

The Heron



2016

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Good luck to all the staff who have also left to pastures new Kelly Punter, Liz Webb, Gayle Brown and Jo Bolton.

We wish you all the best in your new jobs.

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

CROESO

GOOD LUCK to

Glynis James and Allison Rowlands

who are retiring this year.

The staff, students and their families would like to say 'Thank You' for your 20 years+ dedication and commitment to the school.

We wish you a long and happy retirement

Diolch yn Fawr a Pob Lwell!

And we would also like to say a **BIG** congratulation to our new Headteacher

Mr Jeremy Evans

Llongyfarchiadau!



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

Joe and Charlotte daughter Rose

Sarah and Paul son Stanley

Erica and Adam daughter Isla

Rhian and Terry son Osian

Rae and Marc son Albi

Jon and Sarah daughter Florrie

Sophie son Oskar-James

Kim and Elliot son Eddie

Jannine and Allan daughter Quinn-Nieve

Terriebeth and Matthew daughter Marnie

We would like to congratulate Rebecca Davies now Richards and husband Huw



A note from the Head...

Congratulations are due, it is now official, from September 2016 Heronsbridge has a new head teacher! Mr Jeremy Evans, our deputy head has secured the best job in the world following a gruelling interview last week.

It seems surreal that this will be my final introduction to the Heron after 21 happy years at the school, sixteen of these as deputy head and five as head teacher. Where has the time gone?

It has been an incredible honour to have played a part in shaping such a wonderful school; the years have rolled by in a flurry of activity and positivity. I have loved each and every day here and have never yearned to be anywhere else. From the very first day I joined the school it has been a source of great inspiration and joy for me. Heronsbridge is much greater than the sum of its parts being blessed with wonderful children and parents, a dedicated, hardworking and committed staff, active and loyal governors and a local community that has contributed to its continued success. The strength of our partnerships with our colleagues from other services has also played a huge part in the success of the school over the years and I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone.

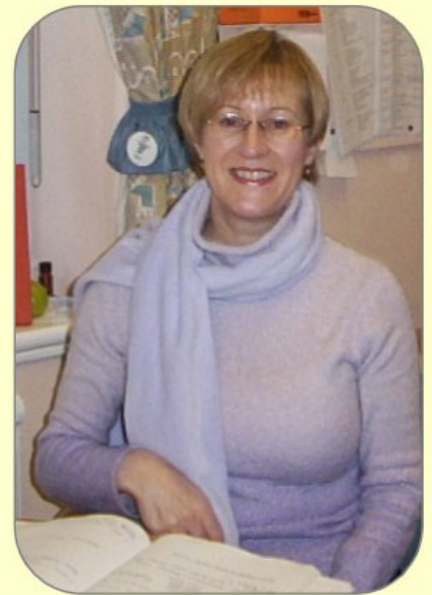
I am leaving Heronsbridge in exciting times. We have been chosen to contribute to the development of a new all Wales curriculum as a lead school and have been awarded specialist school status by the Central South Consortium. I know that under the leadership of Mr Evans we will continue to go from strength to strength.

Anyone who has ever worked at Heronsbridge will tell you that even when they leave, the school remains close to their hearts. I may not have to 'clock in' from September but I do intend to be a frequent visitor and am looking forward to Friday mornings in our café 'Blas Da' where I will be able to catch up with colleagues and children over a cup of coffee.

For the last time, I would like to say thank you to you all for your support over the years and I urge you to 'enjoy the read'. The magazine is packed with pictures and stories which show that the school has been as busy and exciting as ever. As you read, I think you will share my sense of pride in having been part of such a wonderful and vibrant community. Once again, thank you for making my job as headteacher 'just perfect'.

Glynis James

Headteacher



Training News

'The school aligns its performance management system well to a very good training and development programme... training of this kind is shared well with other professionals in local schools and other settings... the identification and delivery of specific training for all staff to support the particular needs of pupils at the school are sector leading'. (Estyn June 2014)

'Opportunities for learning and development are widely on offer and ownership of personal learning is encouraged. Talent and potential is identified, recognised and nurtured through training activity, coaching, mentoring and career development. Individuals feel very motivated through the wide range of learning and development opportunities provided'. (IiP March 2014)

Although these excerpts from our Estyn and Investors in People reports are now two years old, we continue to place a huge emphasis on continually developing and improving our knowledge and skills. At Heronsbridge, we see ourselves at the heart of our community, serving the children, families and professionals of Bridgend County Borough and also sharing best practice with special schools across South Wales. We strive to offer training, support, advice and resources to further meet the needs of all learners. We are rightly proud of our tradition of enabling and helping people to fully support and care for children and young people with complex needs and learning difficulties. Listed below are just some of the training events that have taken place this year.

Future Leaders - Special Schools

Following the success of 'Inspired Leadership' & 'Aspiring Senior Leaders', we were delighted to be asked again to present CSC training on 'Securing Accountability'. The course was delivered by a selection of staff from Heronsbridge and the delegates were emerging leaders from special schools in the Central South Consortium. The training was very well received by all in attendance (Including Simon Type and Siarlot Hall). Thanks to Rosa Walsh, Rebecca Manley & Helen Morgan.

NAS EarlyBird Plus

This year again saw a further two courses delivered by Siarlot Hall, Rosie Jones & Rhian Davies. These 10 week courses were well attended by families and mainstream colleagues, all courses were fully booked. Feedback from the courses demonstrates that people felt empowered to fully support children with ASD.

NAS Healthy Minds

James Hancock & Liz Webb delivered this course to groups of parents of children from Heronsbridge. The Healthy Minds course looks at approaches to support anxiety and stress in children and young people with autism. The full course was well attended and consisted of six half-day sessions throughout the year.

PECS

A really exciting development this year was the opportunity to deliver PECS training to families and professionals - learning alongside each other. We had excellent feedback from families who were very appreciative of the training and the free crèche that the school provided. This has further enhanced our pupils independent communication and choice-making.

DIR Floortime

DIR® Floortime has again been a focus for training and 6 staff (Lea Evans, Rebecca Manley, Sarah Phillips, Leah Sedgebeer, Sherrie Spanswick and Diane Downs) have gained Grade B certification. 5 staff have now completed Grade C (Julie Scott, Karen Harris, Nicola Parsons, Debbie Hankins and Leah Rudd) Group floortime sessions run weekly in DYB and this has been supported by Sian Nash-the UK trainer, in order to promote the development of the skills of both staff and pupils. Sian has recently begun a coaching session with parents, which is proving to be successful. Karen Harris, Sylvia and Siarlot have just started a years Basic Certificate Course in DIR®. This entails evening and weekend training sessions, looking at the theory and practice of DIR®.

PROACT-SCIPr-UK

'The school has highly effective arrangements for monitoring and tracking pupil behaviour. It provides staff with detailed guidance and training in behaviour management. This ensures that there is a consistent approach in managing behaviour across the school. This is sector leading practice. Behaviour, in class and during unstructured times of the day, is exemplary'. (Estyn June 2014)

Our training team (Sylvia Fowler, Richard Jones, Sarah Morgan, Steph Williams and Simon Type) once again have been delivering courses to the whole school on a regular basis this year. Their qualification enables them to provide for the whole of the county borough and this year they have also worked with mainstream primary school staff and Inclusion. The team have continued to cover many areas such as: 'Understanding Behaviour', 'Proactive Strategies and Learning', 'The Legal Framework' and 'Policy Updates'. Areas looked at in detail this year have been: documentation and recording procedures, Behaviour Watch and teaching strategies for pupils on the autistic spectrum (these sessions were also delivered by Jim Hancock, Sarah Morgan (Psychology), Jo Clark (SALT), Siarlot Hall, Lisa Smith, Richard Jones and Cath Davies-Jones).

The training that is delivered really helps the whole school to address behaviour proactively and consistently. A huge thank-you to the team and contributors.

INSET

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

- Anaphylaxis & Epi-Pen, Enteral feeding & Freego pump training, delivered by the nurses.
- Epilepsy Awareness delivered by the nurses.
- New Buccal Administration, delivered by the nurses.
- ABA Introductory Workshop, delivered by Deb Carr.
- Moderation delivered by Sarah Morgan.
- Signalong delivered by Margaret Collins.
- Introduction to PECS, delivered by Rhian Davies & Rebecca Manley.
- Understanding speech, language and communication development - pre-verbal and early interaction skills, delivered by SALT.
- DIR Floortime, delivered by Sian Nash.
- Child Protection/Safeguarding, delivered by BCBC.
- LNF Reporting delivered by Rosa Walsh & Heini Liles.
- Target Setting delivered by Rosa Walsh.
- Mindfulness Workshops delivered by Gareth Clode.
- Food Hygiene, delivered by Mandy Bartlett.
- Inclusive Communication, delivered by Helen Morgan & Amanda Butt.
- First Aid, Delivered by Steph Williams & Sam Moore.
- Sensory training, delivered by Karen Harris & Sarah Phillips.
- Lifeguard Qualifications, delivered by Sam Moore.
- Rebound training, delivered by Simon Type.
- Manual Handling delivered by Steph Williams.



As you can see we've had another busy year, thank-you to all who have delivered and attended training throughout the year.

14-19 Pathways

Caring for your Child Entry 3

Two groups of learners from KS4 and The Leavers Department chose Childcare as one of the 14 - 19 options.

The standards included:

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

The learners gained valuable knowledge, skills and experiences regarding the care and development of babies and young children. We had fun with practical activities including, sterilising feeding equipment, making a bottle of formula, bathing a baby and the importance of correctly putting a baby into a mosses basket to sleep and rest. One of the learners also secured a work placement in Bridgend Day Nursery, and has thoroughly enjoyed the valuable experience. Different learning styles were used during the sessions: market research was definitely one of the learners favourites, practical activities involving demonstrations, internet research and many more



Gross Motor Skills at Brynteg



This year has been another great year for the gross motor program at Brynteg. Three 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!

Friends together

The Friends of Heronsbridge
Registered Charity 1014517

The Friends of Heronsbridge is a voluntary charity which raises money to benefit the pupils of Heronsbridge School. We try to have a varied programme of events so there is something to appeal to everyone. We are also very fortunate that we receive welcome donations from various individuals and groups, which help to swell our funds. We would like to thank all the generous people, companies, groups, individuals who have given us donations during the year. We are most grateful and very appreciative.



Our Annual Fête last July was very successful, the weather was kind to us, and the event was well attended. We are now busy preparing for this year's Fête, which will be held on Saturday 2nd July, and there will be various stalls, activities and entertainments, we just need the crowds and the weather to ensure success once again! Thank you to Graham Walters at Cardiff Motorpoint arena (CIA) for donating 2 free event tickets for the Grand Draw.

The Pupils' Christmas Fayre was held at the end of the Autumn term, giving the pupils a chance to do their Christmas Shopping, and take part in Christmas activities. This is now established as an annual event. Last November, we held a Quiz Night, with musical interludes in Cabot Roche, This was followed by a Craft Fayre organised by A9 which resulted in a sizeable donation to our funds. Thanks to everyone involved in these events.





Christmas festivities started off in good spirits with our Annual Christmas Music Concert. We were supported by Take Note Choir, the School Choir and Phil and Ash, and we all got to join in with some well loved carols.



In May we held a Wine Tasting event in the school, this was well attended and proved to be a real success and great fun!
Thanks to Richard Jones for all his efforts as host!



In September we held another of our very popular Psychic Evenings with Nataly Churchill, and we will be holding another on November 1st this year.

On June 21st we held a Music Evening with 'Sounds Familiar' Choir. Those present enjoyed a lovely musical evening, and the event was still a good fundraiser thanks to the generosity of 'Sounds Familiar', who bought so many raffle tickets!



The money we raise is used to provide much needed resources and equipment for the pupils or to provide learning, sporting, environmental or social experiences for them. This year we have funded such things as all the pupils' gifts from Father Christmas, transport for pupils from two departments for theatre visits, football trophies, an iPad. We are continuing to raise money towards our larger project, which is the planned outdoor playground for the younger pupils of the Centre for Autism. Please support the events organised by The Friends of Heronsbridge, remember, the more money we raise, the more the pupils of the school will benefit!



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY INFORMATION DAY

Our Information Days are growing and growing. Parents, Carers and families from the Bridgend area are also 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. This is a Very beneficial day, supporting all our families.

Look out for the next Information Day in October 2016

DROP-IN

The Drop In is held in our relaxed Conservatory and we welcome everyone.

Parents, Carers and family can discuss any issues or concerns they may have over a coffee/tea and meet other parents.

Resources are available to borrow or purchase including upcycled uniform.

POP IN TO THE DROP IN

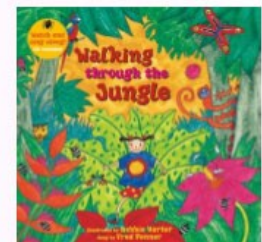
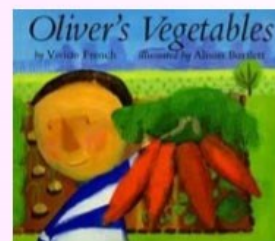


Every Tuesday morning from 8.45 until 10am

STORY CAFÉ

Our Primary department take part in the Story Café; parents are invited to join us to listen to a story with their child. The story is linked to the termly topic, this term we have been looking at Our Wonderful World.

When the story is finished everyone takes part in an art activity. Certificates are given at the end of the programme.



LENDING LIBRARY



Our Lending Library is available to parents, carers and families. Resources can be borrowed from the school to benefit pupils at home. Items can be borrowed for a period of time. We also sell a growing number of resources to make life easier at home for parents including timers, sleep aids, sensory equipment, fidget toys, books, visual aids, chewlrey etc.

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer
Contact: 01656 815725 karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk



FAMILY



ENGAGEMENT

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Please telephone to book an appointment.

WELFARE BENEFITS CLINIC

PARENT COURSES

include:

Basic First Aid
Signalong
Early Bird
Early Bird +
Healthy Minds
LAP, NAP + OLAP
Sensory workshops
PECS
Floortime

If you are interested in any course please give us a Call and we will try to accommodate.

PUPILS WHO ATTEND THE MOST
ACHIEVE THE MOST!



FAMILY MATTERS

Parents and carers are invited to Heron Hall to come together and meet other parents.

We invite a guest speaker from a variety of organisations to come in and talk about the services and support they can offer. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, carers and family members, chat about issues related to school, home, problem solve, share experiences and relax in a welcoming environment .

Refreshments are always available.

These are a few of the organisations that have attended the group meetings to offer advice and support.

ASSISTANCE DOGS WELFARE REFORM WILLS + TRUSTS FARM TO FORK

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer
Contact: 01656 815725 karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk

DYB

We have had a busy year in DYB take a look at what we've been up to...



Floortime



Massage in Schools Programme



History Week
KS2 The Celts pupils
enjoyed listening to a
sensory story and building
a round house.



Exciting
Experiences in
DYB!

DYB continues to support the curriculum through a range of multi-sensory activities: Coloursense, Touch Trust, Massage, Resonance Board and Sensory Stories. This year we have introduced the Massage in Schools Programme (MISP) that is an inclusive programme linked to the termly topic and is a clothed peer to peer massage.

DIR Floortime has also been introduced into our timetable. Floortime is interaction between individuals on a 1:1 basis, following their lead to expand interaction, thinking and communication.



Héronsbridge joined in the National Big Breakfast, for Fairtrade Fortnight on March 9th, Staff and pupils from the Hospitality team served over 260 scrummy breakfasts. Choices ranged from toast with jam, honey or marmalade, fresh fruit and fruit pots, flapjacks, cereal bars and more, all made with Fairtrade ingredients and washed down with Fairtrade tea, coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice. We raffled all the products on display and the profits contributed to our costs. Many Fairtrade products are available in Blas Da, our school Coffee Shop.



**SIT DOWN FOR BREAKFAST
STAND UP FOR FARMERS**

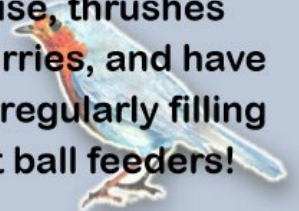
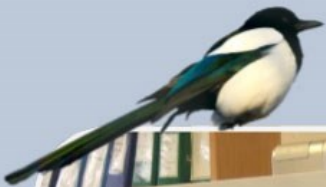




BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH



Heronsbridge grounds have plenty of biodiversity. We have enjoyed looking after the wild birds this year and took part in the national RSPB Birdwatch. We have learnt to identify them and made our own fatballs. We spotted a various birds in February including sparrows, great tits, magpies and blackbirds amongst others. This summer, we had our own swallows nest by the boiler house, thrushes feasting on our loganberries, and have been kept busy all year regularly filling up our seed and fat ball feeders!



This September World Leaders agreed 17 new Global Goals for everyone everywhere.



As the new Curriculum based on the Donaldson Review is rolled out in Wales, Heronsbridge is proud to say that we are already working on lots of these goals and that Global Citizenship is embedded into our activities and lessons across the curriculum. We share good practice with schools across the world. Five teachers from Botswana and Tanzania visited us this Autumn and Sylvia Fowler and Liz Webb

visited Iceland to find out about Outdoor Learning and how it can improve engagement and wellbeing for our pupils.



We helped with Goal 6 -Clean water and sanitation by taking part in Dizzy Goals and collecting money to build toilets at Mandaka school in Tanzania.



We helped with Goal 2 Zero hunger by collecting for the Bridgend Food Bank. as part of our Harvest celebrations.



We helped with Goal 15 by taking part in Go Green Size of Wales, exploring Rainforest art and working in our school orchard.



We learnt about Goal 16 -peace and justice, through our school elections, collecting clothes for refugees and celebrating Peace Day.

We celebrated culture and diversity eg through Diwali, St David's day and a project on China.



St Athan KS3



We had a really good time on our summer visit to St Athan.

We inspected an old aircraft and had a tour of the HM Coastguard Helicopter and fire engines. We also visited the air traffic control centre.



We were put through our paces with some team building exercises



The Magical Physicians of Myddfai

Meddygion Myddfai

Heronbridge School and Anthea Guthrie

RHS Show Cardiff 2016 Silver medal!



Welcome to the garden of the Physicians of Myddfai - Meddygion Myddfai who grew medicinal plants here in Wales in the 12th century. Remedies recommended by the Physicians included cuttlefish bone, antlers, eels, as well as many herbs and other plants. Here are some recipes found in the Physicians' recipe book, the Red Book of Hergest.

- ◇ *To avoid enemies - If one goes into battle, let him seek vervain plant and keep it on his person. He will escape from his enemies.*
- ◇ *For a burn - mix your own urine with cow dung, and let it clear. Pour this potion into a vessel, and wash with it.*
- ◇ *For an ill conditioned ulcer, take good cheese pound it with clear honey, anoint the ulcer and cover with cabbage leaves.*

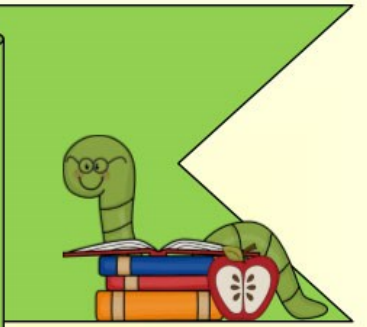
The garden shows a working physician's garden - he has just gone off to see a patient - with many ingredients on display. The physician would make up his own potions and pills out of whatever he could find, Pupils researched the story for our St David's day - (see our Eisteddfod page) and grew many of the plants for the show.

We opened our gardens to the public again this year for the RHS Open Garden Scheme, raising £225 for charity. Our scarecrow competition was judged by Belinda Bauer, a crime novelist who knows something scary when she sees it! She awarded first prize to Mickey Mouse from Class 1. Well done everybody!





This year we have been working hard on developing our reading skills. Its been lots of fun!



A1



A2



Throughout the year we have eaten a variety of healthy foods for snack.

We have been having fun keeping fit in a variety of ways.



This year in A3...

We have been working on our cooking skills!

We have been making lots of tasty treats!

Brilliant Blue cooking A3!



I have enjoyed my first year in Heronsbridge and I like exploring new textures! I have tasted lots of new things!



I have been learning to read and follow written instructions in cookery.



I have been working hard on my communication and using my voice to make

I have enjoyed my first year in Heronsbridge. I have learnt to use PECS to make independent choices.



I have enjoyed tasting and exploring the different ingredients.

I have enjoyed working independently and helping staff with jobs in cookery.

I have enjoyed my first year in Heronsbridge and have been learning to read instructions independently!





We enjoy doing art in class A4! Every week we go to the art room to work.



We have been using the different days of the Creation story as a theme for our art.



A4



We collected different sized, shaped and coloured leaves to use.



We used the leaves to make leaf animals. Look at our lovely work!



Class A5

Just look how proud we are of all our individual achievements this year...



AG



...have been getting crafty making wooden door signs and ceramic bowls!



A7

Outdoor Learning



Being outdoors is very important for A7. They have been learning about eco art, creating pictures using natural materials, exploring different places and testing their nerve on a ropes course. Who knows what we'll try next year...



A8

This year in A8 we have been very busy! We have been lucky to have had the chance to explore new experiences within the school and out in the community.



Music Lesson



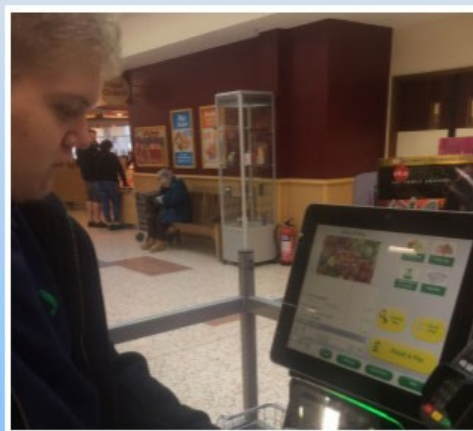
Fishing



Gymnastics



Trying new food



Shopping



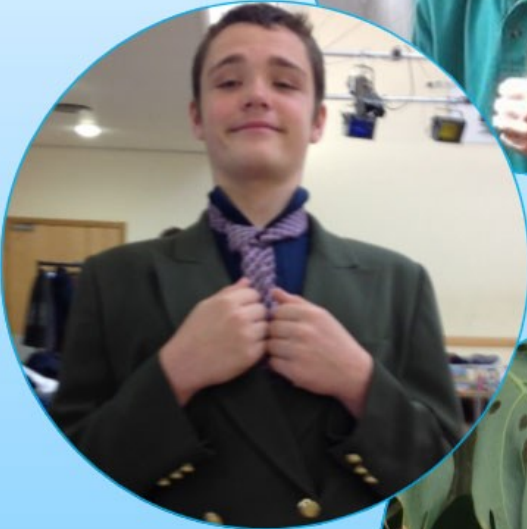
Art Competition

Geography Week

A9

We have had another busy, fun packed year in A9. Lots of new and exciting experiences, it never feels like a chore to be at school when learning is so much fun!

We have made new friends and welcomed new pupils to our class.

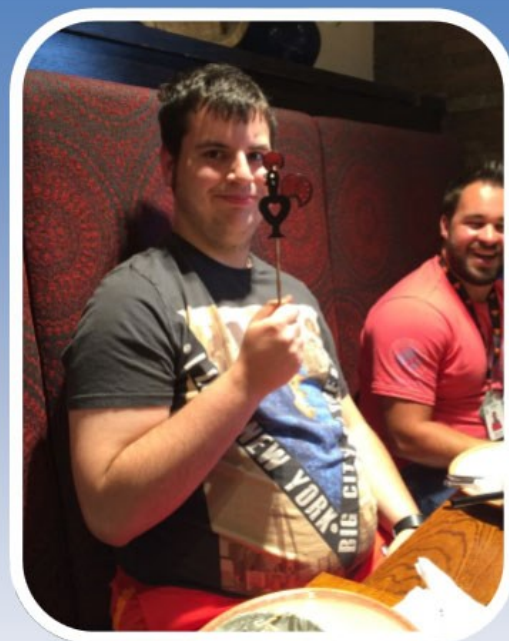


Residential

Happy 18th Alex

This year has seen our current longest serving resident Alex turn 18. He celebrated in style and we all took a trip down to Nandos in Cardiff Bay.

We have enjoyed exploring many places this year including Barry Island, Penarth and Cardiff Bay to name but a few. I'm sure the residents would agree its always nicer when there's chips and ice cream involved.



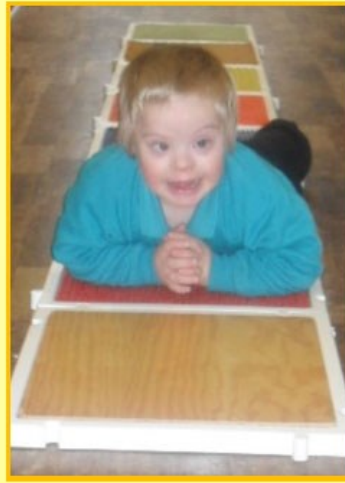
Goodbye Jamie

Jamie will be leaving us in July after 18 months in Residency. Residential will not be the same without her and she will be missed by the staff and other residents.

We wish Jamie lots of luck as she moves onto the next chapter of her life.



CAUGHT YOU IN EARLY YEARS



We've all been caught doing something good this year, from matching and counting to exploring textures in art and cooking. All our achievements have been celebrated in our assemblies.



We love having the Hooray song sung to us in class and having a clap with the brilliant blue clappers.

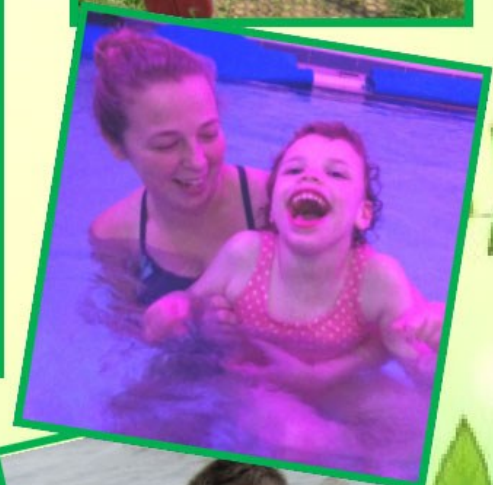
Class 1



Together We Can!



Class 1 have been very active this year! We know how important it is to have fun and exercise our muscles as often as possible. We have absolutely loved our Dragon Sports, Outdoor Learning, P.E and swimming sessions this year!



Class 2

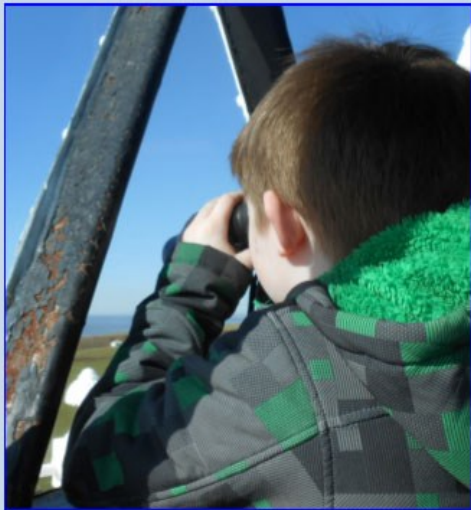


We have had a fabulous year in Class 2 and couldn't decide on one event to show everyone, so we have chosen a selection of our fun times! We have experienced class trips, swimming, seeing Santa, and a visit from Mr Tumble. We have also enjoyed learning about 'Ourselves', 'Food' and 'Our Wonderful World'.

Class 3 enjoyed their visit to...



....Techniquest!



....Nash Point lighthouse!



...the Celtic round house at St Fagans.



Animal adventures with Class 4



Class 4 were very pleased when the Kennixton flock visited the school. We met some Shetland lambs with their mothers, and an incredibly friendly Dorset Poll lamb who wanted to meet everyone! The members of Class 4 were also treated to a demonstration of how the fleece is spun and twisted into yarn as well as some beautiful garments made from the wool.





For history week this year, we looked at the Celts and experienced how they used to live through special workshops and sensory activities.

In our DYB sensory story we made a round house using wattle and daub techniques and made Celtic weapons.

We also made jewellery and ornamental pots in art and learnt Celtic warrior dances with Mrs Allen.

It was fun dressing up and getting dirty.



Class 5

Class 6 Geography Week


2016

We looked at cultures such as

language, art, clothes, schooling

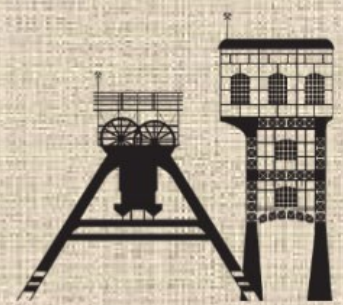
buildings as well as the physical aspects of mountains and rivers.

氣

We enjoyed daily Tai Chi sessions and had a Chinese buffet.



Class 7-Big Pit



In History, we visited St Fagans and the Big Pit and we were very brave travelling 90 metres underground. Class 7 have been learning about life in Wales in the time of Industrial Britain. We have been comparing a child's life then, with the present day. We are very glad that we live in 2016 and not in the 1800's.



Class 8



Everyone in key stage 3 took part in Comic relief day.

Here are some photos of class 8 taking part in the different activities we did on the day.



Class 9



This year we visited Ewenny Pottery to see first hand the making of beautiful stained glass and pottery!



We then visited the monks at Ewenny Priory, we learned about monastic life and got to dress up as monks ourselves!

Llangrannog 2016



Cafodd wythnos wych yn Llangrannog unwaith eto.

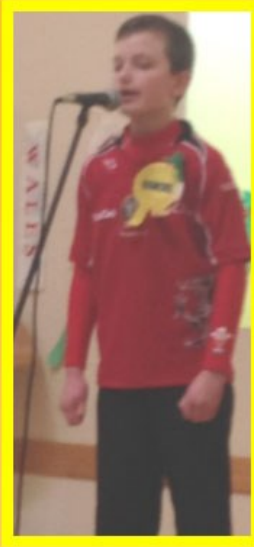
We had another amazing week at Llangrannog.

We all enjoyed trying out all the activities.

Ond mae'n amser gwely nawr! But its time for bed now!

Diolch Llangrannog! AwesomeArbennig!

Eisteddfod 2016



This year's Eisteddfod competitions were based upon the story of The Lady of the Lake.

A shepherd fell in love with and married a fairy from Llyn y Fan Fach lake.

Their three sons grew up to be famous across Wales and Medieval Europe for their gifts of healing—thanks to the knowledge given to them by their fairy mother.

Houses competed on-stage with recitation, singing, chants and off-stage with research projects, portfolios on Welsh plants and herbs, group art works and multimedia projects based on the story.

This was also the inspiration for our RHS medal winning garden at the RHS show in Cardiff.



Winning art work for Pen y Bont—Ethan Sealey!

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 part in
this years Eisteddfod!

Wales' answer to Darcey and Bruno!
Our very own judges
Mari and Windsor Major !!
Diolch!!



Fairy Land



Our summer project was to design and create a fairy village in our orchard. We used the materials from our gardens to construct various magical houses designed by pupils.

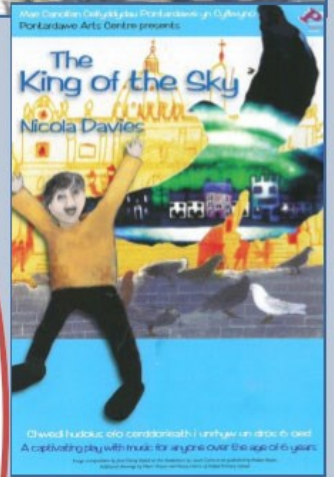
We completed Fairy Land in time for our RHS Open Garden Day garden open day.



Creative and Cultural



We have had a busy cultural and creative year. Pupils in the choir had the opportunity to sing at Tesco raising money for the Friends of Heronsbridge. The band 'Wolf Pack' have recorded a single that is available to buy on iTunes. The leavers and the KS4 performing group had a visit from 'Calan' who performed 'The Cat, the King and the Fiddle'.



Class 12 had the opportunity to go to Pontardawe Arts Centre to see 'The King of the Sky'.

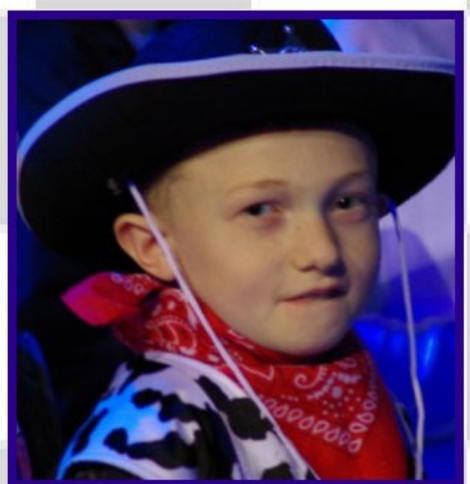
Some pupils worked with members of Bridgend College on creative projects. A very creative and cultural year!



Welcome to Wonka's World!

The Senior Christmas Show!





14 — 19 Learning Pathways



Cookery!

In Key Stage 4 we can choose some of the lessons we do!



Enterprise!



Gardening!



Drama!



Childcare!



Leisure!



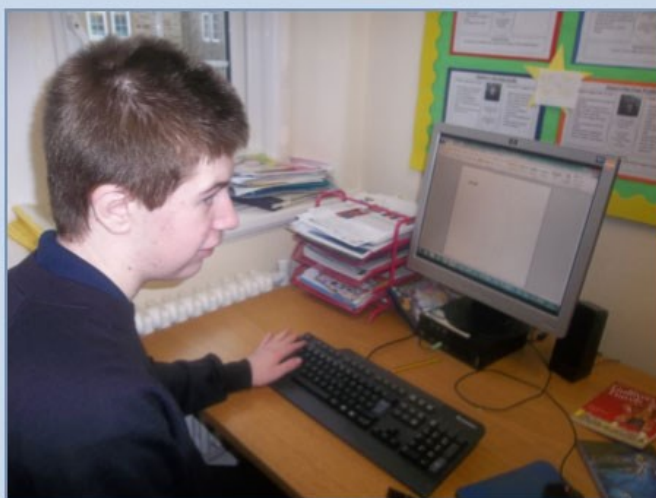
Environmental!



Litter Picking!



Art!



ICT!

We work hard on our WJEC accredited courses to gain the skills we need in the future!

ENTERPRISE IN LEAVERS



Heron's Delight is the name of our Enterprise group. We make lots of wonderful things to sell for key annual events like Halloween and Valentine's Day. We choose as a group what we would like to make, do some market research to see if people will buy our product and how much they will pay.



We also have a great laugh together!





We learnt lots of new skills during our school based sessions. We did a course in First Aid Awareness, we learnt tent erecting, health and safety, risk awareness, campcraft and camp cooking. We did three practice walks to get ready for the big one!



After two days walking in sunshine and in rain (lots of rain), using only maps, pictures and route cards, a warm drink under cover was very welcome.

Everyone was exhausted, but not too tired for a singing-a-long and 13 young people successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award expedition!

We had loads of fun!



Vocational Pathways Developing Skills For Life



We love riding at St Brides! We have completed an accredited course in Horse Grooming.



Sometimes we get to hack out!

NOCN Horse Riding



Sometimes we ride in the outdoor school. When we are not riding we learn how to look after the horses.



I loved coming to Heronsbridge to meet everyone. Such fantastic students! See you next year!



I enjoyed playing rugby this year and improving my skills.

We met South African rugby player Thinus Delpert this year. It was interesting learning what it takes to be a professional player.



ASDAN Sport & Fitness



I enjoyed spending the day with the Newport dragons. We watched them train and had dinner with them.

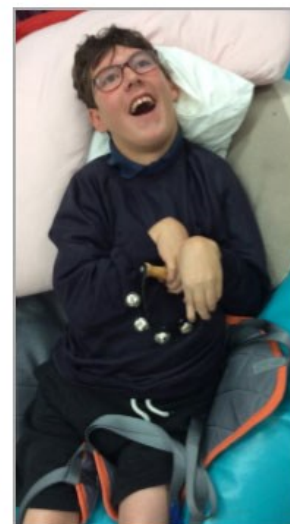
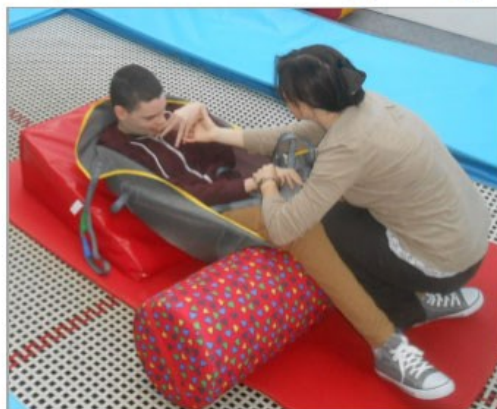
I had fun on the course this year, learning new skills and how to play as part of a team.



I have enjoyed the course this year. I have improved my communication and teamwork skills.



Vocational Pathways Developing Skills For Life



Asdan Developing Communication-Sensory



We have thoroughly enjoyed using our communication aids to give our opinion, make choices and communicate with others.



Asdan Photography



In Photography we learn how to use different types of cameras, and then go out and about to take photos! We get very creative in order to get the perfect shot! We make artwork out of our photos and have lots of in and out of the classroom!



Vocational Pathways Developing Skills For Life

This year we have been learning about herbs and how people have used them over the centuries. We worked with Anthea to grow herbs to go in the medieval herb garden for the Cardiff RHS Show.



Horticulture

We learnt about harvesting the seed in the autumn, and then planted the seeds this year to produce plants.



We designed our own herb gardens and then visited the show in Cardiff to see the plants we helped to create.



Warm ups are fun and help us get ready for our roles!

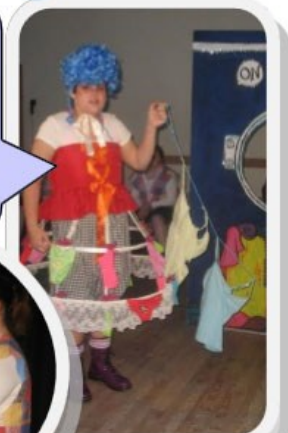


Rehearsal time is hard work, but helps us to remember our words and positions

Performing Arts



I learnt about being the panto dame. We've had loads of fun, and learnt new skills



The course finished this year with a performance of Aladdin for family and friends - a standing ovation was no surprise!



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, we have become so busy that we have had to change our service style. The Coffee Shop has been given a new look and we now offer a Grab and Go service. The students provide a trolley round one day a week and the Coffee Shop is open three days a week. The new service has given us scope to offer our students more work based training opportunities.

Over our 5 day week we have 6 students completing an accredited Hospitality Qualification at Entry 3 and Level 1, they have all achieved their level 1 Food Safety Certificate. We also have nine additional students who have a work experience placement every week which is part of their class timetable. The students are working on all their Key Skills while training in the coffee shop.

Our First Equestrian Vaulting Team!



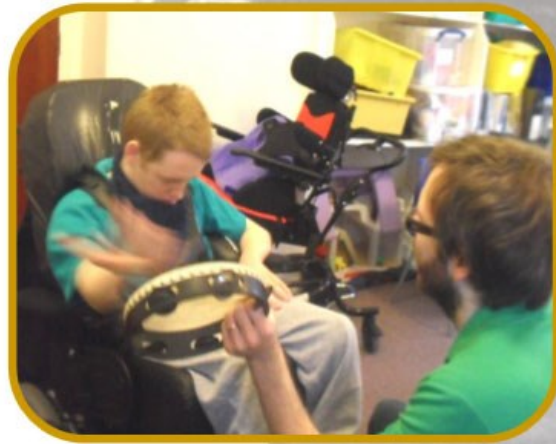
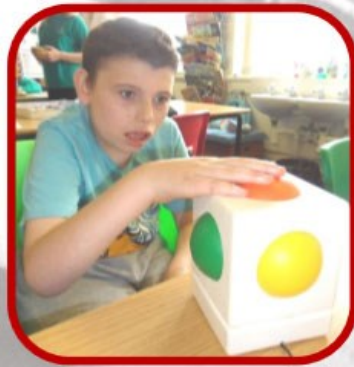
Equestrian Vaulting is gymnastics on the back of a moving horse! It incorporates beauty and brilliance, power and strength, elegance and precision all in harmony with the horse.

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.



Whilst working with Talygarn Equestrian Centre each of our students have completed 12 movements on the horse which has earned them their Green Vaulting Badges. They are show casing their moves at Talygarn Open Day this July and two of them are going on to compete in a National competition this Summer! Good Luck!

MUSIC MATTERS!



Music is accessible to everyone, which is why it 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. Most importantly however...
it's lots of fun!

Welsh Schools Gymnastics Competition 2016

This year a small group of 8 children from the Primary Department competed in the Welsh Gymnastics National Championships.

Jesse Owen Class 5 competed in the **Gold** category.

Riley Cocks Class 5 and **Harriet Harward Class 4** competed in **Silver** category.

Jake John Class 5, Alfie Johnson, Morgan Walker, Iwan Johns and Callum Lock, Class 4 competed in the **Bronze** category.

The first round was held at Pencoed Comprehensive School on Wednesday 24th February 2016, everyone worked hard, remembered their sequences and gave excellent performances on the day. They all progressed to the National Finals in Cardiff on 17th March 2016.

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.

Heronbridge can be really proud of them all.

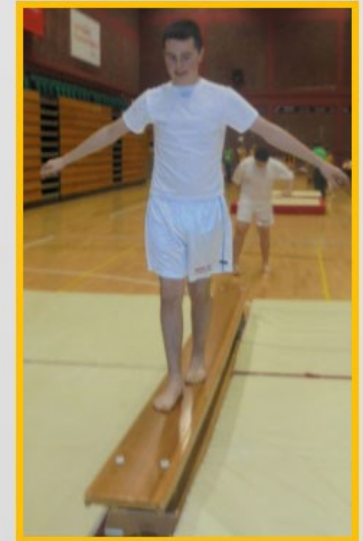
HERE THEY ARE IN ACTION!



**CONGRATULATIONS
AND WELL DONE TO
ALL OUR GYMNASTS.**



Gymnastics

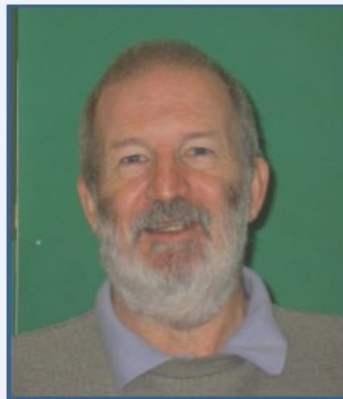


Well Done
Everyone!

This year a team of 22 made it through the heats to the finals held at WIS in Cardiff. There were a number of excellent results and a special mention to Leo Crawford for winning 2 medals for floor and bench.



The Mostyn Hills Awards



This year is the second year that the Mostyn Hills awards have been presented. These awards were created in the memory of Mostyn Hills who was the Swimming Instructor in Heronsbridge for many years and taught and inspired hundreds of pupils in his time at Heronsbridge.

The winners of the awards were
Confidence in water—Kieran Payne (top left)
Most improved swimmer—Demi Leigh Simmons (top right)
Swimmer of the year—Anita Bond (below)



SWIMMING

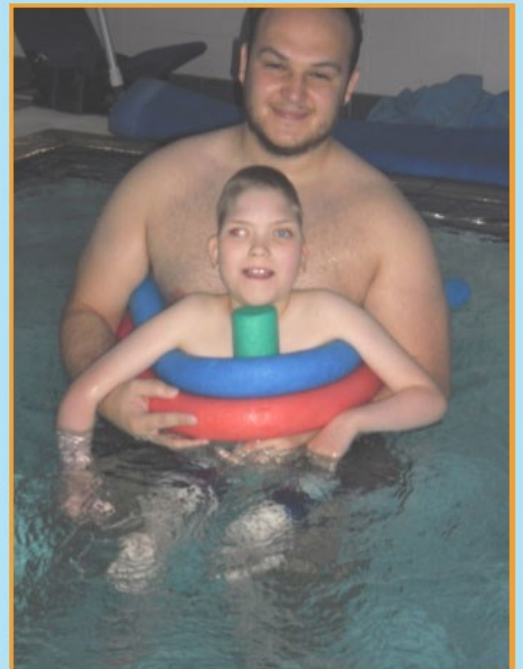


This Year the children in KS1 have been working on water confidence and becoming comfortable in and under the water.

We have been working towards ASA stage awards and Distance badges all year.

In March the whole school took part in a charity swim where it was decided to swim the channel. Staff and pupils took on the challenge and not only swam to France they made it back as well.

For the KS3 geography week celebrating China we did Dragon Boat racing in the pool which was loads of fun.



Yorkshire 2016 National 11-a-side Trials



Morgan Brunt and Lowell Evans became the latest of our students (22nd and 23rd 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 6 of our students from the Leavers with Christopher McFetrich, Kieran Cleaver, Joseph Cowan and Lewis Davies joining Morgan and Lowell on this occasion. It seems our visit to the John Smith Stadium to see Cardiff City beat Huddersfield Town 3.2 (not to mention the residential experience and socialising necessary), helped make up for the disappointment felt by those who weren't successful this year.

Better luck next year though eh!



Training Camp National Squad



A residential training camp took place in Yorkshire 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 Pontefract Pirates FC as well as Bradford City (at Valley Parade of all places). There was also time for a return visit to the John Smiths Stadium to watch another live match. This time Birmingham City were the visitors.



GENEVA 2016 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



In Switzerland in May, our Mencap Team finished in a most commendable 1st place (the 3rd time for this to happen in the schools' 12 year association with the organisation having won last year and in 2007 prior to that). There were 17 other teams representing a further 8 countries. The final was played out against Scotland and even went to penalties would you believe! We are naturally very proud of students Morgan Brunt and Lowell Evans given the very important part they each played in this success!



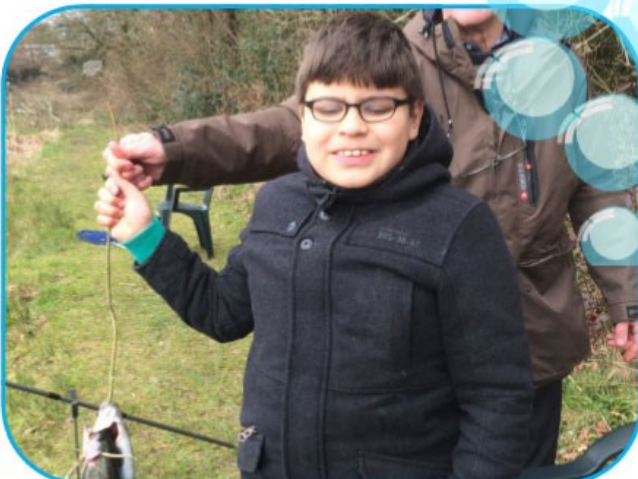


Fishing

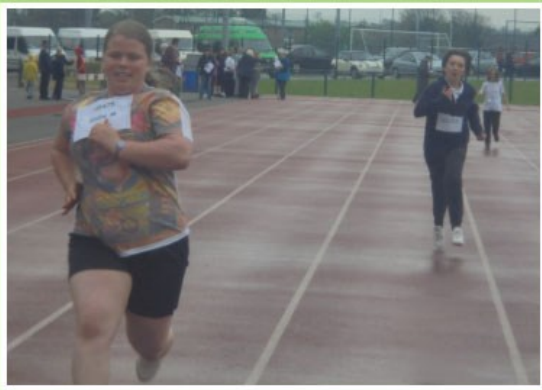
Once more our students have enjoyed days out at Seven Oaks Fishery, Ystradowen. Here we see members of A8 in action.

Many thanks are due as ever to members of Bridgend and District Fishing Association for the disabled as well as Bridgend Rotary Club.

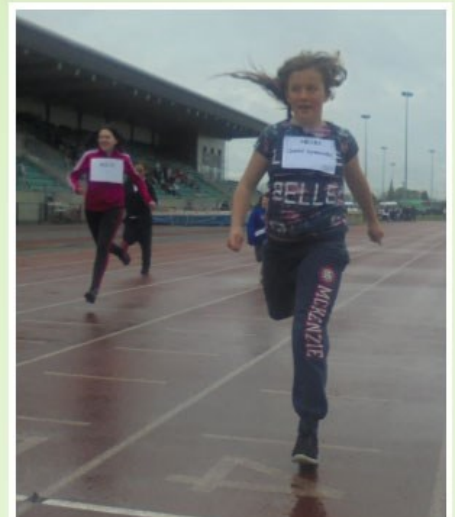
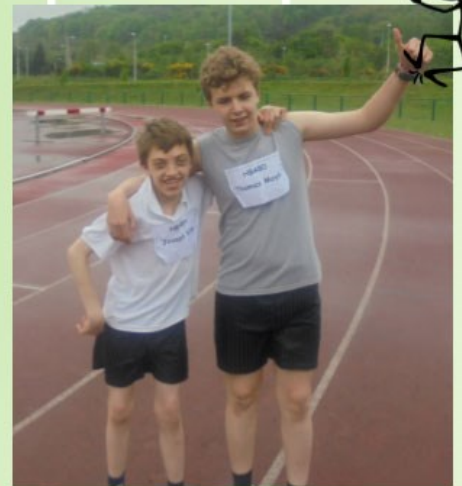
We remain indebted to you all!



Athletics 2016



The day started with very poor weather conditions, but the performances soon put a shine on things. There were a number of excellent performances throughout the day. The team won a total of 42 medals! Well done to all!





Yoga Club



friends



fitness





un



ood and



itness



'Get fit', 'get healthy', 'get moving!' for Fun, Food and Fitness week!

We enjoyed tasting all the healthy food and having a go at all the fun activities from pool volley ball, walking around the school grounds to football and rebound.

Well done everyone keep up the good work!

5X60 and Dragon Sport

As part of a national program we have been running our dragon sport sessions and 5x60 program.

Dragon Sports have been focusing on multi skills sessions developing fine and gross motor skills through different of sports.

In our 5x60 sessions we have been doing tag rugby and dodgeball which all the pupils taking part, have enjoyed.



