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PONTLLANFRAITH  
NP12 2YB

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Dear Parent/Carer

You may have heard about a recent newspaper article that included Pontllanfraith C. S. in a group of schools that are in debt. It stated that we were over £130 000 in the red. This is inaccurate and misleading. Whereas the school was in debt in the past, this is no longer the case. Our end of year balance will show that we are carrying forward a surplus of funds. Additionally, there will be substantial investment during this financial year to improve the site. Planned improvements include replacing the Astroturf, refurbishment of the canteen area and some laboratories, and resurfacing walkways.

Pupils from our school are widely recognised for their levels of excellence in music, drama and sport. We competed in the Caerphilly 'V Factor Finals' last week. Our pupils performed to an exceptionally high standard and we won three of the 4 categories. Jack Mainwaring won 'Best Musical' act; Taylor Jones won 'Best Musical Contribution'; Lucy Hemms was highly commended for her vocal performance; Jared Gore was also highly commended for his arrangement of tunes from musical theatre. We also won the award for 'Best Drama' for a performance of 'The Wizard of Pont'. The actors included Jordan Jones, Joe Woodland, Sam Davidge-Smith, Connor Evans, Gemma Marsden and Rebecca Cox. They also wrote the play between them. All our participants were a credit to the school and we are very proud of them.

Other recent achievements include:

- Jack Mainwaring - Caerphilly's Young Musician of the Year
- Lucy Hemms - Caerphilly's Young Singer of the Year
- Tom Baker - selected to play cricket for Glamorgan's First XI
- Ashton Morgan - County shot putt champion
- Ryan Price - County discus champion
- Sophie Hancocks & Jessica Hopkins - selected for Wales under 16 football
- Emily Larsen - starred as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz
- Brad Jones & Liam Brown - selected for Wales under 15 rugby league, both play for the Crusaders
- Leigh Baldwin - selected to participate in a sailing expedition
- Ryan Broom - contract with Bristol F.C. and selected for Wales under 14
- Jack Carpenter - representing Wales in the British boxing championship
- Scott Eales - European kick boxing champion

Other successes include over 30 year 9 pupils gaining a Key Skill qualification in ICT; events attended by our more able and talented pupils have been many and varied, most notably attending a conference in the National Assembly where they took on the roles of assembly members for a day; Emily Evans, Emilie Hughes, Ryan Patterson and Guy Hardwick have been selected to attend a residential course to gain Rotary Club Young Leader's Awards. The ski trip and outing to France were enjoyed by all who participated. Feedback from the hosts commented on the excellent behaviour of our students. We are proud of our relationship with our cluster primary schools, and our hall was full to capacity at two events, where the audience enjoyed two joint ventures, namely a 'Music Play Day' and the 'Dance Showcase'.

Year 11 pupils will start their study leave on the afternoon of Thursday 20th May after the RoA ceremony but if they require transport home they will attend lesson 5 as normal. Finally, on behalf of all the staff at the school, may I take this opportunity to say good luck to all pupils taking examinations, and also best wishes for the future to our year 11 leavers.

Yours sincerely  
R Davies Headteacher



