A*CD and Audi Silsuktipsorn ABDE.

Congratulations also to our Year 12 students who have worked so hard to make a successful transition from GCSE and completed examinations for the first time at AS level. Results give encouragement for the year ahead and we must give particular mention to Sasha Bond with AAAA who performed exceptionally well in all her examinations.

We are very pleased with the GCSE outcomes which reflects the high expectations we have for our students. Particular mention to Florence Morgan-Wood who

WHOLE SCHOOL



achieved 11 A* grades and Caitlin Smith with 9 A* grades. Congratulations also to Cally Morgan, Millie Davies, Alexia Bindczus and Lili Griffiths who all achieved 6 or more A*. Sophie Bowden, Courtney Burton, Taya Davies, Nathan Edwards, Tomi Frankland, Sophie Harris, Chloe Hazzard, Alisha Hernandez, Taliea Kemlo, Nia Lewis, Grace Locke, Naiya Partington, Nia Prichard, Cadie Pugh, Megan Rees, Bryce Roberts, Ffion Rowe, Daniel Ryan, Melissa Sept, Poppy Sorenson and Alex Taylor who achieved 5 or more A* and A grades. Many other students such as Kai Healy, Holly Clements, Lewis Jordan, Rebekah O'Connor and Katie Hunt should also be very proud of the grades they have received and much deserved for the commitment they have shown to achieve their very best.

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 with the confidence to know they are capable of achieving greater success in the year ahead.

Through the course of their studies each student has been required to adapt to new expectations and of

course the demands of sitting examinations and being assessed at the highest standards. What we know about our school is that support has been offered in so many different ways and 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 strong relationships we have established with each family over a number of years and as staff we greatly appreciate the support you have given.

Mr Bill Davies, Chair of Governors would also like to acknowledge what has been achieved and pass on his congratulations to all students on their results, in addition to thanking staff for their continued hard work and the support they have provided in school and through periods of home learning.

We are extremely proud of every student and as staff and governors 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 beyond Pontypridd High. We look forward to welcoming back those returning to our Sixth Form.

PONTYPRINTY SUCCESS

By Mrs Finney

Pupils in the SEBD class have been working on the Young Enterprise Team Programme since January. Young Enterprise helps pupils develop the life skills, knowledge and confidence they need to succeed in the world of work and provides them with financial education. They believe that the potential of pupils is unlimited and an academic education on its own is not enough.

All pupils within the class evaluated their own skills such as confidence, organised, motivated, communication, problem solving and perseverance and were allocated roles within a business to suit their expertise. These roles ranged from Managing Director, Finance Manager, Production, Marketing, Advertising and Events Team.

The aim was to decide on a business idea and a product. After completing market research within school and analysing the results it was decided to launch a personalised gift business to celebrate occasions would prove beneficial.

'PontyPrinty' became the name of the company with a mission statement of Want It - Say It! - Make It! The aim of the company was to make personalised items and gifts which started with a successful sales event for Valentines Day where personalised mugs and wine glasses were produced. The business developed and expanded over the next few months where other products were introduced such as candles and hot chocolate glasses ready for Mother's Day and Easter. Year 11 leavers t-shirts were also sold to pupils for their Record of Achievement assembly and the final product of the year was teachers gifts such as personalised water bottles.

Alongside the printing using vinyl onto glasses, PontyPrinty made personalised named keychains which



were successful sales amongst pupils and staff at school. Throughout the programme, Pontyprinty were allocated a business advisor from a Caerphilly company called Town Square. Town Square sponsored Pontyprinty and provided mentoring from a successful business entrepreneur Mandy Weston. Town Square created a website for Pontyprinty where all products could be displayed to show all of the pupils efforts.

Earlier this year, Pontyprinty showcased their products on a Trade Stand at Coleg Y Cymoedd and presented their company in the Local Welsh Finals. Following an action-packed day of meeting local businesses, the pupils were successful and were presented with two awards. Winner of Best Customer Services as well as the Winner of the Young Enterprise Team Programme. This was a fantastic achievement for our pupils who have shown a high level of enthusiasm and engagement and we are all extremely proud of this recognition.

PARTI PONTY FESTIVAL

By Mrs Stockman

In July, a small group of Year 9 pupils volunteered to take part in a Technocamps workshop to gain skills needed to science busk at Party Ponti, which was held in Ponty Park.

Technocamps visited the pupils in school prior to the event to introduce the idea of 'science busking'. The pupils were shown several interactive science experiments that they then demonstrated to the public. During the training, the pupils and the Technocamps officer discussed the science behind each activity so that the pupils felt confident in explaining it simply to their audience during the Party Ponti festival. The pupils

had a lot of fun with all the science equipment. Through questioning they were able to uncover the scientific concepts that made the experiment work and found out that the theme of the experiments was air pressure. Pupils were also trained in using the Lego Spike Kits and they practiced building and programming robots. The kits were available for the public to interact with at Parti Ponti and our pupils supported the public to ensure they could successfully build robots.

The pupils proudly represented our school as volunteers during Parti Ponti. The pupils who volunteered were Jacob Booth, Daniel Bowler, Ffion Davey, Emilie Doxsey, Sadie Howe, Kayla Pearce, Evan Roomus & Joshua Warren. Well done to you all.



YEAR 13 LEAVERS

FAIRWELL TO YEAR 13

By Mr Longden

We were delighted this year that we could celebrate the completion of your seven years with us at here at Pontypridd High School with a prom, taking place in the Angel Hotel, Cardiff.

It was a very successful and enjoyable evening giving both staff and pupils chance to reflect and reminisce over events from the last seven years. All pupils were impeccably dressed and represented the school in an exemplary manner. Mr Cripps and Mr Longden took the opportunity to thank Year 13 for their contributions to our school and to wish them all a very happy and successful future. There was a personal message from Mrs Panes and Hannah Okon (Head student) thanked all of the teachers at PHS who have worked hard to support them and have been so incredibly generous with their time.

Best wishes for a very happy and healthy future from everyone at Pontypridd High School and we trust you will make the most of every opportunity that comes your way!



STADIUM OF THE FUTURE

By Mr Williams-Burnett

During the Summer Term, our Year 8 Digital Technology students were set the task of redesigning a new stadium for local team Pontypridd RFC, using Minecraft for Education.

The brief was to plan what kind of facilities the stadium would need to achieve "Stadium of the Future" status, before moving onto the build. The students came up with the ideas to have lounges, press boxes and catering amongst many other fantastic ideas. The standard of work across the year group was exceptional and engaged all abilities.

Pontypridd RFC were also very keen to support this project. We were very lucky for them to come to our school and we appreciate what they have done to support this initiative. Team Coach, Justin Burnell, awarded 6 signed jerseys to the winning students, at a special awards assembly. Also former student (Coedylan), ex-Pontypridd RFC and Wales' Team Coach, Martyn Williams, wanted to show his support by sending us a signed Welsh jersey and some Principality Stadium Tour tickets. To round off the incredible generosity shown so far, Gilbert who make the international rugby balls sent us some extra prizes.



YEAR 11 LEAVERS

YEAR 11 LEAVER'S PROM

By Mr Longden

In July we celebrated the end of Year 11 with our Leaver's Prom at Bryn Meadows Golf and Country Club.

We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 11 pupils have worked over the course of their time at Pontypridd High School and particularly over the last two years. Year 11 presents many challenges for pupils including coursework deadlines, speaking and listening examinations and the first written examinations in two years. The class of 2022 have taken all of this in their stride, engaging positively with all the help and support provided by staff to ensure the best possible chance of success. After all of this hard work the prom was a perfect opportunity for pupils and staff to enjoy a night of celebration together. Year 11 pupils were impeccably dressed and represented the school in an exemplary manner. Mr Cripps also took the opportunity to thank Year 11 for their contributions to our school and to wish them all a very happy and successful future.

Congratulations class of 2022!!



LONDON HISTORY TRIP

By Mrs Thomas

On a beautiful summer's day, thirty of our Year 10 historians travelled to London to experience a fantastic museum and to have some well-deserved fun after sitting a GCSE History exam a few days earlier. The aim of the day was to enrich students' learning and to bring History to life.

After a very early start, we arrived at London's Imperial War Museum for our first visit of the day. Once welcomed by staff, our learners were free to explore the galleries of the museum, covering all British conflicts from the First World War until the present day. They paid special attention to the floor dedicated to the Second World War, to enrich their understanding of key features of their GCSE unit, 'Depression, War and Recovery'. Students were eager to sit in an Anderson air raid shelter and some squeezed themselves into the exhibit of a Morrison shelter, which would be kept under a family's dining table. The cramped conditions and sound effects

allowed them to empathise with those who took shelter during the Blitz, making a lasting memory of how people coped during the war. The surviving Spitfires and tanks on display were a treat, with some pupils surprised as they thought they might be replicas, rather than the real thing. After a welcome spot of lunch to recharge (our phones as well as our stomachs), it was time to move on for the next part of our adventure.

A short walk through the streets of London allowed us to see some famous sights, expertly guided by Mr Cooke. Our learners were happy to see Big Ben in all its glory, with scaffolding finally removed. The Houses of Parliament and the London Eye were crowd pleasers, against the backdrop of the Shard in the distance. Many pupils were most excited at walking past the Shrek experience, but sadly a visit there would have to be for another time!

Our final experience of the day was a much anticipated tour around the London Dungeons. Our students





wanted to consolidate their knowledge of our unit on crime and punishment through the ages, in addition to being jump-scared out of their wits! Mrs Cook and I were also terrified, but didn't relish it quite as much! A boat ride to traitors' gate started our tour, with pupils showing off their knowledge about treason, witch trials, prisons and more. Poor Mr Cooke and Mrs Cook were targeted by the actors to be tortured or imprisoned in cages at every opportunity! After an afternoon of shrieking and

laughing (nervously), some brave students opted to ride the 'Long Drop' to end our tour with a final scream.

A long bus ride through busy London traffic brought us back to Pontypridd, where everyone was ready for a well-deserved sleep! All of the learners were excellent ambassadors for the school and the Humanities faculty. They engaged fully with all the fun and asked pertinent questions throughout the day.



CHALLENGE WINNERS

By Mrs Taylor

Congratulations to Year 7 Discover More champions! These students took part in the STEM challenge and completed it to the best of their abilities.

Congratulations to our overall year group winners Ryan Mahoney and Zak Nesling, who have both used a range of different materials and techniques to create a STEM display. They both used inventive methods which encompassed the spirit of STEM. A special mention must be given to Oliver Mees-Pritchard who also took part in the competition as part his dedicated time working in the DEN.

As a reward for winning the STEM challenge and also completing all Discover More extended learning tasks this year they received an invitation to a special extended break time in the Café with vouchers to spend on food and drinks.



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

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch Time Sports Hall	5-a-side Boys Year 7	5-a-side Boys Year 8	Girls Football	5-a-side Years 9 & 10	5-a-side Year 11
Lunch Time Gym	Girls Rugby	Bench Ball Year 7	-	Bench Ball Year 8	-
After School Sports Hall	-	Girls Rugby	Netball Years 7 - 9	Netball Years 10 & 11	-
After School Field	-	Rugby Years 7 & 8	Rugby Years 9 & 10	-	-

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



September

Thursday 29th - Awards Evening

October

Thursday 6th - Year 7 Meet the Form Tutor

Wednesday 19th - Year 5/6 Open Evening

Friday 28th - End of half term

November

Monday 7th - Beginning of term

December

Thursday 1st - Year 11 Parents Evening

Friday 2nd - INSET Day

Thursday 8th - Carol Service

Thursday 22nd - End of term

Friday 23rd - INSET Day

ROOM HIRE

We regard the school buildings and grounds as a community asset and will make every reasonable effort to enable them to be used as much as possible.

- Hire of School Hall - £25.00 per hour
- Hire of School Gym - £25.00 per hour
- Hire of Sports Hall - £25.00 per hour
- Hire of Drama Studio - £25.00 per hour
- Hire of Training Room - £25.00 per hour
- Hire of Classroom - £25.00 per hour

Tea/Coffee charges at an extra cost of £2.00/head. Caretaking costs (hourly) will be charged for any lettings outside of school hours. This cost is in addition to any room hire charge.

