

# The Heron



2017

Free



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We would like to congratulate our new

Deputy Head

Mrs Lisa James-Smith

Llongyfarchiadau!

We would also like to **Congratulate**  
Glynis James on her **MBE**



**GOOD LUCK** to

Liz Jenkins, Helen Hoey, Sally Tobin, Shelagh Allen,  
Margaret Collins, Julie Blackwell, Barbara and Rob who are retiring this  
year.

The staff, students and their families would like to say 'Thank You' for  
your dedication and commitment to the school.

We wish you a long and happy retirement

Diolch yn Fawr a Pob Lwell!

o **Good Luck** Kim Leyshon, Lisa Reynolds and Jade Middleton who are  
leaving us to pastures new and to Sam Moore who has left us to become a  
Fire Fighter **CONGRATULATIONS All!!** We wish you all the best.



**Congratulations to staff who have welcomed additions to their families this year**

Hannah daughter Ava Mae

Ceri + Justin son Freddie

Sam + Simon daughter Ivy Seren

Andrew + Stefanie-Anne daughter Megan Louise.

**And we would like to congratulate staff on their wedding day**

Laura Higginson now Davies and husband Rhodri

Rebecca 'Bec' Manley now McEachen and husband Alec

Alison Lewis now Rosenberg and husband Fran

Leah Rudd now Padget and husband Damien



**And a warm welcome to all the new staff who have started this year**

CROESO

As I sit here at the end of my first year as Heronsbridge Headteacher, about to write the foreword to the 2017 Heron magazine I realised that this was a first in my life. As you get older there aren't many things that you haven't done before.

I then started to feel a bit nervous, worried I wasn't going to do a good job, or that I didn't know how to do it and that I might need some help or support. This was where I decided to look back at every Heron magazine published, to learn from my predecessors. It then reminded me that this is how our pupils often feel, as they make their journey through Heronsbridge, with staff helping them to navigate and understand the world around them. I also remembered the value of being outside your comfort zone, by doing something new you continually learn, grow and become more confident.



The summer term at Heronsbridge brings about many opportunities to share the journeys that our pupils have made and I have read about and witnessed their remarkable progress through annual reports, annual reviews, records of achievement, conversations with families and by seeing them in action.

This year has been a year of continued success for our pupils and staff and I cannot believe how quickly it has flown. They say that time flies when you're having fun and I can honestly say that it is a privilege to be doing a job that I love, working with inspirational children and staff, in a school that goes the extra mile to make a difference to the lives of our pupils. Some of the things that have stood out for me are the amazing performances of our Para-vaulting team at the English & Welsh Championships, the continued success of our footballers selected to represent Mencap at the European Championships and the progress that many of our learners are making in their literacy skills through our newly adopted approaches.

The year also sees us wish a fond farewell to some of our most experienced and long-serving teachers, and as they head off into retirement they can be rightly proud of the monumental contributions they have made to the successes of Heronsbridge and our pupils. They have left huge shoes to fill and have set an example for all of us to follow. They take with them our eternal gratitude and good luck wishes. As one door closes another opens and we are looking forward to welcoming new staff to continue the great work.

When we come back to school for the 2017/18 academic year we will be eagerly anticipating the completion of our two new classrooms on the newly constructed mezzanine floor above the dining hall. This is a project that has been in the pipeline for over ten years and the new classrooms will give us some much needed space and extra facilities. We will also see the continued development of work-based learning and I look forward to lots of exciting new projects for our pupils to experience, replicating the success of our Catering and Hospitality students.

The Heron magazine is just a snapshot of some of the experiences and achievements of our pupils and I would like to personally congratulate & thank everyone, not only associated with the production, but also highlighted in the content.

Enjoy the read.

Jeremy Evans

# Training News

## ‘ Together We Can’

Certainly is a whole school and community motto, all staff and an array of professionals working together to ensure a highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of our pupils and young people. Heronsbridge strives to develop sound working partnerships with the whole of the community, serving the children, families and professionals of Bridgend County Borough Council and also sharing best practice with special schools across South Wales.

Heronsbridge has a strong tradition in training, support, advice and resources to further meet the needs of all learners.

Listed below are just some of the training events that have taken place this year.

But its by no means exhaustive.

## CSC

### **Future Leaders– Special Schools.**

We were delighted to be asked yet again to present Central South Consortium (CSC) training on ‘Securing Accountability’. The course was delivered by a selection of staff from the school and the delegates were emerging leaders from special schools in the consortium including two from our school, Denise Edwards and Sarah Morgan. A variety of staff presented and thanks go to Lisa Smith, Rosa Walsh, Simon Type, Siarlot Hall, Helen Morgan, Rebecca McEachen and Jeremy Evans.

### **Teachers New To Special Schools**

Was the second training event delivered as part of CSC training programme. The focus was on ‘Teaching and Learning’ the senior leadership team delivered the course and the focus was very much on curriculum and the Professional Teaching Standards.

Not only does the school deliver training packages for CSC, many of our own staff are given the opportunity to attend training events also as part of their continuing professional development. By using the expertise different schools have to offer essential knowledge and skills can be shared ensuring the standards within classrooms, between schools and across Wales keep improving.

### **HLTA Assessor (Higher Level Teaching Assistant/ Welsh Government and Consortium)**

Helen Morgan has been trained to become an HLTA assessor across schools to ensure standards of provision for this role are consistent. It also ensures that people within school are aware of professional standards for HLTAs.



# School Based Training

PROACT-SCIPr-UK is one of the three mandatory training programmes delivered at Heronsbridge alongside Child Protection/ Safeguarding and Manual Handling, staff new to the school cannot pass their probation period until they have completed this training, which is revisited annually to ensure safe working practices for all. PROACT SCIP is delivered by our highly trained team (Sylvia Fowler, Richard Jones, Sarah Morgan, Steph Williams and Simon Type), the focus of the training is, 'Understanding Behaviour', Proactive Strategies and Learning', 'The Legal Framework' and ' Policy Updates'. Additionally, there has been training in the following: Aspergers and Higher Funtioning Autism (Sarah Morgan), Floortime Awareness (Sylvia Fowler), Attachment L1 & L2 (Sarah Morgan/ Psychology), Learned Helplessness (Simon Type), Sex & Relationships (Lisa Smith/ Sarah Morgan), Deep Touch Therapy (Jim Hancock/ Lisa Williams) and Digital Competence Training (Chris Price, Teri Jones, Jonathan Whitchurch and Heini Liles).

## INSET

There has been a full programme of INSET delivered to staff to enable them to meet the needs of our pupils, this includes:

- Anaphylaxis and Epi-Pen, Enteral feeding and Freego pump training, delivered by the nurses.
- Epilepsy Awareness delivered by the nurses.
- New Buccal Administration delivered by the nurses.
- Moderation delivered by Sarah Morgan.
- Signalong delivered by Denise Edwards, Sarah Smithson, Margaret Collins.
- Child Protection/ Safeguarding delivered by BCBC.
- Mindfulness workshops delivered by Gareth Clode.
- Food Hygiene delivered by Mandy Taylor
- First Aid Training delivered by Steph Williams and Sam Moore
- Sensory Training delivered by Karen Harris and Erika Thomas.
- Lifeguard Qualification delivered by Sam Moore.
- Manual Handling delivered by Steph Williams and Helen Morgan.
- Risk Assessments delivered by Simon Type
- IRIS Peer Coaching delivered by Heini Liles an Jeremy Evans
- Read Write Inc Training



A great big thank you to all those who have delivered or attended training this year...

# Caring for your Child Senior School

## Entry 3

This year our Child care group have gained valuable and transferable skills in basic childcare.

The learning outcomes included:

- Know how to provide physical care for children of different ages.
- Be able to choose appropriate clothing and footwear for children.
- Understand the importance of a child's daily routine.

The learners collected their portfolio evidence using a variety of methods:

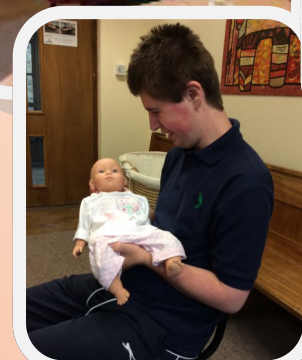
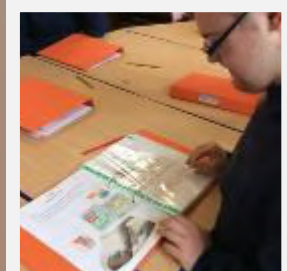
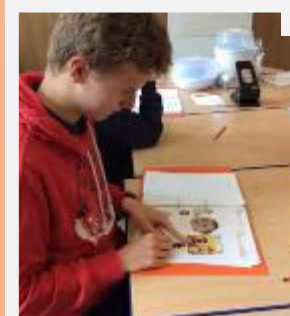
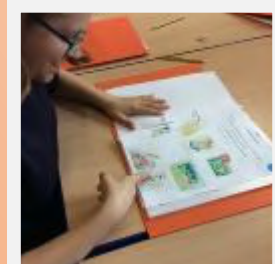
### Market Research



### Identify



### Practical





# Gross Motor Skills at Brynteg



This year has been another great year for the Gross Motor program at Brynteg. Students from KS3 have been working very hard on ball skills, team building and problem solving. All the while strengthening their fine and gross-motor skills.

Da iawn!





# DIR Floortime, Early Years, Class 1 Sensory Resources, Gifts from santa

This Year we have provided the pupils with a bouncy castle, digital camera



Thank you to staff, family, friends, Sarah Morgan, Ray Philips,



Events run by the friends this year include Psychic Night,



Summer fete, Christmas concert, Fashion Show, Afternoon Tea @ Parents Evening

Margaret Cash our oldest serving member at 93 years old has sadly passed away.

We would like to thank Margaret's family for their very kind donation in lieu of floral tributes.

She will be sadly missed.



Friends  
together



Margaret Cash's family, Graham Walters and Trisha Davis for continued support.



# FAMILY

## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Half termly, individual hourly appointments available

## POP IN TO THE DROP IN



Every Tuesday morning

8.45 until 10am

Parents, carers and family can discuss any issues or concerns they may have over a coffee/tea and meet other parents in our relaxed conservatory.

## LENDING LIBRARY

Resources are available to borrow or purchase including

## FAMILY MATTERS

Look out for our guest speakers who are invited to come in and talk to parents on a variety of subjects including sleep, anxiety, welfare benefits and much more offering support and advice. Come along and meet other parents and carers, chat about issues related to school and family life.

Refreshments are always available.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

We encourage communication with parents and families via

Home School Books, Parent Drop In,

## FAMILY INFORMATION DAY

Our Information Days get bigger every year. Parents, carers and families from the Bridgend area are always welcome to attend. We hold an Information Day in October and April. More than 20 different organisations and charities are invited to have a stand offering information advice and support. A very beneficial day, supporting all our families.

EN-

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

Contact: 01656 815725 [karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk)





# FAMILY



## STORY CAFE

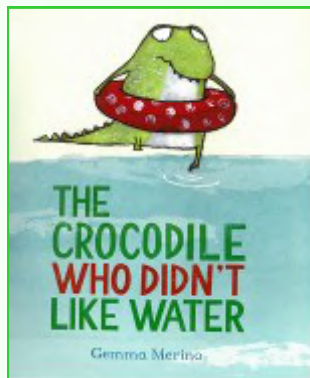
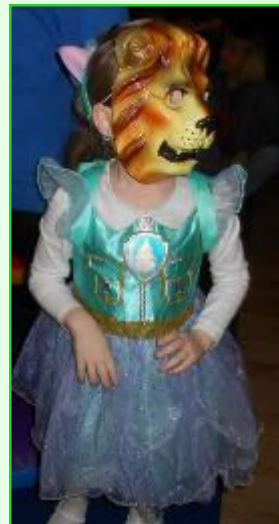
The Primary department and their families have enjoyed participating in the Story Café linked to the topics of Animals and Water.

Following the story everyone completes an art activity.

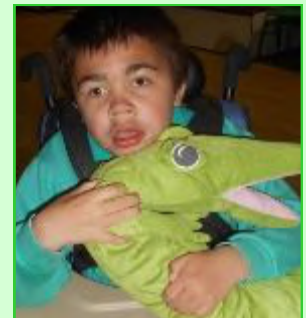


re-

Each child



ceives a certificate



at

EN-



Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

Contact: 01656 815725 karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk



# DYB



DYB promotes the curriculum through a multi-sensory approach with fun activities, including Coloursense, Touch Trust,

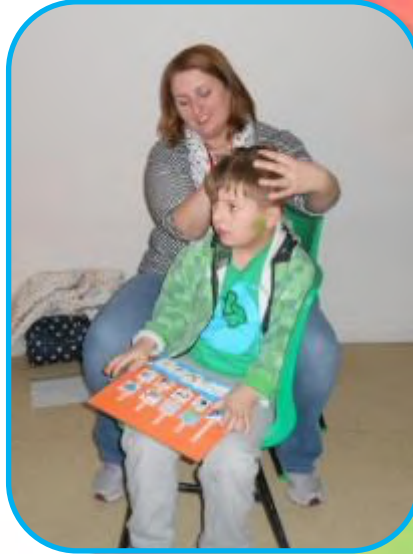


History Week  
World War II





# Parent Training







Heron'sbridge is very pleased to have been awarded the FairAchiever award for the next three years. As a Fairtrade school, we are committed to using Fairtrade products where possible. Our coffee shop, Blas Da, continues to serve a range of Fairtrade products from tea and coffee to chocolate and bananas.



During Fairtrade Fortnight in March, we learnt about lots of different Fairtrade products in a special assembly then held a Fairtrade break in Heron Hall. We enjoyed chocolate brownies, toast and jam, kit-kats or fruit and washed them down with tea, coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice - all using as many Fairtrade ingredients as possible.



As Part of Class 1's story "The Hungry Caterpillar", they made sandwiches using Fairtrade Jam and Fairtrade Rice Krispie cakes using Cadbury's chocolate, Kit Kats and Maltesers that they had bought down the local shop where they identified the Fairtrade logo on the products.

Every Autumn, staff supplement their Christmas shopping with Fairtrade cards and gifts.



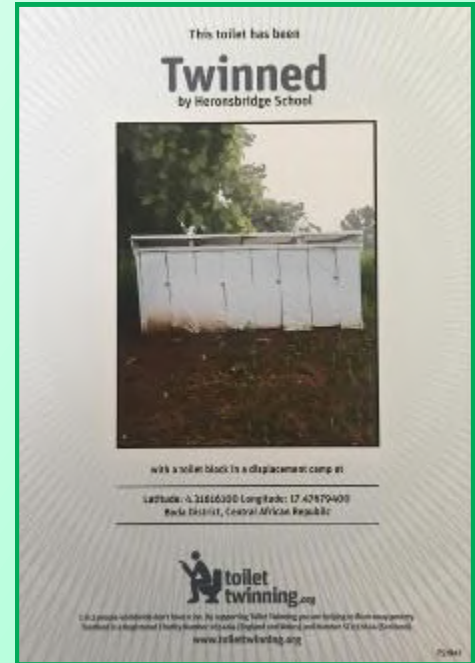




## Eco-Schools

We decided to focus on the importance of having a clean and safe water supply and adequate sanitation. As part of this the senior school had an assembly on this topic and the eco-committee decided to donate money to twin our toilets in school with a toilet block located in a displacement camp in the Central African Republic. Keep your eyes peeled around school to see if you can find our twinning certificate!

Following the awarding of the Platinum Flag last year, the Heronsbridge eco-committee have been keen to continue thinking of new ways we can have a positive impact on our environment.



Thank you for your continued support for our bring and buy sales and bag to school collections which give us the funds needed to help us raise awareness of environmental issues in school and contribute to worthy causes such as these.

Finally, we would like to wish a happy retirement to long term eco-warrior Mrs Blackwell. Mrs Blackwell has led the Heronsbridge eco-committee for the last 10 years and her many achievements in this time culminated last year with the school being awarded the Platinum Flag award. Mrs Blackwell has always led from the front, getting stuck in with all of the less glamorous jobs to help make our school a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place for us all. Thank you Mrs Blackwell!





Héronsbridge School has been a Lead Practitioner for a GLP-W Network for the past three years. We have recruited many schools to our network, which has encouraged collaboration, ideas and resource sharing.

We have had many projects to share with our network, including the brilliant links we have with our **BOTAWA** project, the friendships, work on Rights of the Child, gardening across different countries, including our very own African Keyhole Garden!

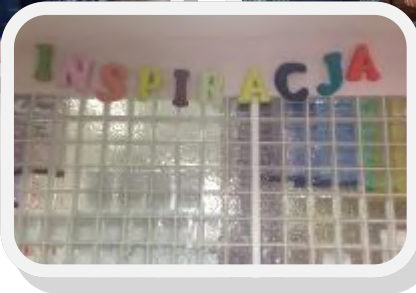
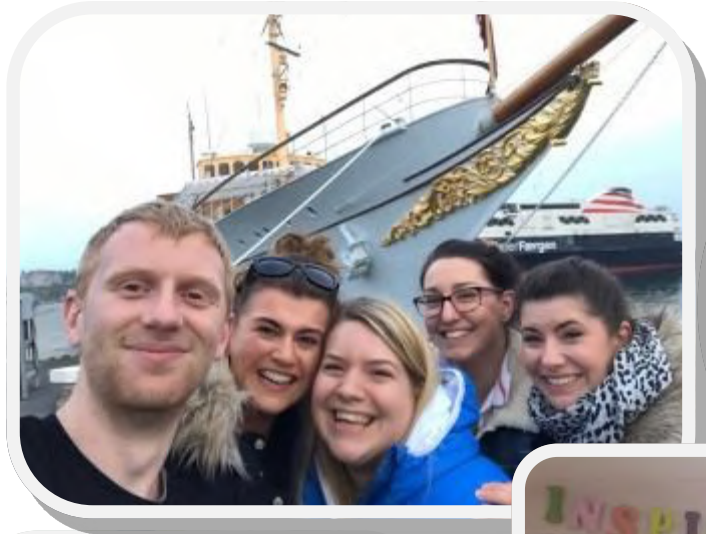
We have recently been looking at the **UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award** and will be working together as a network to help each other gain this award.

As a result of this success, we recently joined another network of Special Schools across South Wales. The current focus is a **"Window"** Project, which covers topics of industrialisation and global warming. All schools are taking part in the project and many classes at Heronsbridge have produced lovely art work related to the project. The next goal is to attract schools from Europe, via E-Twinning, to join the project and share the views from their school windows!

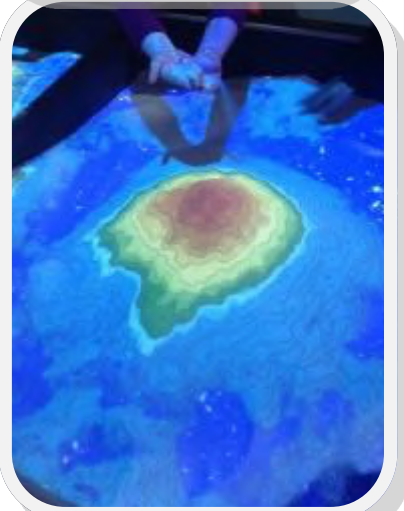
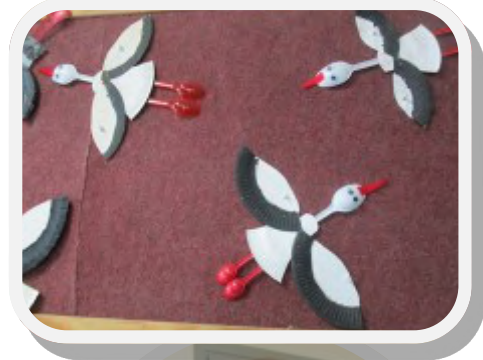




# International School Linking



During the Summer term Miss Bishop and Mrs Davies visited Poland to observe some lessons and look at different ways to teach maths, as Polish students scored very high in recent tests. They also had the opportunity to take part in workshops and visit Science museums to explore new and exciting resources that they could use in class. Mr Hoey and Mrs Lewis visited Denmark to observe outdoor learning. They will be looking at ways to bring this back to their lessons!



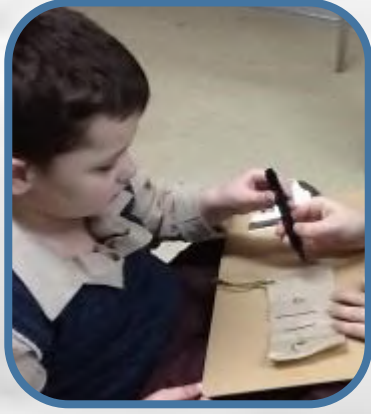


# PRIMARY HISTORY WEEK

This year our History week was all about World War II.

We learned about what it was like to live during the war.

We measured out rations and cooked with them, planted our own vegetables to 'Dig for Victory' and experienced an Anderson shelter.

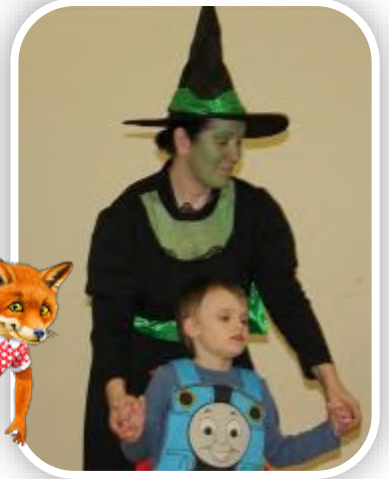
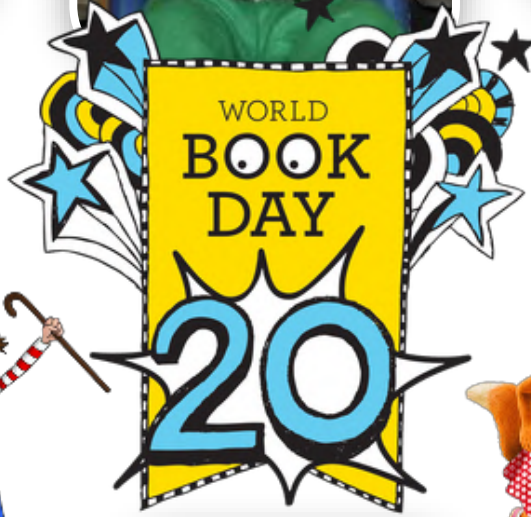
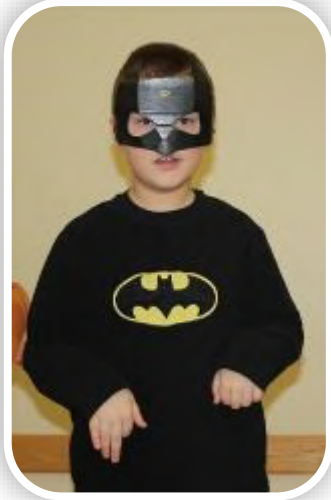


We enjoyed a trip to the War Museum in Swansea Bay and tried on different clothes and explored different artefacts. Back in school, we read the story 'Tommy Barrow' which is about life as an evacuee. We made our own gas mask boxes and labels. We showed off everything we had learned during the week to the rest of the school, including how to Jive!



## WORLD WAR II





Every year the Primary Department celebrate World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite characters. We all bring a book into school with us to swap with our friends. During assembly time we all get up on the stage so that everyone can see our lovely costumes—we all have a clap and a cheer!





# Class A1



This year we have been very busy getting creative in outdoor learning. We have had fun exploring different natural materials and enjoyed the outdoor environment.

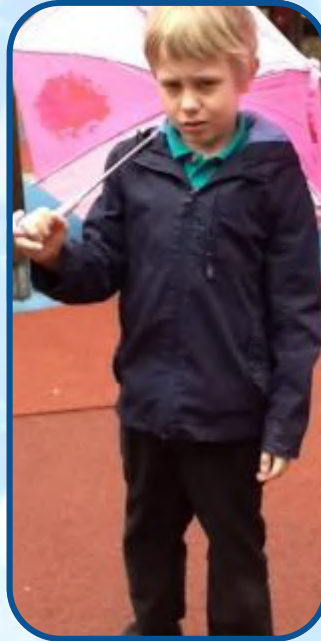


# Outdoor Learning



# A2 'Singing In the Rain'

Our topic this term has been water, We have been learning that each year the Christian people in Africa take part in an Umbrella Festival to encourage rain to fall.



In class A2 we enjoyed practising our own rain dance by dancing like in the movie/song "Singing in the rain".



We all had great fun !



# Class A3



This year A3 have enjoyed taking part in the Massage in Schools Programme.

We have used our literacy skills by using our PECs to request the moves we want.

We have worked together and massaged our friends too!







# Class A4



We enjoy our weekly cookery sessions.

We use our numeracy skills to measure out ingredients and our literacy skills to make choices and follow instructions.

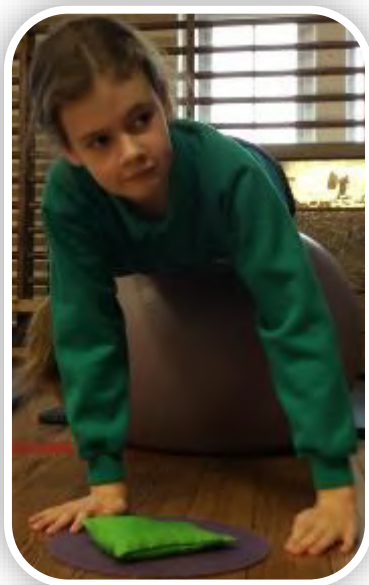


We enjoy tasting what we've made too!





# Occupational Therapy Programmes with A5

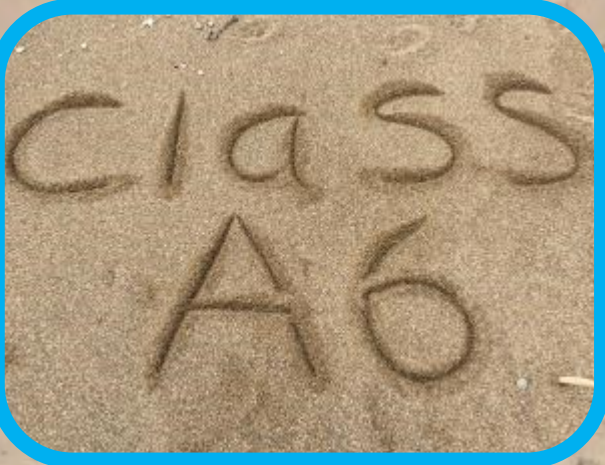


Throughout the year we have been working very hard on developing our skills through following our individual O.T Programmes.

We complete a range of activities that involve 'hard work'. This is so important to us as pressure through our joints and muscles give us the feedback needed to help us stay focused throughout the day.







Class A6 have enjoyed exploring their local environment this year...





# Class A7

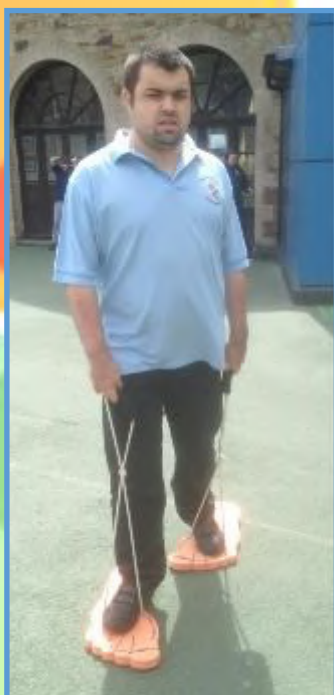
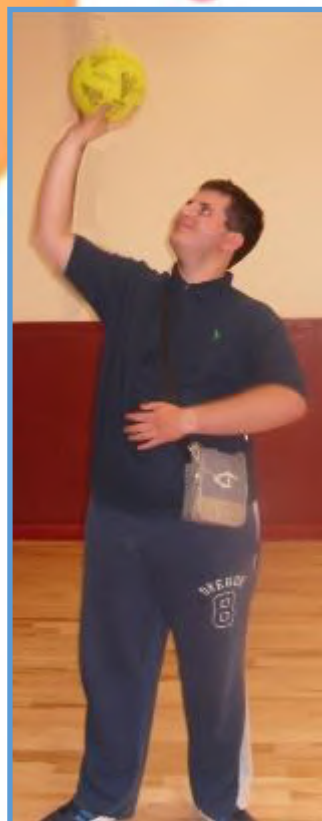


**Article 31** Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.



Play is our  
brain's  
favorite  
way of  
learning.

Play is the most important and natural way of learning for young children. It is through play that children explore their world, develop their thinking, and learn to solve problems. Play is also a key way for children to learn to get along with others.





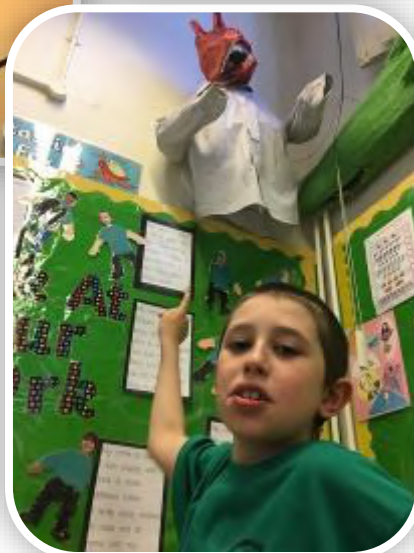
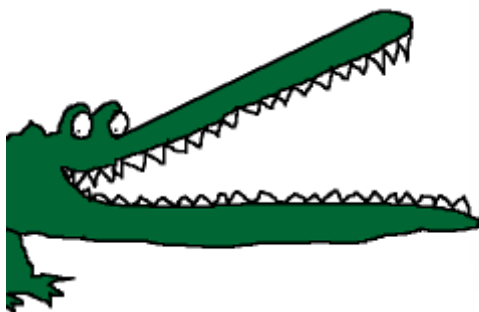
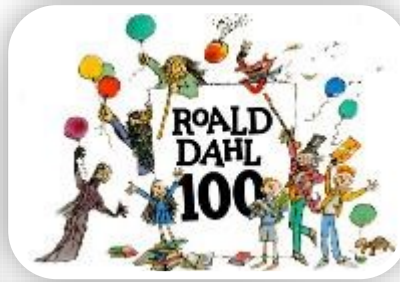
# A8 CELEBRATING ROALD DAHL 100



*In A8 we had great fun celebrating Roald Dahl's 100th birthday.*

We focused on The enormous Crocodile and Fantastic Mr Fox as our Autumn and Spring term topic!

We decided to make our self an Enormous crocodile and a Mr Fox for the class.





# Our Year in A9



A9 is a transition class,  
which bridges the Centre for Autism  
and the Main Body of the school at  
all Key Stages.



Pupils access lessons within their  
relative Key Stages, with support, as

We have had an exciting year in A9, sharing lots of new experiences and making new friendships. We have participated in activities together, as well as in our carousel classes within the main body.

We have all developed our ability to communicate, using good eye contact, listening and turn taking in many new situations. Above all we have had fun learning together, smiling and laughing.



We would like to wish good luck to Jack and Josh, who are all moving into new main body classes next year, and Jamie, who will be going to College!



*Goodluck.*







# Residential 2017



In February we said goodbye to Alex.

Alex has been a resident with us since 2009.

We have seen Alex grow from a boy to a man...

This year Alex turned 19.

We wish him all the best as he takes on his new journey.



# 16 Sweet

Happy 16th Birthday Karen!!

Karen turned 16 in June. We celebrated with a trip to Nandos and lots of birthday cake and...

maybe some ice cream too!

## Outdoor Fun



Sam, Richard, Karen and Toby have all enjoyed various outdoor activities and shopping trips.

They have also been making the most of the sunshine in our garden with the trampoline and picnic benches.





# Early Years

We have had a lot of fun throughout the year experiencing many activities within the 6 areas of learning from the Foundation Phase Curriculum:



Language, Literacy and Communication  
Mathematical Development  
Knowledge and Understanding of the World  
Creative Development  
Physical Development  
Personal, Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity

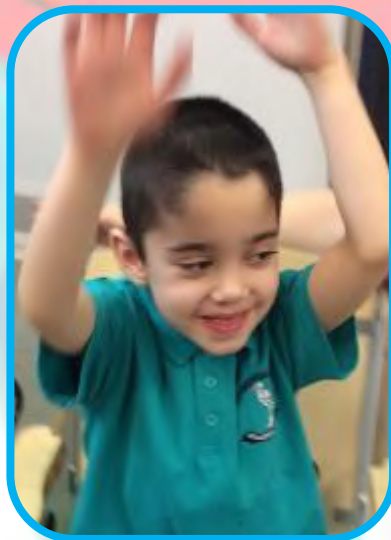


We also learnt about Welsh Language Development, Curriculum Cymreig and RE. We have had real first hand experiences with Zoo Lab, a pet dog, Theatre groups coming in to the school and a visit to a pet shop.

We also enjoyed dressing up as characters from our favourite books for World Book Day.







# *Jama-Rama*

## *By Class 1*



In class 1 we love our jama-rama session. We use lots of different puppets and sing songs linked to our topics. We do this session every week so we now are starting to join in with the actions. We all enjoy choosing our favourite instruments and playing along to the songs.

Jama-rama is lots of fun!



# Class 2

This year, class 2 have enjoyed exploring the environment and helping out in the local community. Our harvest offerings needed to be delivered to the local Foodbank. So we volunteered to drop off the goodies! We also took a trip to



Aberavan shopping centre at Christmas to visit Santa!



In the Spring term, we enjoyed three different trips. Our first trip was to Bridgend Library. The Librarian read us a lovely story called 'Chocolate Mousse for Greedy Goose' and then she sent us off on a treasure hunt!



Our second trip was a trip to the World War 2 Museum in Swansea, to get ready for History week.

Our last trip was to Wiggleys Fun Farm to learn more about Farm animals during our 'Animals' topic.







# Class 3 had a Mooooooooooving



# Experience at local farms

Class 3 have had an exciting year visiting local farms to experience farm animals in their natural environment. We had a really warm welcome from our local farmers and we were able to see all kinds of farm animals and learn how they live and are looked after. Brynchwith Farm in Heol y Cyw even sell free range eggs produced by chickens reared at the farm. Some of the animals were really friendly and the children were able to handle and stroke them. The children thoroughly enjoyed this really rewarding opportunity and we would like to thank owners of Brynchwith Farm and Penuchadre Farm for their time and for the kindness shown to our pupils.







# A Day at the Farm with Class 4

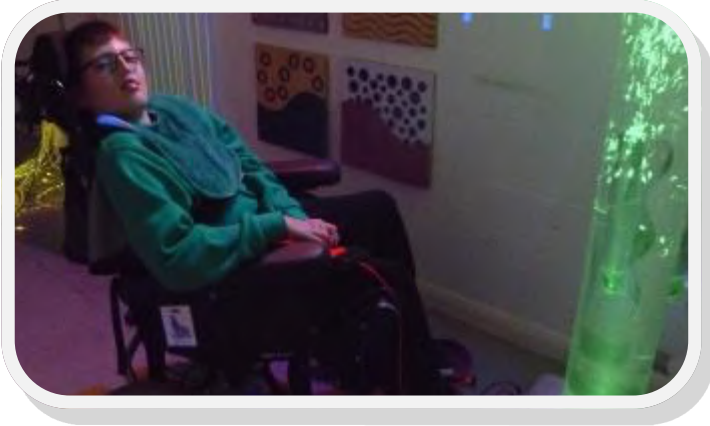


We visited Ty Tanglwyst Farm to learn about animals as part of our topic. We met lots of very friendly cows, the old farm dog and a very nosey horse!!





# Class 5



Over the year we have had lots of fun and many memorable experiences. We have made sandcastles on Barry Beach, learnt about animals at Pets at Home and from our Zoo Lab visitors.

We have used the light and dark rooms and dressed up on our visit to the World War 2 museum. Over the year we have supported Fairtrade Fortnight, McMillan Coffee mornings and Comic relief to name a few. We also entered a gymnastics Competition and got through to the finals in Cardiff.





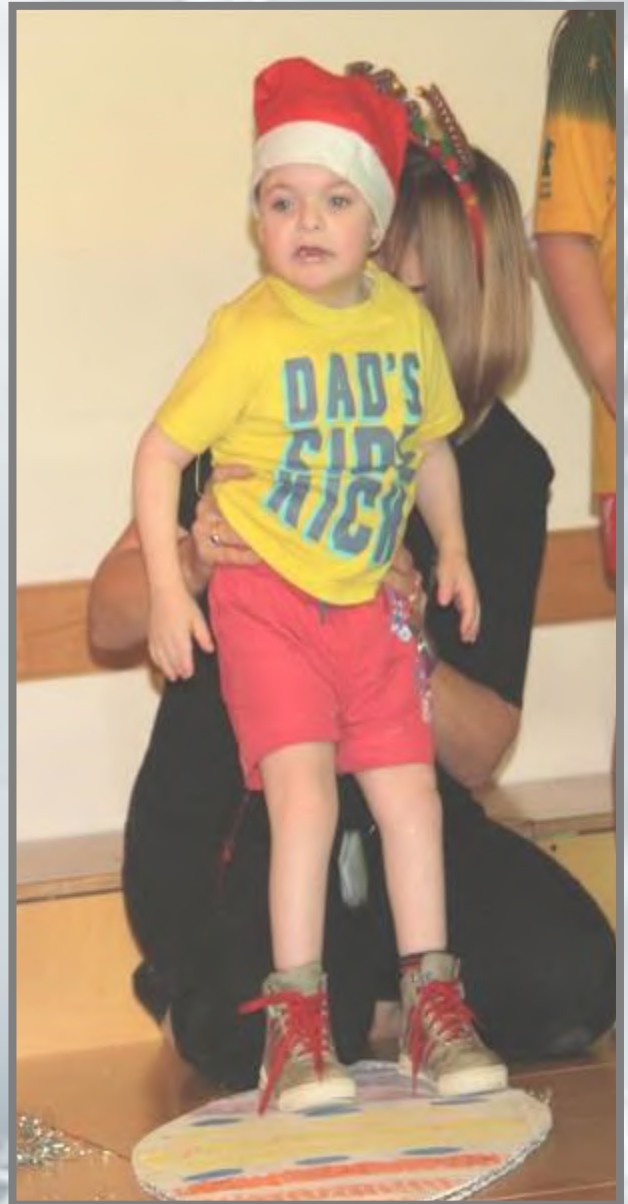
# Robin's Christmas Journey



This year it was the Primary Departments turn to take to the stage and WOW our visitors with a spectacular performance of "Robins Christmas Journey". The concert saw Robin travel the world in search of the perfect Christmas. The children really out did themselves and produced an outstanding Christmas Concert.









# Class 6



**Class 6 loved visiting Bryngarw Park.**

**The weather was gorgeous and we really enjoyed exploring the different areas.**



**We had fun in the playground and enjoyed a walk on the nature trail we even saw some ducklings!**





# Exploring Castles



As part of our medieval topic in History this year we visited Ogmore and Coity castles.

We had fun exploring the different castles and learning about their history.







# Class 8



As part of our Health and Wellbeing lessons we have been working on road safety. As a class we discussed the importance of road safety before adventuring out in to the community to put our work into practice. We helped each other cross roads and look for dangers along the way. We worked as a team to help each other understand the importance of keeping safe when out walking.





# Ewenney Pottery



Class 9 had the opportunity to work with Caitlyn from Ewenney Pottery on a project in the school art room. We explored with clay and made our very own pottery.

We also went to visit Caitlyn at the Pottery to watch her in action.

She explained the process of finishing the pottery we had made using the kiln and glazes. The pieces were then displayed at the Urdd in Pencoed.





# Llangrannog 2017



The Senior trip to Llangrannog was another huge success! We thoroughly enjoyed all the activities and can't wait for next time.

**Diolch Llangrannog!**



# Eisteddfod 2017



The Senior department celebrated St. David's Day with an Eisteddfod. They produced wonderful art work—portraits of famous Welsh personalities, participated in Choral Recitations and folk songs as well as off stage competitions such as ICT and P.E. Pupils were divided into our four houses, Ewenny, Ogmore, Coity and Penybont and competed for house points.



Llongyfarchiadau i'r enillwyr Ewenny ac i bawb am gymryd ran yn yr Eisteddfod blwyddyn yma!

DYDD GWYL DEWI HAPUS  
I BAWB!!!

Congratulations to the winners Ewenny and to everyone who took





# Senior School Christmas Concert 2016

## Presents



The Tree  
of Jesse



# Enterprise

This year Class 12 have worked very hard on Enterprise projects. We have successfully learnt how to make money through team work and talent!



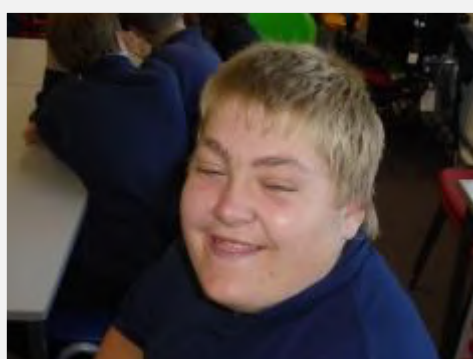
For our Christmas project we learnt how to print and make Christmas cards. We packaged them up very professionally and sold them at different events. They were a massive hit!

For our Easter project we made and sold jars of 'Bunny Brownies' and 'Easter Cookies'.

We researched the best places to buy the ingredients.

We worked together, and sold them around school.

The jars were also a success!





# Shakespeare School Festival

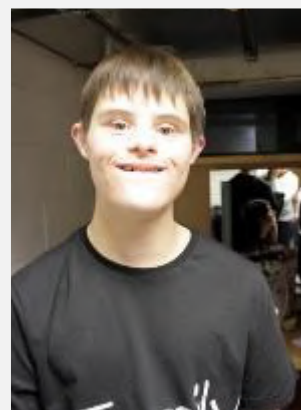
Seniors perform Macbeth at the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff.



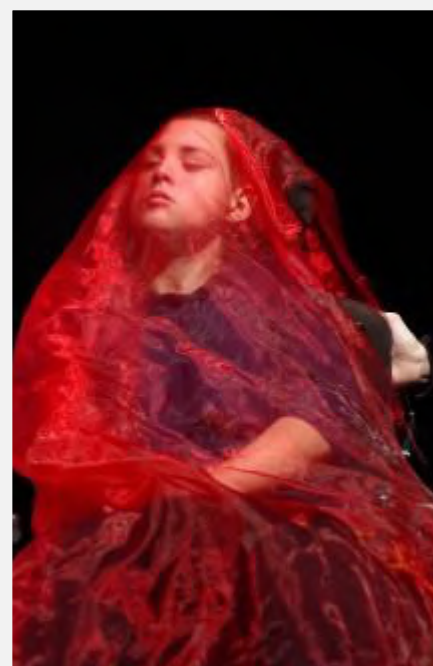
*'The piece had some lovely modern touches – such as Banquo being killed whilst listening to his ipod and the baseball caps crowns – it added great humour and helped bring this Macbeth stomping into the 21st century.'*  
Ffion Williams SSF Stage Director



*A big well done to everyone involved in Macbeth! Everyone did themselves proud. The pupils enjoyed the experience of acting on a big stage and performed like real professionals!*







*'You worked really well as a cast – your ensemble work was very strong – you told the story clearly as a group.'*



**Shakespeare**  
SCHOOLS FESTIVAL



# MUSIC MATTERS



Music is accessible to everyone, that's why it's use is integral to the work we do at Heronsbridge.

Through the use of traditional instruments and music technology

(such as the Skoog and Soundbeam systems),

we work to develop attention, communication and interaction skills,

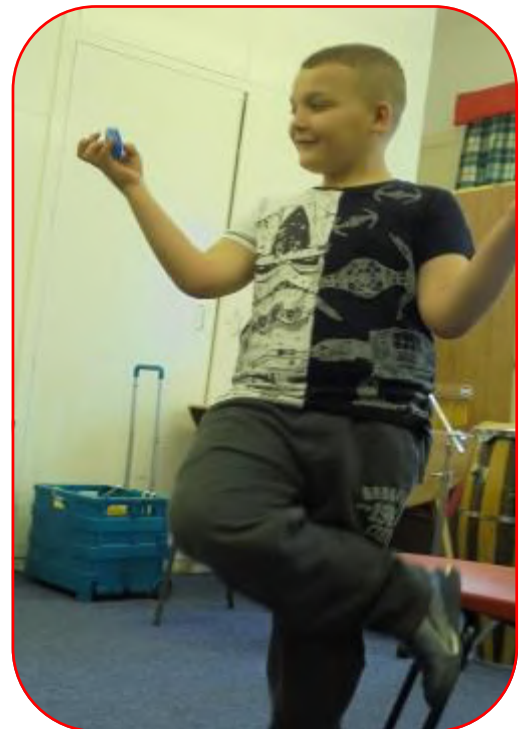
as well as encouraging self-expression,

But most importantly however





# Music Therapy



The Senior Department were very fortunate to take part in a Music Therapy pilot project this term. Great fun was had by all and pupils benefitted greatly from the experience and opportunity to work with Jo the music therapist.

*Article 13: 'Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions'*

Unicef UNCRC





# Independence



I helped to organise a talent show to raise money for Comic Relief.

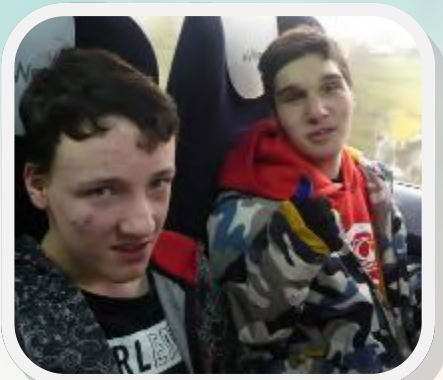
I am learning to find my way around college



I am learning to be more independent in the kitchen



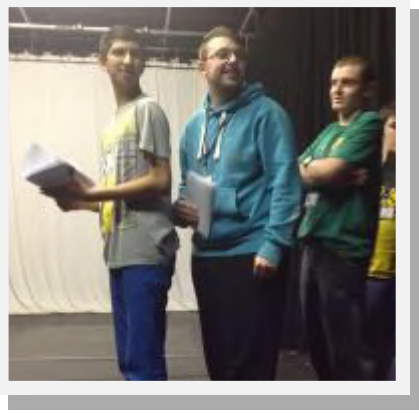
In the Leavers department, we support our young people to become ambitious capable learners, who are ready to learn throughout their lives.



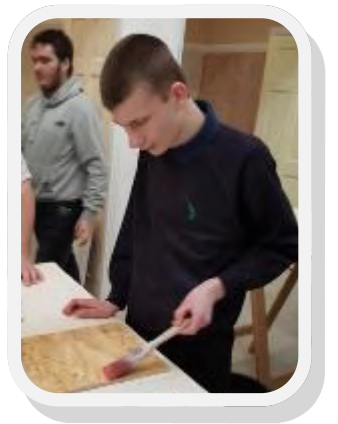
We are learning to travel independently







# Opportunity



Being at Heronsbridge gives the students some fantastic opportunities to become enterprising creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.





# Sustainability

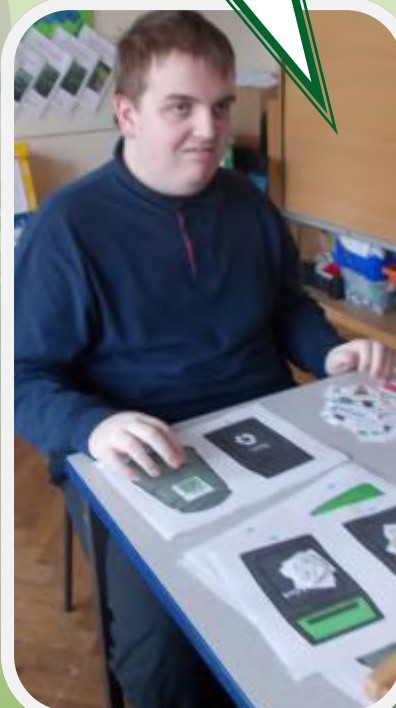


I really enjoyed harvesting the honey from our own Heronsbridge bees!



I loved meeting the little lambs!

I enjoy learning about recycling!



Leavers help students to be ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.



I helped to make a bird box! Within weeks we had a bird lay eggs, and we got to see the chicks on a live feed from a camera that was inside the box!



We took part in the Can Do project, and went to Newbridge Fields to remove the Himalayan Balsam weed! This will help the other plants to grow.



# *Leavers D.T Enterprise*



*The students produced hearts made from 100% recycled wood.*

*The wooden hearts were created using wood from old furniture discarded by school and decorated with branches that were collected*



*The branches were dried and cut into various sizes.*

*The hearts were treated with teak oil and then individually*

*The money raised went to our link schools in Botswana and Tanzania.*





# Year 14 Transition to College.

For the first time this year our Year 14 Leavers have had the opportunity to have taster sessions at both Bridgend College and Pencoed College.



At Bridgend College we experienced Music, Art and Multimedia which included photography. We visited Margam Park to learn how to capture our surroundings using a camera.



At Pencoed College we had the opportunity to experience Horticulture and Construction sessions.

In horticulture we planted vegetables and re-potted plants.

We also made planters for the Orchard.



In construction we made a "Heronbridge" name board for the Leavers sensory garden.

We had to cut out each letter individually using a coping saw.

We also had a taster in the Sports Department





# Hospitality and Catering Work based Training



We have had another successful year in our Coffee Shop.

We are extremely lucky to have full support from our staff. Our new service style has proved a hit with our customers making the coffee shop busier than ever!

The students provide a trolley round one day a week and the Coffee Shop is open three days a week. While the students are training in the coffee shop they work as part of the

Hospitality team, building up their skills in the following areas :

Food preparation and cooking, Barista skills, Customer service skills,

Food safety skills and teamwork.

Over our 5 day week we have 5 students completing an accredited Hospitality Qualification at Entry 3 and Level 1 and have already achieved their level 1

Food Safety Certificate.

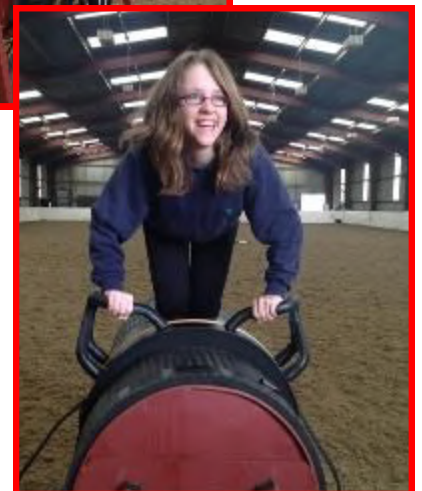
As well as working on their Key Skills daily we also have nine additional students who have a work experience placement every week which is part of their class timetable.

Well Done everyone keep up the good work!





# Equestrian Vaulting Team 2017



Equestrian Vaulting can be described as gymnastics on the back of a moving horse being worked on a circle under the control of a lunger. It incorporates beauty and brilliance, power and strength, elegance and precision all in harmony with the horse.

Vaulting develops :  
General fitness,  
Coordination, Team work and trust, Leadership skills,  
Creativity, Musical expression, Balance, Core strength, Flexibility, Upper body strength, Discipline and safety awareness,

Confidence, Listening and communication skills.

Its also great fun!

This year we have had a 1st and 2nd in National Competitions.



# Tom Makes School and College Proud!

Tomas Roberts one of Heronsbridge's former Pupils is off to University in September!



After leaving Heronsbridge School in September 2012 Tomas Roberts, came to Bridgend College as a resident learner in the specialist provision, Weston House. Tom has Autism and was initially placed on a course in the Discrete Provision at Bridgend College to develop his life skills. Initially, Tomas went on to a Level 1 Certificate in Work Skills, an Independent Living Skills course in the discrete provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs. As part of this course Tom studied Media and during this time, Tom's artistic talent was noticed by the Media tutor on this course.

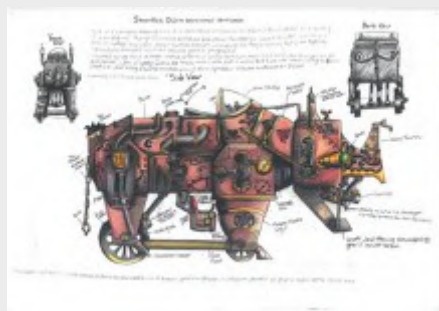
His outstanding ability soon became clear. Tom has an encyclopaedic knowledge of films and Disney cartoon characters and particularly a specific interest in animation. With his being able to draw figures using his exceptional drawing skills and this special interest this needed to be developed.

Following the same College interview process as all other learners, including presenting a Portfolio of his drawings, he went onto study a mainstream Media course at the College and the year after a further Art and Design course to develop his drawing skills.

On successfully completing this course and impressing the whole team with his skills, Tom also completed a successful work placement with "Turnip Starfish" a Media design company based in Cardiff. Tom is now completing the L3 Diploma in Interactive Media and as he continues on this very liberating and fulfilling journey the support and help he needs continues. Tom applied and has now been offered a place on a Creative Media Degree course at the University of South Wales.

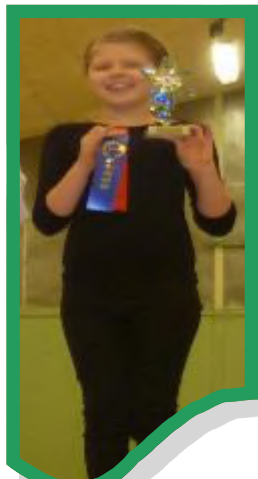
Ahead of entering University in September, Weston House team are working with Tom on his travel training so he feels comfortable in getting the train to Cardiff for University from his home in Port Talbot. The support team and Tutors are also working with their counterparts at University of South Wales to facilitate a planned transition into College life for Tom and all the challenges involved to try and ensure there are "no surprises". With this transition in place all know Tom is more likely to cope with the inevitable changes of the first few exciting but very daunting weeks for him.

We are thrilled to be able share this story of one our Pupils with you in the Heron and Tomas has said he is both "proud and excited" about going to University. Here are some of his drawings for you to see his talent!





# Welsh Schools Gymnastics Competition 2017



CONGRATULATIONS

WELL DONE  
GYMNASTS

This year a small group of children from the Primary Department competed in the Welsh Gymnastics National Championships - **Bronze category**.

The first round was held at Pencoed Comprehensive School on Tuesday 14th February 2017, everyone worked hard, remembered their sequences and gave excellent performances on the day. Four pupils progressed to the National Finals in Cardiff on 17th March 2017.

The children worked very hard to achieve these standards and thoroughly deserved all the awards gained this year. A huge thank you must also go to all staff for their help and support not only on the day, but for all their time and work in practices prior to the event.





# Gymnastics



The Senior Gymnastics Team took part in the Rotary Welsh Championships. The squad won a total of 26 medals in the heats at Pencoed with 16 qualifying for the Welsh finals in Cardiff. Well Done Everyone!





# The Mostyn Hills Awards



The Mostyn Hills Awards were created in the memory of Mostyn Hills who was the Swimming Instructor in Heronsbridge for many years who taught



this years winners:



Cory

Confidence in the water



Alfie

Most improved



Leo

Swimmer of the Year

## Well Done!



# Swimming



Nofio



This year in swimming we were lucky enough to have Liz Johnson the Paralympic swimmer visit and teach swimming lessons. Throughout the School we have continued to build our confidence in the water, learn water safety skills and achieve swimming badges. Well Done Everyone!



## Beach Safety



We also had an interesting visit from local Lifeguards who talked about beach and sea safety. We learnt that we should always stay between the red and yellow flags on a beach.





# Trials 2017



Kieran Cleaver, Joseph Cowan and Lewis Davies became the latest of our students (24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> respectively since 2005) to secure places in Mencap's National Football Team following trials in Harrogate, West Yorkshire earlier in the year. Trials were in fact attended by 4 of our students from the Leavers with Jack Knill joining Kieran, Joseph and Lewis on this occasion. It seems the residential experience and socialising necessary helped make the event a memorable one for everyone concerned once more.





# Training Camp



The school hosted a residential training camp in April as part of Mencap's preparations for this year's European Football Championships in Geneva. The weekend long event featured training matches against our very own Herons as well as Swansea City Bravehearts (at Penybont FC, our partner club in the community). There was also time for a visit to the Liberty Stadium to see Swansea City beat Stoke City 2.0.





# Geneva 2017

**mencap**



In Switzerland in June, our Mencap team finished in a very commendable 7<sup>th</sup> place. We are naturally very proud of students Kieran Cleaver, Joseph Cowan and Lewis Davies given the contribution they made to this year's squad and for continuing the school's 13 year association with this competition. The annual Geneva based event included 17 other teams representative of a further 8 European nations.





# Fishing



This year Heronsbridge School has continued to have strong links with Bridgend and District Fishing for the Disabled. We have had our links with this fabulous organisation over many, many years and this year was no exception. The association in conjunction with local volunteer anglers provide valuable opportunities for all the children in school to experience fishing (and catching a fish as well).

It is thanks to the hard work of Mr. Edgar Burt and his excellent team that our pupils gain so much from this experience. This year the school braved rain and shine to compete in the schools challenge cup and were fortunate to win the competition. Team captain, Kieran Payne received the Shield from the Club President and Emmanuel Vista took the award for the largest catch totalling 2lb 8oz.





# Athletics



Shot & Soft Ball



Track Events



Long Jump



Standing Long Jump



Seniors had two fantastic days of W.S.A.P.L.D South Wales Regional Athletics finals this year in Leckwith Stadium.

Everyone put in 100% effort and enthusiasm for all activities, lots of medals were won with a great team spirit.

Well Done Heronsbridge! Da Iawn Pawb!





# Yoga Club



Fitness



Friendship



Fun



Stretching



Balance



Breathing



Flexibility



we love yoga

Monday Afternoon 3.30pm till 5pm





