



PONTYPRIDD HIGH SCHOOL
Ysgol Uwchradd Pontypridd



PROSPECTUS

2022 / 2023

Learning and achieving together



Welcome from our Headteacher

Which secondary school you choose for your child is one of the most important decisions you will have to make as a parent or carer. We take the responsibility for educating children very seriously and acknowledge it as a great privilege, building positive relationships and providing experiences that will allow your child to achieve the success they deserve.

We are committed to ensuring that each of our students leaves us with:

- the values and morals to lead respectful and responsible lives,
- the right skills to be successful in the world of work and
- the best possible examination results and qualifications.

Great emphasis is placed on working with a positive, confident attitude and we can achieve this aim by working closely with each family. In addition, we gain the services of a range of experts and in doing so we are able to provide experiences that both care for and motivate every child to be the best that they can.

We monitor progress through detailed systems and procedures and we will communicate this information to you regularly, providing any additional support where and when it is needed. The academic results achieved by our students reflect the commitment by everyone to work in partnership and learn together.

We aim to build positive relationships with each family and these are the key to achieving success and happiness for your child. We are confident that where such relationships are established your child will be both happy and successful at Pontypridd High.

Please contact us or arrange a visit. It will be a pleasure to meet you.

Huw Cripps
Headteacher



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*'There are high levels of care
and support for all pupils.'*
Estyn



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Our School



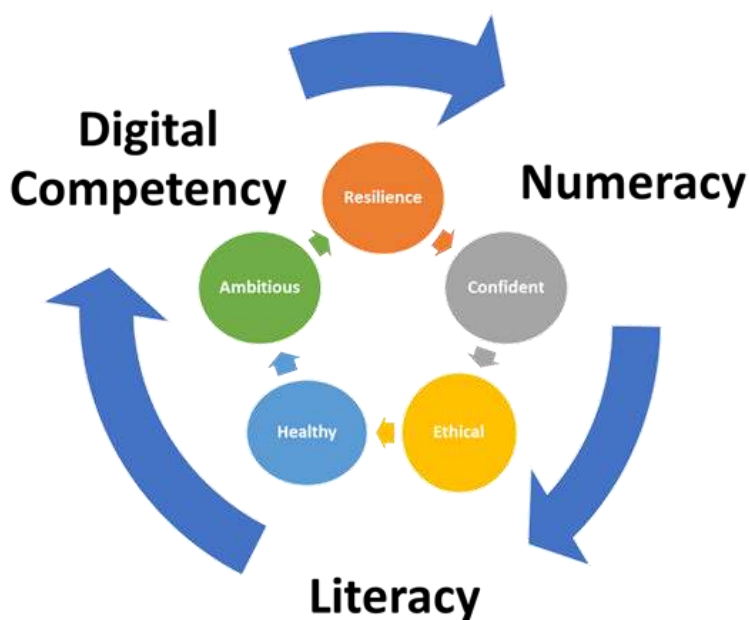
Our Lower Block is primarily for Year 7 and 8 pupils and it provides a wonderful base for us to support the transition from primary school to Pontypridd High. It is a 'school within a school', providing facilities that includes a range of classrooms, technology workshops, a performing arts area, science laboratories, IT and different support rooms to support our literacy, numeracy and nurture work. Surrounding the Lower Block is a playing area, half of which is accessed only by Year 7 and the other half by Year 8 pupils.

Looking after Wellbeing and Learning



Our school is organised around staff teams, each with different responsibilities. Mr Rhys Ivins has overall responsibility for Years 7 and 8 and Mrs Kerry Stockman leads on academic progress and standards. Mrs Katie Rees has responsibility for all the wellbeing and safeguarding support in Years 7 and 8.

Learning the skills to be successful



The world is changing rapidly, with huge advances in technology, lifestyles and the world of work. These changes have real implications for what, and how our children need to learn.

Our curriculum in year 7 has specific themes that improve knowledge and understanding but most importantly give students excellent learning opportunities that focus on improving skills in literacy, numeracy and digital competency.

Each term we deliver learning experiences that are based around a central theme. For the Autumn Term, 2021 this theme is about the inspirational work of Greta Thunberg and her message that 'No one is too small to make a difference'.

In the new year we will be looking at J.K. Rowling's belief that 'if you don't like reading, you haven't found the right book'.



The themes allow all of the learning to be joined up and for every child to recognise the links between all of their work.

Importantly each subject area contributes to the improvements in literacy, numeracy or digital skills.

Learning in and out of the classroom

Learning to be the best that we can be is our aim for all students and staff. We are very proud of the very high standards of teaching in our school and the commitment shown by a team of very talented staff who show dedication, innovation and imagination in their planning and use of resources.



Discover More at PHS

Learning beyond the classroom is a very important part of showing a positive attitude and also to appreciate the local area and community in which we live and work.

Discover More is the name that we give to 'homework' but our way of doing this makes it straight forward for all the children. It also creates weekly opportunities to learn more about each theme, improve skills and enjoy learning with the family. You can find out more on our website.



A positive attitude to learning

Every individual has an 'attitude to learning' which is formed by experiences collected both in and out of school. We believe that a positive approach to school is the best foundation from which progress can be made and success achieved at the most appropriate level. At Pontypridd High we fully acknowledge the importance of each family being fully engaged with our work so that we can jointly improve attitudes to learning and raising aspirations and achievement.

We use our 'Attitude to Learning' framework to help students develop a positive approach towards their own learning and the learning of others. It shows them exactly what is expected, and the four grades we report on help them to see how they can make improvements. We want all of our students to be ambitious, confident, and ethical contributor's at all times, in and out of school.



AtL Grade

| | |
|---|-----------|
| A | Always |
| B | Often |
| C | Sometimes |
| D | Rarely |

Your Attitude to Learning

Be an **ambitious, confident, ethical contributor** at PHS.

Ambitious:

When work becomes challenging, you persevere and demonstrate resilience.

You set your own aspirational targets and ask relevant questions to support your learning.

You are able to work independently.

Confident:

You use your Literacy, Numeracy and Digital skills to the best of your ability.

You ask for help where appropriate and learn from your mistakes.

You engage with and show interest in your learning.

You engage purposefully with relevant experiences to extend your learning outside of the classroom.

Ethical:

You are respectful and behave sensibly and safely.

You consider how your actions impact on other learners.

Contributor:

You respond very well to feedback and use it to improve your work.

You are punctual and ready to learn, bringing all required equipment to school.

You wear correct uniform to school.

Additional Learning Needs

We have a very experienced team of ALN staff. All have their own area of expertise and we are able to offer a wide range of excellent support to our children.

Our facilities and resources are excellent and through this we are able to offer a warm, safe and nurturing learning environment where all staff are dedicated to each child making the very best progress.

If you would like to find out more information on this provision please see the ALN handbook on our school website.



Enrichment Experiences



In addition to our focus on academic achievement, we are proud of the varied opportunities we provide for learning experiences beyond the classroom. This gives students time to enjoy drama, sports, music, creative writing and science and technology challenges. There are also many trips and educational visits.

Students are able to participate individually or as part of a team and this is a wonderful way to make new friends, develop skills, gain confidence and improve their health and wellbeing.

Expectations for Uniform



We expect our students to be smartly dressed at all times and our school uniform is a good way to show that you belong to our community.

It is also a way of displaying a positive attitude and shows you are proud to be part of our school.

Shoes - Plain black, flat shoes.

Socks - Plain black or white. Black or natural tights may be worn if preferred.

Trousers/Skirt - Plain black in a suitably smart style. No jeans or types of denim. The skirt **MUST** be knee-length and acceptable to the school.

Shirt/Sweater - A white, short-sleeved polo shirt with a school badge. A black sweatshirt with a school badge, a black v-knecked jumper with a school badge or a black waist-length cardigan with a school badge.

Coat – Dark plain, black fleeces, fleece-lined and waterproof jackets with the school badge are available. All coats must be removed in classrooms.

Hooded jumpers are not allowed.



My First Week at PHS



“My first week at Pontypridd High School has been great. 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 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”.

Zak Brown – Cefn Primary School



“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 am really enjoying 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. You get to play on the keyboard and sing. I also like registration with my form tutor”

Bailey Kerslake – Craig yr Hesg Primary School



“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. I love doing art in school.

I have made new friends 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 question, but I knew where to go to sort it out, as pupil services helps with lots of things”.

Emily Casati – Coedylan Primary School



We are here to help and support you and your child and will be very happy to answer any questions or queries you may have.



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