



The PHS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER
2016



BEST EVER RESULTS

By Mr Huw Cripps (Headteacher)

We are absolutely thrilled to have achieved the best results in the history of our school. 100% of our GCSE students gained 5 A* to C passes with 62% of them achieving five or more A* to C passes including English and mathematics. This places the school significantly above the RCT average.

In addition to the headline figures there were some exceptional individual performances which included 10 students with at least 10A* and A grades each. These results maintain the year on year upward trend in our results which is a great credit to our Year 11 students.

A Level results also showed improvement with a further 10% increase in passes at grades A* to C and most

pleasing was that 39% of all grades awarded were at A* and A. By meeting their challenging target grades all students have been able to access university courses of their choice or begin apprenticeships.

These results reflect the commitment and the hard work of staff and students as well as the school's high expectations and standards. Our students have risen to the challenge because the ethos for learning and achievement for all students at Pontypridd High is excellent and they were taught very well. Students were very well motivated, worked very hard and thoroughly deserve what they have achieved.

At School and across the community, many people have contributed to this success - well done to all involved at Pontypridd High.

A LEVEL SUCCESS

I would like to congratulate each of our students who have achieved success with their 'A' level results. I am delighted that we have seen a 7% increase in the number of A* and A grades awarded to 39% and that the number of students achieving passes at A* to C grades has increased by 11%. Our Welsh Bacalaureate results are exceptional with 84% being awarded an A* or A grade, an increase of 10% on the previous year.

Particular mention must be given to Head Girl Lowri Wilkshire who gained A*A*AA and Head Boy Lewis Hooper with ABBC. Great news for Joseph Isingrini who will now take up his place studying Music at Jesus College in Oxford University with 4 A grades. Similarly impressive results were achieved by George Trilloe with A*A*AA and Sophie Jenkins A*A*AB, Tristan Horton AAABC, Zoe Brooks A*ABB and Jack Davidson A*ABBC. Congratulations also to Jonathan Evans A*A*BD, Anne Marie Wattley ABBC, Seren Williams AACC, Georgia Landeg ABBD, Reagan Medcraft A*AB, Amy Davies AAB and Teigan Jones AAC who all performed to an excellent standard. Well done everyone.

In terms of our Sixth Form provision, these results are very encouraging, particularly as students are being challenged and are achieving the highest grades. Most pleasing is that all students who successfully completed courses are now able to access a course and destination of their choice.

As Headteacher I am very much aware that for many of us this success is the result of working in partnership with each family for seven years or more. As always the commitment from all students, staff and the support of each family is greatly appreciated. Mr Bill Davies, Chair of Governors expressed his delight at what has been achieved and congratulates all of the students on their results in addition to thanking staff for their continued hard work and the level of support that ensures Pontypridd High School continues to provide a very successful Sixth Form provision.

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 challenges beyond Pontypridd High.



Image: Delighted students with Mrs Crozier



Image: Delighted students

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A large number of our students are now heading off to University, an Arriva Trains apprenticeship and college.

Universities include: Bath, Cardiff, Exeter, Hull, Leicester, Manchester, Oxford, Swansea, University of South Wales and UWIC.



GCSE SUCCESS

At the beginning of Year 10 in 2014 we set our pupils the challenge of achieving the best ever GCSE results and to their credit they have done that and more. I am absolutely delighted for every one of them as are all of the staff.

All pupils have achieved a significant number of qualifications with 100% passing with 5 or more grades at A* to C. Within this, 40% of the pupils in the year group achieved at least 1 grade at A* or A and 10 pupils achieved a minimum of 10 A* and A grades each. It is no surprise that the total % of passes at A* and A grades has increased again from last year. Significantly the number of pupils who have achieved 5 A* to C passes including English and Maths has risen from 53% to 62%. This is the most important indicator when comparing performance in different schools and to see such a big increase in one year is a fantastic reflection on the commitment of pupils and the excellent teaching they are receiving from staff. The support of each family is essential and as always it is very much appreciated.

We have high expectations for our pupils and it is to their credit that they have responded so positively to the challenge we set for them. Our congratulations to everyone, in particular to Atalya Edwards, Zoe Evans, Taylor Ferguson, Logan Hill, Frances Hoey, Jessica Howells Mullen, Bethany Howells, Adam Jones, Elis Pryse and Ciara Richards who all achieved 10 or more A* and A grades each. In addition Tazkia Choudhury, Jacob Cook, Angharad Davies, Morgaine Davies, Corey Evans, Charlie Fitzgerald, Ellie Griffiths, James Hughes, Dafydd Jones, Chloe Jordan, Courtney Loveridge, Sophie



Penikett, Spencer Reddy, Sam Rutter, Leah Smith, Sian Smith, Alex Sparks, Mariusz Stefaniak, Lucy Thomas, Milly Watts, Bryone Wheeler who all achieved a significant number of excellent grades, including many A* and A's. We should also mention Shane Batten, Blade Sangha, Ellis and Joe Meecham, Sophie Bennett and Stacey Jenkins amongst many others who also achieved great results. Be very proud of yourselves.

Mr Bill Davies, Chair of the Governing Body would like to congratulate all pupils and staff for their effort and hard work in making this the most successful year ever – it is very much deserved.

These results prove what talent we have and what a fantastic way to end the 2015/16 school year ! We very much look forward to welcoming such well qualified and committed pupils back to our Sixth Form. ■



SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

From the table below it is clear that Pontypridd High is improving in all performance indicators. When compared with similar schools, these results confirm our place amongst the top 25% of in Wales. We are and continue to be very proud of our pupils for maintaining this level of success.

The L2+ indicator includes those pupils who achieve 5 A* to C passes which also includes English and maths. This reflects the quality of our teaching in relation to the core subjects. We are also delighted in our Science results which make our department the most improved in RCT.

This outstanding set of results is well deserved and is closely linked to pupil attendance and their attitudes to learning. We are one of only 3 schools in RCT to have reached their attendance target and in the Summer term our attendance was the highest of any school. This shows the commitment of our pupils to succeed and is testament to the excellent support and working relationships between staff, pupils and their families. ■

Indicator	2014	2015	2016
Level 2+	52%	53%	62%
Achieving min. of 1 A*/A at GCSE	39%	36%	40%
Achieving min. of 5 A*/A at GCSE	8%	10%	12%
Achieving min. of 8 A*/A at GCSE	2%	3%	6%
Achieving min. of 10 A*/A at GCSE	2%	1%	7%
Whole School Attendance	92.8%	93.2%	93.6%

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES

As a school we understand the importance of being regulary 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. You can also follow us and departments in our school on Twitter.

How to contact us:

Email: contact@pontypriddhighschool.co.uk

Tweet: @pontypriddhs

Phone: 01443 486133

September

Tuesday 20th - Year 11 parents - Preparing for the year ahead

Thursday 22nd - Awards Evening

Wednesday 28th - Year 7 Parents meet Form Tutor

Friday 30th - INSET Day

October

Wednesday 5th - Open Evening for Year 5 and 6

Friday 21st - End of Half Term

Monday 31st - Return to School

November

Tuesday 8th - Year 11 Parents Evening

December

Monday 12th - Friday 16th - Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 14th - School Carol Service

Friday 16th - End of Term

