



'Explore' at PHS

Explore provides pupils with the opportunity to choose 6 programmes out of a choice of 10. These range from bike maintenance, Spanish, learning to swim or music technology. All pupils have developed their skills impressively in Explore lessons.

Of the many successes, special attention must be given to Ellis Holvey, Amy Li-Hunt, Mason Owen, William Pennell, Morgan Roberts, Becky Rowlands, Sophie West, Isobelle Dyer, Franchesca Penny, Joseph Barnes and Rhys Bradwick. All gained their 25 metre swimming badge. Also to Tamzin Pope, who as a result of attending DJ lessons in Explore and through our YEP provision has now performed at three fusion disco events in the Rhondda area, playing in front of up to 300 of her peers at a time.

Great Maths Results!

Our current Year 11 pupils have recently sat one of their GCSE Maths exams. We are delighted that at this stage of the year, the results are the highest we have recorded. This means we are well on our way to achieving a set of final results which will keep us in the top 25% of schools in Wales.

Impressively 31 pupils achieved an A* or A grade. Particular mention to Elis Pryce who had the highest score in the year.

Walking The Beacons

As part of the wellbeing agenda, all pupils from year 7 are given the opportunity to attend at least one walk throughout the academic year. These include Pen Y Fan, Fan Frynach or Sgwd Yr Elra. The walks are led by a qualified mountain leader, Steve Axe. Pupils learn about the natural history and have the opportunity to explore the beautiful Brecon Beacons.

Since May 2012, 714 pupils have taken part in the walks, many coming back to go again. One pupil described his walk to Sgwd yr Eira as, "My best school day ever".



Maesycoed

"I have enjoyed making new friends. They make me want to come to school. They are not my primary school friends but now I'm at Ponty High I have found other friends and they are lovely."

Eva Morgan



Craig yr Hesg

"I have really enjoyed my time in Year 7. I love all my lessons, but Art is my favourite. The school helps me with all my problems too."

Carys Harrison



Pupil Views

Abercynon

"I have an awesome form tutor who always helps me with any concerns and I have enjoyed everything since I joined Pontypridd High School in September last year!"

Gethin Williams

Trehopcyn

"I love all the after school and lunch time clubs. There is always somewhere for me to go and be with my friends or enjoy doing something new."

Logan Webb Eynon

Coedpenmaen

"One thing I have enjoyed the most is the support and help from my friends and teachers as they have helped me build my confidence."

Rachel Hyslop



"I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience in Year 7. I have been in a few clubs like rugby, boxing, 5-a-side and cinema club. I like my lessons and last week I watched the school show 'Back to the 80's'."

Bradley Spear

Trerobart

"I have enjoyed Technology and I think all the other creative pupils will like it as much as me too"

Owen Jack Davies

Cilfynydd

"I have enjoyed cooking this term as we have had the chance to learn new skills e.g. chopping. I also enjoyed meeting new friends and bonding with teachers."

Georgia Pritchard



Coedylan

"I have been taking part in the school play and rehearsing with different pupils which I have enjoyed. I also like trying new and different subjects."

Kate Baynam



More Able & Talented

What does this mean for my child?

If your child has been identified as More Able and Talented (MAT) they will take part in different workshops. These provide opportunities for MAT pupils to develop thinking skills, ability to work collaboratively and more independently. Challenge will be a feature of every workshop.

MAT Workshops

More Able and Talented workshops offer pupils the opportunity to 'think outside of the box' and challenge themselves. They also provide 'snippets' of the activities that MAT pupils will be involved in when they join us in Year 7.

Student Led Conferences

All Year 7 MAT pupils have recently taken part in Student Led Conferences (SLC). A SLC provides pupils with the opportunity to showcase the work that they have completed in different subjects. Pupils invite parents or carers into school for a meeting where they present their work. A teacher is also present to help discuss the work and progress made.

A SLC update will be sent out in the next half-term.

The More Able and Talented provision at PHS aims to challenge, stimulate and nurture more able pupils.

School Show



This years school production is from the era that brought the world The Rubik's Cube, Max Headroom and The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle... 'Back To The 80's'. The production is in the style of movies such as Back To The Future, The Karate Kid and The Wedding Singer. The show featured Year 7 pupils Leah Scott, Deanna Whatley and Kate Baynham. The girls were awesome!



Important Dates

February - March 2016

During the Spring Term our transition team will be making several visits to each primary school. They will liaise with relevant staff and gather as much up-to-date information as possible to support the transition for each child from Year 6 into Year 7.

Transition Visits

Miss Churchill, our Head of Transition and Year 7, will be visiting each primary school on the dates below. This is a time to meet with staff and discuss the needs of all pupils.

Trehopcyn Primary – 25th Feb at 2.15 p.m.
Cilfynydd Primary – 4th March 1 p.m.
Maesycod Primary – 11th March 9.15 a.m.
Trerobart Primary - To Be Confirmed
Cefn Primary - To Be Confirmed
Coedpenmaen Primary - To Be Confirmed
Abercynon Primary - To Be Confirmed
Craig yr Hesg Primary - To Be Confirmed

20th-23rd June 2016

Year 6 pupils will experience a taste of school life at PHS by joining us for a full transition week in June. They will be able to familiarise themselves with our school and take an active part in a number of subjects. This will include lessons in Maths, English, Science, Technology, Modern Foreign Language, Welsh, PE, Art, Music and Humanities. The week will end in a Mini Olympics led by PHS pupils. In addition, there will be an opportunity that week for parents and carers to visit our school to view the work pupils have completed and discuss any further issues with staff.

July 2016

A final part of the transition year will be for pupils to spend a day at PHS expanding their friendship groups and getting to know their form tutor. This will help pupils to minimise anxiety and any last minute worries they may have before the summer break. We have every confidence that all pupils will spend the summer looking forward to Year 7 at PHS.