

Welcome to the first edition of the **Porthcawl Post** for the school year 2011-2012



Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Autumn 2011



Headteacher's Address

Welcome to the first edition of the "Porthcawl Post" for the academic year 2011/12. We give a special welcome to our new Year 7 pupils from over fifteen primary schools and are glad to see that they are settling into their new school under the pastoral eye of Mrs Cleaton and Mrs Hunt. Parents of Year 7 pupils are reminded that if they have any questions or concerns regarding their child they should not hesitate to contact Mrs Cleaton in the first instance.

We also welcome students into the Sixth Form where we have had a record number of returns from our very successful Year 11 students. In addition to the high return rate of our own pupils following their GCSEs over twenty pupils have enrolled from other schools into our Sixth Form. The school roll is over 1400 pupils and this ensures that we are able to continue to offer a wide and balanced curriculum throughout the school. Records were broken again this summer at GCSE level. Only two years ago in 2009 pupils broke the 70% barrier in the percentage of pupils gaining five or more A* - C GCSEs which is a National benchmark measurement. In the summer of 2010 pupils in Year 11 built on this success when the percentage of pupils gaining five or more A* - C at GCSE rose to 73.8%.

Incredible, pupils in this year's Year 11 did even better by smashing the 80% barrier (82%) at the National measurement of five or more A* - C GCSEs. This not only represents an all time school record but is also an achievement that no other school has surpassed in the history of the Borough.

Well done to all of the pupils on this truly outstanding performance which is clearly the result of sheer hard work and effort.

In fact a staggering number of thirty four students gained eight or more GCSEs at grade A*/A with some getting nine, ten and eleven GCSEs at this top level.

One key factor in the success was the attendance of pupils throughout the year.

The attendance for pupils in academic year 2010/11 was over 93% representing the best attendance in the past five years. It is obvious that this made a big difference to the results in examinations as well as other support put in place to help the students.

As this edition of the "Post" will reveal the school has also been celebrating the gaining of a number of prestigious awards.

These have included the International Eco Green Flag Award following success at Bronze and Silver in previous years. Well done to all pupils who gathered the evidence and ably presented it through files and PowerPoint presentations to show the strategies that have been put in place to make Porthcawl Comprehensive an eco-friendly school.

Equally, we were delighted to receive the Healthy Schools Award Wales recognition having met the rigorous and stringent criteria. Again pupils presented to the assessors the strategic and operational steps the school had taken to encourage all associated with the school to healthier eating and a more active lifestyle.

The school has also recently received the Wales Careers Quality Mark for its standard of careers provision and guidance, the BECTA I.C.T quality standard, the top grade in the National Food Standards and Hygiene Assessment, a prize in the Welsh Heritage Award Scheme through the History department and a SACRE Award through the Religious Studies department.

Well done to all pupils and staff in the significant efforts to gain such impressive successes in National Awards.

In closing, may I draw to the attention of parents and guardians, the request on the back page of the Post for any information relating to the achievements of your son/daughter outside school.

When we hear of such success we like to celebrate and congratulate the young person involved and therefore urge you to let us know.

Kind regards
K Dykes - Headteacher

Housekeeping News



Well it is the start of another year at Porthcawl. This year we welcome record numbers of learners to our school. As we start the New Year 2011/12 I should like to draw attention to a few events.

The parents of the current Year 7 are completing the "SELS" online questionnaire. The aims of this process are for families to evaluate the transition arrangements. Transition is the name given to the arrangements made as learners move from Year 6 to Year 7.

We hope to make this move as smooth as possible. As a school we do a lot of self evaluation. Clearly we need to know how well our transition plans have worked or otherwise. The family feedback is part of a wider agenda whereby the school listens to its learners.

A school that does not seek feedback and act upon it will stagnate. At Porthcawl we are all fully committed to continuous improvement and this questionnaire is part of that process.

On the 21st of October a conference was held to re-examine the aims of the school. The current aims of the school were written over twenty-five years ago and they have served the school well. However, society, the community of Porthcawl and our school have changed markedly over the past twenty or thirty years. Given this, we had decided to re-examine the aims of the school to note how these aims match the challenges of today.

The conference was made up of governors, teachers and several representatives of the student body. The student representatives were drawn from the School Council, SNAG group and NV (Eco) group. At the time of writing this article the aims were not quite finished. Once they are ready they will be published to all those with an interest in our school.

An excellent piece of recent news is the BCBC Inspection of our Catering Service. As you are aware the school organises its own catering under the expert eye of Mrs Shell. The Bridgend Public Protection Department made an unannounced inspection of our catering. A very thorough inspection was carried out into all processes and facilities.

The school is delighted to announce that we were awarded a Level 5 which is the highest grade available and aptly reflects our standards of excellence. The Catering Service was further endorsed by the Healthy Schools Inspectors. As part of the Healthy Schools Award our catering was examined. The food was seen as of an excellent, healthy standard while the generous portions represent good value for money. So for her contribution to both areas of success a well deserved thanks must go to Mrs Shell and her catering team.

We have published two useful leaflets. The first summarises the core aims of the School Development Plan. This document sets out, plainly, what we have to develop and achieve in the years ahead. The second leaflet is the "What's On" leaflet, this indicates the range of extracurricular activities in which the children may join. As you are aware only Year 12 and 13 may leave the site at lunchtime. We have a large and varied programme of lunchtime activities. All pupils are encouraged to join in.

Finally the Annual Golf Day was held at the Grove Golf Club. Thanks go to Miss Crook and Miss Painter who organised the day. We raised almost £1,000 which will be used by the Friends of the School to benefit our learners.

To close on a personal note thanks for your support over the past year and I look forward to meeting you again this year.

A Slade - Deputy Headteacher

Record Attendance Achieved



A record whole school attendance of 93.51% was achieved for the academic year 2010/11, and once again proved to be one of the highest in the country. This was achieved mainly, because fewer parents took their children out of school for holidays during term time last year. Hopefully, this trend will continue for 2011/12.

Batman and Robin decided to have a break from solving crime in Gotham City, and joined the celebration of pupils' excellent attendance at the end of last term. The 'caped crusaders' followed a distinguished guest list, who have participated in the attendance draw, which includes Prince Charles, Tony Blair, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Simon Cowell and Barack Obama.

Pupils with 95% or more, are rewarded each term by being included in a prize draw for each year group, culminating in a special draw in the summer term for various prizes donated kindly by "Double Overhead". The Grand Draw, at the end of the academic year, which involves all the pupils in the school, saw pupils win many fabulous prizes, provided generously by the "Friends of Porthcawl".

Each year, our aim is to include more pupils in the draw, but they must achieve an attendance of 95% or above. Please note, however, that if your child is taken on holidays for two weeks in term time, then his/her attendance will automatically drop below 95%, thus taking away the excitement of being included in the Grand Draw.

K John - Senior Year Tutor



Head Team



Philip Pickett
Hi, I'm Philip Pickett and I'm Head Boy. I am studying Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Maths at A level. I hope to study Natural Sciences at university.



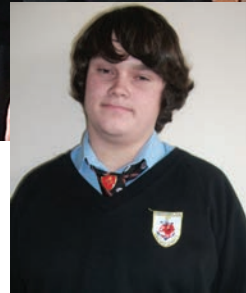
Nia Thomas
Hey, I'm Nia and I'm Head Girl. I'm studying Biology, Chemistry and Geography for A levels and I hope to study Pharmacy in Cardiff or Bath next year.



Peter Greenwood
My name is Pete and I am Deputy Head Boy. I am studying A levels in Music, History and Welsh Baccalaureate whilst hoping to go on to study Music Performance in university.



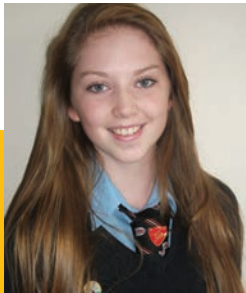
Sophie Howe
Hi, I'm Sophie and I'm Deputy Head Girl. I am currently studying A levels in English, Music and History. I am a keen musician and love playing the piano and singing. I hope to study English next year.



Christopher Hontoir
Hi, I'm Chris Hontoir and I'm an Assistant Head Boy. I am currently studying A levels in History, Music and Computing and I hope to study History at university.



Thomas Newbery
Hi, my name's Tom and I'm Assistant Head Boy. I'm also the Head Team Link for Year 10. I'm currently studying Biology, Chemistry and History and aspire to study Dentistry in university.



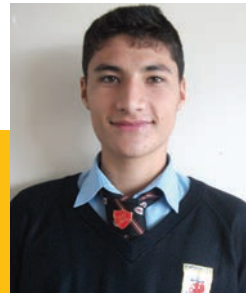
Rachel Halley
Hi, my name is Rachel and I'm an Assistant Head Girl. I'm currently studying German, English and History for A levels. I hope to go to university next year to study German and French.



Thomas Beer
Hi, I'm Tom Beer. I'm an Assistant Head Boy and I'm studying French, German and Biology and hope to study Modern Languages at university.



Alex Howells
Hey, I'm Alex and I'm one of the Assistant Head Girls. I'm studying English, History and R.S and I hope to study English and History in university next year.



Hayden Lau
Hi, my name is Hayden Lau. I am an Assistant Head Boy and I am studying Physics, Human Biology, Maths and P.E. I am applying to study Sport and Exercise Science at university. I enjoy playing sports.

Head Team



Connor Moody
My name is Connor Moody. I'm an Assistant Head Boy. I'm studying History, Chemistry and English for A levels. I'm hoping to study International Relations in university.



Amy Sheppard
My name is Amy and I am an assistant Head Girl. I'm studying Chemistry, Biology and Maths and next year I hope to go to university to study Pharmacy.



Sidney Rogers
Hi, I'm Sidney and I'm an Assistant Head Girl. I'm studying Maths, Further Maths and Physics at A level and I hope to study Maths at university next year.



Lowri Patterson
Hi, my name is Lowri Patterson and I'm Assistant Head Girl. I am currently studying A levels in English, Welsh, German and History, and hope to pursue a career in Law.



year, Keith Towler was also celebrating the ten year birthday of the Children's Commissioner for Wales (Comisiynydd Plant Cymru). We started the day with a tour of the Senedd. The fifteen pupils from PCS were Lowri Patterson, Adam Mounce, Nathan Lewis, Hannah Beesley, Hee Chan Kang, Ross Waters, Tom Parsons, Sophie Rees, Rebecca Wardman, Layla Millar, Jack Davies, Heaven Heanue, Tom Hunt, Hannah Weaver and Ffion Wilkins. We were shown the "Siambwr" (Chamber) where Welsh Assembly members meet to discuss and debate Assembly business. We talked about what goes on in the



On the 5th of October we went to the Senedd to meet Keith Towler (The Children's Commissioner for Wales). It is Keith's job to stand up and speak for children and young people. Keith Towler and

his team consider children's rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in all the work they do. At PCS lessons on right and responsibilities are integrated into our PSE programme and help us elect our class and year representatives for the School Council. The UNCRC is also the basis for our school aims.

We had been invited to the Senedd because the Children's Commissioner for Wales publishes an annual report which describes all of the work that the Commissioner and his team have done over the last year. The report also contains all of the issues that children and young people in Wales have raised. This

Assembly Members and what they do. We met some Assembly Members and were given the opportunity to ask them any questions we had.

Following our tour of the Senedd, we met with Keith Towler and Carwyn Jones AM, the First Minister; he is the head of the Welsh Government and is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen. He is responsible for everything the Welsh Government does. We watched Keith Towler officially present his report to the Welsh Assembly Leader. We were then able to ask the First Minister questions; Lowri asked how he intended to engage young people's interest in politics and we are sure he was surprised when he asked if Lowri had any ideas on that, she did! Carwyn Jones also wrangled himself an invitation to visit the school.

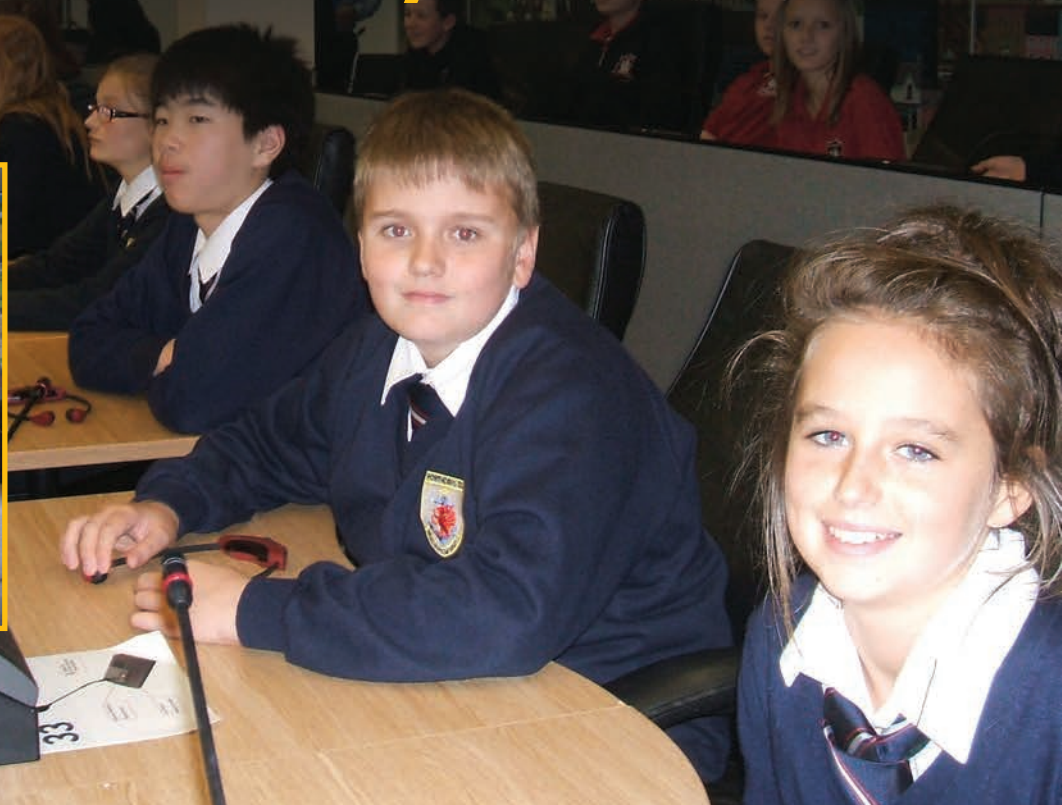
After lunch we took part in a session called 'Question time with Keith Towler'. During the session everyone had the chance to vote using special electronic pads as

well as to give our opinions on some of the questions. These ranged from Are Jaffa Cakes, Biscuits? To whether we felt that young people are listened to – in school and in the community. We all voted and then debated and discussed these questions just like Assembly Members would. We used microphones, voting panels and translation headsets. There was also a chance to tell Keith Towler about our concerns for the future and those issues which can make a difference to improving the lives of children and young people in Wales. Tom shared his concerns about university fees and Rebecca talked about how Facebook can be used safely. We all enjoyed our day, learned a lot and hoped we helped Keith Towler in answering his questions and by offering our opinions.

Becky Wardman 10TL



Are Jaffa Cakes, Biscuits?





Children & Young People's Partnership Conference

4th October 2011 at Bridgend Recreation Centre

The annual Children & Young People's Partnership Conference was attended by 6 of our young people from Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Lowri Patterson, Adam Mounce, Adele Powell, Nathan Lewis, Megan Goldberger and Matthew Van Rooyen.

Bridgend Council rolled out their plan for 2011-14 "Improving Outcomes for children and Young People". This is based on the UNCRC. At school we will be adapting this to help inform a redrafting of the school aims.

At the conference we were given feedback from the Conference 2010 "You said - Dywedoch chi", "We did - Gwnaethom Ni". This included an Anti-Bullying Workshop where young people from across the county agreed a common definition of Bullying. At PCS we hold an annual Anti-Bullying week and integrate lessons into our PSE programme.

The pupils then attended further workshops on

- Food and Nutrition
- Substance Misuse
- Bridgend Safeguarding Board
- Sexual Health

Adele Powell 8IE has this to say about the event: The day started with coffee and biscuits as well as an introduction giving us information about the day, explaining how important it was for the county to get young people's views on subjects such as anti-bullying and health and nutrition.



We then went to our workshops - I had been picked for Health and Nutrition. I learnt a lot about our daily diet, how much sugar is in drinks and cereals and how to make a healthy cheesecake and stir fry (which we tasted and was yum!)

To finish the day we had feedback from all the different workshops, and amazingly two pupils from our school got up and talked about their experience.

I came back from the conference with lots of knowledge about health and nutrition as well as how we can all get involved in the Children & Young People's Partnership.

Nadine Thomas
Assistant Headteacher



I attended the Young People's Partnership Conference 2011 on behalf of the School Council in Bridgend Recreational Centre.

The workshop I chose to attend was the Bridgend Junior Safeguarding Children Board (BJSCB). I was made more aware of this workshop, by a series of discussion points. How the Board worked, its importance in focusing the responses of the whole community of Bridgend, to the variety of important issues concerning children and young people locally.

Each of us knows by our own experience that there is a real need for such a guiding proactive service and the effectiveness of it is paramount for the welfare of young people and in achieving the aims of the Welsh Government as detailed in the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014.

The workshop which I attended provided a clear insight into the BJSCB's two main functions: to coordinate all agencies' work to promote the safety and welfare of children; to ensure the effectiveness of that work.

However, it was surprising to me that the most important workshop (the other workshops being branches of it) to educate us about the BJSCB was so poorly attended.

In my opinion the BJSCB is the most vital local practical tool to fix and more importantly prevent many of the issues the young people and children of Bridgend face today.

Adam Mounce 12 HC

CAREERS WALES MARK

Porthcawl Comprehensive School has recently been awarded the Careers Wales Mark through working within a collaborative partnership with Careers Wales. The school has been recognised for developing support and procedures for all learners and it has demonstrated a continuous process of improvement through auditing and development planning.

Activities in school which supports careers work has included Focus Group Facilitation Skills training delivered by Careers Wales to members of the student council, a successful Careers Convention attended by over 30 employers and staff training to raise awareness of the CWW Framework, as well as providing national and local labour market information.



Humanities Club scoops a generous £500 in the National Heritage Awards



Last year in Humanities Club, we studied Porthcawl's very own Grand Pavilion in a project entitled "Pollywood" or Porthcawl's Hollywood. Built in 1932, the Grand Pavilion, with its octagonal dome and striking frontage has dominated Porthcawl's seafront for 70 years. Originally intended as a Palm Court, the Pavilion has always operated as a multifunctional venue. Our pupils decided that they wanted to learn more about the visitors this historic building has seen over the years.

We put together a plan last September which resulted in us producing a set of Primary School resources consisting of a source pack, power point and giant jigsaw puzzle, a model of the Pavilion with special thanks to Mr Jenkins in the DT Department, a fully functioning website, with special thanks to Mr Pucella in the IT Department! This website explored the famous people who have gone through the Pavilion such as Danny la Rue, The Beverley sisters, Ian Smith from Neighbours, Tom Jones, Rob Brydon, Eddie Izzard, Kathryn Jenkins and many more.

It has many more features just take a look – <https://sites.google.com/site/historydeptpcs/>. We then visited two primary schools and delivered a lesson to Year 6 pupils about our findings, they were delighted to see us!

The Awards ceremony was held in Caerphilly Castle in July 2010 and two pupils accompanied Mrs Hammerton to the venue to take part in the two hour ceremony. Lots of schools entered nationwide and as we sat there waiting for the prizes to be announced a sense of panic came over us! We were delighted when we won the second highest prize from the competition and very grateful to our sponsors TATA Steel for our prize money!

This year we have already started researching our next project on Trecco Bay. We have not yet decided upon a title for our project although some suggestions are Trekking through time with Trecco! We are planning visits from members of the community, trips to Trecco to discover its History and another primary school lesson towards the end of the year! All new members welcome to join our Humanities Department every Thursday at 1.40pm in D3, bring your lunch along!

Humanities Club

TRANSITION 2011



Back in June we had another very successful and enjoyable Transition Day when over 200 Year 6 pupils from 16 different primary schools joined us for the day.

Year 6 spent the day under the careful supervision of volunteer Year 12 students and enjoyed a variety of lessons throughout the day. Pupils and parents then joined us in the evening to tour around the school and meet staff.

As in past years it is always a pleasure to see Year 6 pupils mixing so well with pupils from different primary schools and already beginning to make new friends. Hopefully this makes the move to



comprehensive school a little less daunting. Two further events also took place on July 4th when we held our annual Uniform Evening and Year 6/7 Disco. You can always tell you are getting old when you no longer recognise the music and certainly can't emulate the moves on the dance floor!

Many thanks to all those who made Transition Day, Open Evening, the Disco and the Uniform Evening so successful - pupils, staff, parents and our local community partners.

J Sloggett
Assistant Head



Some thoughts from this year's Year 7 on Transition

I enjoyed the Transition Day as we did poems in English, which was fun, as well as other subjects. I am glad we had a Transition Day because it has now made me feel more confident and excited and less nervous about when I go to the Comp. After doing other transition things the size of the Comp has become smaller and is not so big and scary anymore.

Chloe Green (ex Newton Primary)

The Transition Day was great. We got to do English, I.T, Maths and German. I liked German the most because we learnt about lots of German brands e.g. Mercedes, Volkswagen and we even sang a song. My visits to the Comp have helped me realise that it is not as scary and as worrying as you think. I've also already met new friends from other primaries.

Emily Stradling (ex Newton Primary)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011/12

07.12.11	Year 7 Parents Evening
12.12.11	Winter sports week
15.12.11	Community Carol Service
16.12.11	School Carol Service
03.01.12	INSET DAY
06.01.12	Year 11 Photographs
25.01.12	Year 12 Parents Evening
25-26.01.12	Mock Interviews for Year 11 EBP
01.02.12	School Show commences
07.02.12	Safer internet day
08.02.12	Year 11 Parents Evening
10.02.12	INSET DAY
22.02.12	Year 9 Parents Evening
07.03.12	Year 11 Parents, VI induction
09.03.12	School Eisteddfod
23.03.12	Newsletter II published
29.03.12	PTA Awards evening
02.05.12	Year 10 Parents Evening
04.05.12	INSET DAY
07.05.12	Bank Holiday
08.05.12	Year 10 examination commences
15.05.12	Whole school examination commences
21.06.12	Transition Day
22.06.12	INSET DAY
03.07.12	Compact Ceremony
09.07.12	Uniform evening and Year 6 disco
11.07.12	Young playwrights festival
18.07.12	Activities day and Golf day

Eco School Green Flag Award



The school's Eco Committee NV is thrilled to announce that the school has been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag Award. This

prestigious award is not given away lightly and it is a result of the hard work and commitment shown by the Eco Committee in ensuring the school does its best to be as environmentally responsible as possible. There are over 16,000 schools registered with Eco Schools but only 1,500 have achieved the coveted Green Flag.

The assessor commented upon the outstanding work done by staff and pupils and he was particularly impressed by the knowledge and passion shown by the pupils on green issues. Further congratulations were also given to the many staff throughout the school who showed evidence of excellent practice in their subject areas.

A special thank you should also go to Governors and Support Staff who have helped pupils over a number of years. We look forward to receiving the actual flag in the next few weeks and hope to have it flying high outside the school gates. Thank you to all involved for their continued support. The task now is to make sure our high standards are maintained and we look forward to re-accreditation in 3 years time!



J Sloggett - Assistant Headteacher

Healthy Schools



towards this award for two years.

The PE and Sports Department contributed with all their excellent extracurricular activities and continued involvement with the 5x60 sports initiatives. The Healthy Schools Assessors were very interested in the new Surf Lifesaving course for Year 7.

Food Technology supported the Healthy Schools group in many ways. The restaurants run by our Catering pupils impressed the assessors, as did our school allotment.

At the end of September the school was awarded the Bridgend Healthy Schools Award Phase 4. Our focus was on Food and Fitness, and we had been working

At lunchtime we enjoyed a cooked dinner in the school canteen. The three assessors each had a different meal but all agreed that they were delicious; they had good sized portions and so represented fantastic value for money.

A big thank you to India Rees and Kieran Richards of Year 12 and Tom Parry of Year 10, who presented all our Food and Fitness initiatives to the assessors and answered their questions, during the afternoon.

What's next? Well, it doesn't stop here, we are now starting our next two year plan towards phase 5.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Last year in School Council we helped develop the school in numerous ways. We had a democratic election to decide on Year Representatives and talked about what pupils were going to take on.

- We set up a School Council email so if anyone had problems or even suggestions they could email: school.council@porthcawlschool.co.uk . This helped the communication of the School Council.
- We got involved with a SELS questionnaire and listened to people's views and thoughts.
- We had formal interviews for pupils who were interested in becoming peer mentors.
- We noted down their views and the selected few went on training courses to become peer mentors.
- Also the School Councillors has a taste testing session and tried healthy snacks for SNAG.
- With school funding we organised new shelters for the school yard. If this proves successful we would hope to expand on this.
- The Eco Club has also started to build a greenhouse from recycled plastic bottles which pupils brought into school.

Next year we hope to develop the communication of the School Council and carry out more promotion to encourage more pupils to access the School Council. We also hope to develop the use of Welsh language within the school. At the moment class representatives across all year groups are involved in Hustings ready for the School Council election to take place before half term - good luck to all those candidates.

Sophie Rees 9HT

SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group) Update

During the Summer term a number of the SNAG team successfully delivered an assembly on sugary drinks to Year 7. We talked through the slides on the powerpoint we had produced.

In our preparation for this we had found out that some bottled drinks had as many as eight teaspoons of sugar dissolved in them. Sugar provides us with energy but it also raises insulin levels in the blood, causes weight gain and can cause depression and concentration difficulties. The school canteen has now removed these high sugar drinks and the SNAG team hope that the assembly will have helped to explain why. This term the SNAG team hope to display more information about the healthy options available in the school canteen.

SNAG Team



ACTIVITIES DAY

Gorge Walking/Gorge Scrambling (Canyoning)



One of the activities organised during the summer term was to spend a day at Craig y Dinas, Pontneddfechan, in Neath exploring the gorge and waterfalls. Many pupils find this the ultimate adrenaline charged day. Many pupils enjoy this activity so much that they choose it again the following year. Throughout the day everyone found themselves jumping in plunge pools, traversing along rock walls, jumping across boulders.

As the Gorge Walking/ Scrambling day progresses everyone then found themselves climbing waterfalls, exploring dark caves and swinging over raging torrents. At the end of the day if all that doesn't get your adrenaline pumping, you are then taken to the waterfall jumps, all under the supervision of an experienced guide. Thanks to Mr Blanche, Mr Stradling, Mr Pucella and Miss Owens for supervising the groups.





Courtesy of Tata Steel

Dan Pearson 13LB

Dan, of the 'Port Talbot Wheelers' was a member of the Welsh Cycling Team which won 'Team Gold' at last year's UK School Games and also won the Welsh Junior Road Race Championship in May this year. The race started at Ogmere Vale and covered 110km of hilly roads in bad weather.

He also won the Etape de Defonce Three Stage Race in South Wales and came second in the Tour of Carmarthenshire in May and June.

Dan also won the British Junior Road Race Championships in Durham over a 128 km course, competing against over 100 of the UK's top junior road cyclists.

During the Commonwealth Youth Games which was held in the Isle of Man in September, Dan was placed 12th in the Road Race, 12th in the Circuit Race and received a Team Bronze Medal in the Road Race.



Link Scheme Course at Tata Steel Port Talbot

During the summer I was fortunate enough to be selected to attend a five week 'Link Scheme' work experience at Tata Steel, Port Talbot. This entailed working within the Process Control Department within the company. I was working on the computers creating designs of the plant which displayed plant information. I then uploaded my designs to the company's plant information website.

I gained a lot of knowledge from this scheme. Above all I enjoyed the experience immensely working outside the school environment and being able to develop my creative skills which I found challenging but very fulfilling.

Having completed the five weeks, I presented my work to a board of directors which helped enhance my interpersonal skills. The scheme culminated in an awards evening at Tata Steel, attended by myself, representatives from school and my family. I was extremely pleased to be awarded second place, receiving a prize for myself and the school.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Tata Steel which has helped confirm that I hope to secure a career within the company. I would have no reservation in recommending the Link Scheme to future students.

Alex Houston 13ME

Design Innovation Success For Porthcawl Students



Porthcawl Comprehensive School was represented by two students in this year's All Wales Design Innovation Awards, Phillip Burrridge at 'A' Level and Ceryn Hopkins at GCSE Product Design.

The projects were selected for consideration by the visiting subject moderators, and the top 25 in each section when through to the prestigious exhibition to display the work in North and South Wales.

Phillip developed a storage system for a state of the art camera. Its main feature includes a cooling system and a screen to show digital pictures. His design was very striking as it looks like a very large camera lens.

Ceryn designed a contemporary light which had a spiral shape feature as the

main design element. It is made with extreme accuracy enabling it to go together, an excellent project which is visually very attractive.

We were delighted to learn that Ceryn did in fact achieve a 3rd place award in the All Wales Final Exhibition, an outstanding achievement by Ceryn. The first Minister, Mr Carwyn Jones presented Ceryn with her prize of £125 and the school prize of £100.

Year 12 and 13 Product Design students did have the opportunity to view the exhibition on the presentation day and were very impressed with the quality of all the work on show.

Mr M Evans
Design and Technology Department



Diversity Days



Yr 9 Thursday 9th and Friday 10th June 2011



As part of the on-going PSE programme Year 9 were involved in a "Diversity Day", where they rotated between a number of workshops. These were delivered by; Ogwr Dash who looked at the effects of drug use and harm reduction; Barclays Bank who provided advice on financial matters; The School Nurse Service who delivered a session on sexually transmitted diseases and keeping yourself safe; People First who talked from first hand-experience about bullying and discrimination they had experienced because of their disabilities; The Fire Service who provided information on home safety and Bridgend Says End Bullying engaged the pupils in a debate about prejudice and bullying especially looking at homophobic bullying.

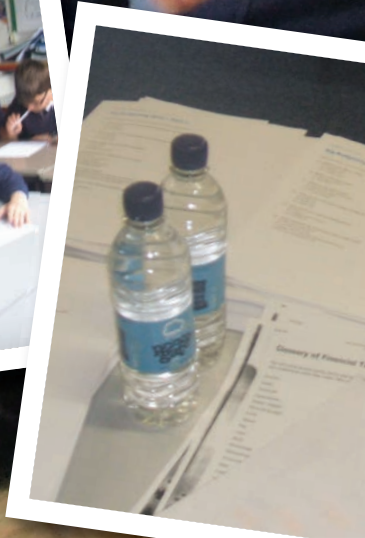
Feedback comments about the aspects pupils enjoyed included:

"the alcohol and drug addiction talk because I learnt a lot" Chloe
"wearing the beer goggles, although it was hilarious it was really educational" Rhys
"the Barclays Bank session because it gave me a good knowledge of money" Dan
"the girl who had Down Syndrome was really heart warming" Atlanta
"the hate crime session as it was interesting" Tara

The pupils also had the opportunity to develop a range of skills including Improving own Learning and Working with Others.

Equally, the outside agencies were complimentary about the organisation of the day and above all the enthusiasm and maturity shown by the pupils; they had this to say "brilliant pupils", "staff and pupils were open and honest within our lessons", "it opened their eyes", "pupils were engaged and on task" and "pupils came up to say thank you".

We are grateful for their support and hope they will pay us a return visit to our Diversity Day next year.



First West Baptist Church



Thursday 4th July saw the return of our American friends to school for the third year running. It was a fun packed day with the group of approximately 35, aged between 15 – 50, from First West Baptist Church, Louisiana delivering lessons in Drama, Music, PE, RE, Food Tech, History and English - the latter three subjects being new additions to this year's programme.

Throughout the day pupils experienced Vocal Workshops in Drama, Specialist Guitar Workshops in Music, Seminars and Presentations in History and RE on topics such as Civil Rights and in Food Tech pupils were able to sample some local Louisiana Creole flavours. KS3 English classes learned about idioms from the South and enjoyed the fun presentation.

Another new addition to the programme this year was the involvement of a number of the school's instrumentalists who spent the day learning pieces and then performing them with The First West Wind Band. Many of these young people then performed with the band, alongside other instrumentalists from County Schools on the Sunday Evening at the Vine Christian Centre in Bridgend. Again the calibre of our Music Students was impressive – well done!

The day started with the group taking assemblies for each year group. Each group was entertained by some form of music experience from relaxed acoustic sets to upbeat Southern Rock. Year 12 had the pleasure of listening to the State of play some impressive pieces. In the lunchtime concert he

entertained again with his rousing rendition of the famous 'Devil Went Down To Georgia' by the Charlie Daniels Band which got the crowd dancing and singing along.

As usual it was a rewarding day with pupils responding positively and enthusiastically to the range of sessions. Again the Americans were so impressed with the talent of our pupils and their general conduct and participation in lessons.



Farewell Concert

After the enormous success of last year's school production, the cast of 'Les Misérables' were asked to perform in the Aberafan Beach Hotel for one final farewell concert. With hugely popular numbers such as 'Master of the House' and 'One Day More', as well as the iconic solos 'I Dreamed a Dream' and 'On my Own', the concert was enjoyed by all and was a great way to end the show on a high. It was a memorable and significant last performance for the cast, enabling them to say 'Bon Voyage' Les Mis!

Sophie Howe 13LB

Drama Transition

Towards the end of the summer term Year 6 pupils from the catchment area took part in a Drama Transition Project. The workshop allowed pupils from Year 6 to explore the work they had been studying with their classroom teachers.

The pupils were able to practically explore what it was like for the children, men and women who worked in the mines in the Victorian era. It was a great chance for the pupils to meet the Drama Department and experience a Drama lesson – proving that it's not all about singing and dancing!!

The pupil's knowledge and appreciation of life underground was certainly impressive, this meant that they were all able to shine and develop some excellent characters. The stars of the School's upcoming productions has most definitely 'arrived'.

Mr Smith
Drama Department



JUNK

It was fun playing such a different character to myself . . . I loved the camaraderie between us all. It was an amazing experience!

Andrew McQueen



Towards the end of the summer term, Centre Stage Productions (the BTEC Performing Arts class), along with a few friends, undertook the challenge of performing the play 'Junk'.

The piece focuses around a group of young tearaways who, by seeking the freedom and liberation in running away from home, subject themselves to the euphoric horror of drug addiction. Initially intended as a non-musical play, the production team collaborated and agreed on a set list of songs; transforming it into a rock opera. After intensive, emotional, (and often hilarious) rehearsals, the production opened in the Jubilee Theatre on Monday 18th July.

The performance surprised everyone involved, as the fluidity and professionalism displayed by the team exceeded all expectations. Riding on the thrill of a successful reception, the cast embarked on an exhausting day filled with performances to Year 9 classes, as part of the PSE drugs awareness programme.

We were somewhat anxious about the possible reactions to such an emotionally-charged play, but most of the young audience appreciated the performance thoughtfully and concentrated on the messages conveyed. I'm sure that the whole cast would echo me in saying that the experience offered us an opportunity to stretch and improve our skills as actors, and - although my swollen tear ducts would be inclined to disagree - was immensely gratifying, enjoyable and worthwhile.

Cath Walters Year 13



National Youth Theatre of Wales

This summer the three of us were lucky enough to get onto the National Youth Theatre of Wales after hundreds applied. We went to Aberystwyth on the 18th of August where we were based, and spent the following two weeks devising our piece on the Welsh immigration to Patagonia.

It was an intense two weeks, starting each day with a 9am workout! Although cursing at the time it benefited our fitness levels greatly and enabled us to indulge in the many cakes at Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

We opened in Aberystwyth on the 4th of September before swiftly moving on to Mold the next day! (This was Tash and Joe's overall theatre!) After Mold we travelled once again on the bus to Cardiff where our challenging run of seven performances in two days began, at the Richard Burton Theatre. We finished our last show on the Friday incredibly tired but pleased with our performance and the experience we had been given.

Overall, it was a great three weeks led by our Artistic Director, Tim Baker, and would recommend anyone to go for the course.

Natasja Bryant: Year 11 (2011)
Joe Wiltshire Smith: Year 11 (2011)
Corey Bridgeman: Year 13 (2011)



OUR DAY OUT

On the 7th and 8th of June, Year 8 & 9 Drama Club participated in a very unique production of Our Day Out. Throughout the practices we had an extremely good time with cast and crew. Production started in mid-May and we worked to the bone at it. On the night, although there were a few slip-ups with lines, it was a huge success, being sold out on both nights.

All of the cast gave it their all and were extremely

creative with their parts. It told the story of a run-down school that decide to go on a school trip, and get up to some mischief on the way, including stealing animals from the zoo, creating warfare in the castles and other things of that sort. It was a great show throughout and will be remembered by all of us.

Rhys Owen 9RB
Tom Sheppard 10AS

On the night, although there were a few slip-ups with lines, it was a huge success, being sold out on both nights



Yr 7 Drama Club

'Big School'

Last year the Year 7 pupils put on a production about all different aspects of school life, ranging from bullies to the first day of school. The show was made as if it was to educate a Year Six pupil about school life. Tickets were put on sale and the performance was shown to family and friends of the pupils involved. Many showed up to the performance and it was a great evening which many parents enjoyed.

One said "It was a fabulous occasion and I really enjoyed seeing the children's drama skills". The Year Seven pupils were involved in the music and setting up of the production. Also four pupils were involved in the back stage crew.

Lauren said "It was great to watch the show from the sidelines". Many of the pupils are still involved in Drama in Year Eight and are part of a Drama Club.

Isabelle Overton Yr 8
Lauren Pugh Yr 8
Lowrie Connick Yr 8





Choice Cuts and No Ham

Young Playwrights' Festival - July 2011

Two nights; six plays; eighty cast members; an invisible army backstage and two full houses crammed into the Jubilee Theatre. A winning formula that was the Young Playwrights' Festival for 2011.

The fantastic plays were the winning entries from a collaborative competition run by the Drama and English Departments. Over ninety were submitted and, after an agonizing selection process, six were chosen for performance. Each play was directed by Year 10 Drama students and performed by pupils from Key Stage 3, so it was a totally organic and student-driven enterprise.

The range of subject matter and mood made each evening a magical experience for all involved. From spy thriller to skater park drama; from magic realism to gritty family drama, and from bullying trauma to surreal comedy, there was certainly something for all tastes and inclinations. Those lucky enough to enjoy the plays had their emotions well and truly wrung dry and richly-deserved ovations were given to each play.

It was particularly fitting to have the iconic Mr Hywel Owens as guest of honour. His wisdom, creativity and warmth helped shape the school's drama output for many years, and he inspired generations of performers and production crews. His legacy, and that past performers, is in the safe hands of those involved in this year's competition.

This is now an established part of the school calendar. Next year's stars will have a lot to live up to, but you'd better book tickets early to see if they manage it.

Drama and English Departments

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS' FESTIVAL 2011 WINNERS

YEAR 7

'The People of Tanaria'
Isobel Overton & Lauren Pugh

'Survivor'
Sultaan Azam, Jack Ellis, Hee-Chan Kang, Matthew Owens

YEAR 8

'Skater's-Ville'
Nathan Lewis, Rob Davis, Tom Cummings, Steffan Moody

'There's Never a Happy Ending'
Linzi Watson, Courtney Hoare, Shannon Beard

YEAR 9

'Suspicious Minds'
Sam Pryce, Chloe Rees, Tamara Lafferty, Katie Phillips, Seren Walters,
Aysha Arshad & Tom Parsons

'I SPY'
Becky Wardman & Molly Wright

SPORTS DAY REPORT 2011

Despite the poor weather, the enthusiasm and commitment of the athletes, on Porthcawl's second Sports Day at Leckwith Stadium could not be faltered. We had competitors collapsing on the track, falling at the high jump and floundering in wet sand, yet still the smiles kept coming! Unfortunately, few new records were set. This was probably due to the poor weather conditions compared to last year.

Despite this, we saw the following 18 pupils coming first in two events, a remarkable achievement: Jim Needs, Dylan Squires, Jacob David, Tom Wootton, Elliot Williams, Gareth Evans-Rees, Jack Bevan, Kyle Lawrence, Adam Jenkins, Ben Asprea, Tom Page, Laura Mackey, Olivia Norris, Allie Young, Shaye Wiltshire, Connor Tantom, Harry Jenkins and Angharad John.

Connor Tantom (Yr 8) and Harry Jenkins (Yr 9) both set new year records in the boys 800m, while Angharad John (Yr 8) continued what she started in Yr 7 by setting another year record in the javelin.

Probably the highlight of the day for many was the Year 10 boys and girls 100m finals. You could barely have slotted a credit card between James Phillips (Dyfed), Jim Needs (Dyfed) and Ollie Banner (Morgannwg) as they crossed the finish line, with James winning with the narrowest of margin, one tenth of a second!

An almost identical situation was seen between Nicole Davenport and Julia Kalmuk both of Gwynedd, where Nicole took the title, again, by tenths of a second!

There were plenty of pupils in contention for the prestigious awards of the Victor and Victrix Ludorum.

On the girls side:

- **Laura Mackey (Dyfed)**
1st: High Jump & 800m
2nd: Shot
- **Olivia Norris (Powys)**
1st: High Jump & 1500m
2nd: 800m
- **Allie Young (Gwynedd)**
1st: 200m & 300m
2nd: High Jump
- **Angharad John (Gwynedd)**
1st: High Jump & Javelin
(New Year Record Javelin)
2nd: 100m

Boys in contention for the Victor Ludorum were:

- **Jim Needs (Dyfed)**
1st: High Jump & 200m
2nd: 100m
- **Jack Bevan (Dyfed)**
1st: 100m & Long Jump
2nd: 400m
- **Adam Jenkins (Morgannwg)**
1st: 400m & Triple Jump
2nd: High Jump
- **Ben Asprea (Gwynedd)**
1st: 400m & Long Jump
2nd: 200m

The final results are as follows:

The Victor Ludorum (Top Male Athlete) goes to

- **Aron Woolcock, Yr 7 of Gwynedd**
1st: 100m, 200m & High Jump

The Victrix Ludorum (Top Female Athlete) will be shared by

- **Nicole Davenport, Yr 10 of Gwynedd** who came:
1st: 100m, Javelin & Shot,
- **With Felicity Williamson-Sarll Yr 8 also from Gwynedd** who came:
1st: 200m, 800m, & Long Jump

The overall house results were as follows:

- 4th Morgannwg 737
- 3rd Powys 750
- 2nd Gwynedd 785
- 1st Dyfed 846

The PE dept would like to thank: All staff for their help and support on the day and the SMT for their continued support. The Sixth Form who worked so hard on the day and without whom we could not have run the event. Mrs Shell and the Canteen Ladies for the lunches they provided. Staff from Lloyds TSB who again gave up their time to help officiate. Last, but not least, a huge thank you to all the competitors who tried so hard for their houses, congratulations and well done.

Miss H Davies - PE Dept



If the **red house** is made out of **red bricks** and the **blue house** out of **blue bricks**, what is the **greenhouse** made out of: **Plastic bottles!**

Porthcawl Comprehensive School is in the middle of an exciting project - building a Plastic Bottle Greenhouse. Pupils have been bringing in their used bottles in conjunction with the environmental group - NV, The Gardening Club - Ready, Steady, Grow and the School Council.

South Wales Police helped us with a bid to finance the other materials and the project is underway.

We still need you to bring in your empty, washed, clean 2 litre plastic bottles to G18 please.



Technology Department

On the evening of 14th October we served cakes and squash to the Year 6 pupils who came to visit our school open evening.

During lunchtime sessions we divided ourselves into groups and cooked a range of cakes and decorated them on the night. We made yummy cupcakes, crispy cakes, brownies and millionaire shortbread.

These were all then displayed and sold at the Technology Exhibition in G block.

Many thanks to Katie Mainwaring, Megan Goldberger, Emily Taylor, Stephanie Muckell, Jodie Bickerstaff, Charley Harries, Lucy Peckham, Rhiannon Griffiths, Deri Edwards, Helen Anderson, Ben Thomas and Georgia Cahill and many others for making and serving these yummy treats.

We hope you were impressed and come and join us at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Emily Taylor 9AE



ty hafan

the family hospice for young lives



On Sunday 24th July 2011 we entered a staff team called 'Porthcawl Pirates' in the charity event "It's a Knockout Challenge". This was held at the South Wales Police Sports Ground, Bridgend to raise money for T Hafan. Everyone enjoyed the thrill and excitement, laughter and light hearted competition. Twenty-seven teams entered the charity event.

Teams had to go head to head on giant inflatable games. The games were designed so it was not just the fastest and fittest who always won, thought and skill were certainly required, as our team discovered.

We had to take part in events such as the Wedge, Air Dancer Tunnels, The Bungee Mat etc. It was great to see many of the staff come down and support the event on the day.

A big thank you to all staff who took part including Mr Pucella, Mr Blanche, Mr Stradling, Mrs Thomas (French), Mr Jenkins, Mrs Coleman, Mrs Thomas (English) and Ms Christopher.

A big thank you also to friends Mr Mickelsen and Mr Cooper who helped make up the team 'Porthcawl Pirates'.

To view a video and photos of the event please look at: <http://www.tyhafan.org/our-events/2011/07/24/its-a-knockout/>

Mr Pucella



It's a Knockout Challenge





TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2011

Wednesday 13th July - Friday 15th July

The fifth annual Porthcawl Comprehensive School Tennis Tournament was a huge success again this year, attracting over 200 entries both male and female from Years 7 to 10.

With the volume of participants for the tournament, play-off games were played throughout 5x60 lunch time sessions and after school clubs to achieve entry to the main competition. This format allowed players of all abilities the opportunity to participate and enjoy. The response to tennis this term has again been magnificent, culminating in a well organised and supported event, with pupils producing an excellent standard of play on the courts.

At court side, Year 10 BTEC pupils, fresh from their Tennis Tournament Young Organiser training, aided the PE staff in planning fixtures and recording results.

Prizes were bought from Double Overhead thanks to contributions from the school PTA and fundraising organised by Lloyds TSB. The winners of each event were also awarded with an engraved 5x60 Slate trophy to remind them of their achievement.

The Year 7 Boys Winner was Nathan Jones who beat James Thomas 6 - 2.

The Year 7 Girls Winner was Courtney Lewis who beat Lauren Stretch 6 - 4.

Doubles Results

The Mixed Doubles Final was the game of the tournament. The girls played an equal part in all aspects and the boys' etiquette made their partners proud. The game went to a tie break at 6 - 6 and both teams had their chance to win. It was Laura Mackey and Liam Webb who finally took their match point, winning against Oliver Banner and Allie Young 13 - 11.

In Year 7, Nathan Jones and Gabby Smith overwhelmed Tom Jay Packer and Alecia Wilson-Morgan 6 - 0 in their mixed doubles final.

Sean Scanlon - BTEC Sport



Results - Boys Tournament

A summary of the boys singles are given below:

1/4 FINAL	SEMI FINAL	FINAL	WINNER
Matthew Johns 6 William Evans 5	Matthew Johns 6 William Evans 5	Matthew Johns 6 William Evans 4	Matthew Johns Josh Bell
Nathan Jones 0 Bazz Jenkins 0			
Dan Gould 2 Colton Elliott 2	Ford Cooper 1 Rob Ellis 2		
Ford Cooper 5 Rob Ellis 5			
Aaron Richardson 6 James Thomas 5	Aaron Richardson 2 James Thomas 0		
Margyn Thomas 4 Luka Morgan 1		Oliver Banner 3 Josh Bell 6	
Joseph Jones 5 Josh Bell 5	Oliver Banner 6 Josh Bell 5		
Oliver Banner 6 Darr Smith 0			

Results - Girls Tournament

A summary of the girls singles are given below:

1/4 FINAL	SEMI FINAL	FINAL	WINNER
Laure Mackey 5 Kara Robbins 1	Laure Mackey 6 Chloe Stringer 4	Laure Mackey 6 Chloe Stringer 3	Laure Mackey Ellie Cooks
Allie Young 1 Chloe Stringer 3			
Becky Wordman 5 Kayleigh Hodgson 3	Becky Wordman 1 Kayleigh Hodgson 2		
Katie Roberts 0 Terri Jones 0			
Shona Davies 2 Lauren Stretch 0			
Abi Galfanfent 5 Steph Harper 3	Abi Galfanfent 0 Steph Harper 0		
Ellie Henderson 2 Ellie Cooks 4	Charlotte Mundy 6 Ellie Cooks 4		
Charlotte Mundy 5 Zoean Kent 1			



TEXTILES 2011

The Textiles Department celebrated the new academic year with fantastic results in this summer's exams at both AS & A2. 14 out of 16 students gained A - C grades at AS with 10 achieving grade A. At A2 level the 4 students all secured A* - B grades with 2 achieving the coveted A* and one other an A.

These fabulous outcomes are achieved in a Department that has grown and indeed flourished over the past 9 years. The Department has always welcomed input from outside craft workers and designers, bringing them into the classroom to demonstrate techniques and new trends in textile design or taking pupils to exhibitions. Staff constantly look out for new innovations and techniques being developed, keeping up contacts with degree courses, visiting exhibitions and embracing all new developments.

The course offers the students the scope to express themselves in individual and exciting ways, nurturing a creative and experimental approach to their studies. Staff also believe in preparing pupils for what lies ahead in University or, encouraging students to be free thinkers & confident in their abilities to express themselves.

Former pupils have gone on to study fashion, journalism, textiles, surface pattern and design amongst other courses, and many have done extremely well at Degree level. The latest pupil to return to school with good news is Camilla Probert who, after graduating with a 1st Class Honours degree from Bristol, secured a job with exclusive and up market fashion outlet Toast! Camilla visited the Department to show her portfolio to our students and to discuss the exciting and competitive world of fashion. It is great to see so many of our former pupils come back to us and be another dimension in inspiring our current students.

In more recent years we have also had the pleasure of welcoming students from neighbouring schools as part of the Bridgend Consortium. They have settled well and comfortably alongside our own pupils. They too are high achievers gaining some of the highest grades in last years exams.

Textiles Department



Young Enterprise Company

We are very pleased with the number of pupils taking part in the Young Enterprise Competition this year. The Business Studies Department has developed 3 Year 12 Companies to participate in the Young Enterprise Company Programme. This involves setting up and registering a business, opening a bank account, each pupil taking on the role of Director within their Company, developing a product and selling to the general public.

The Company will be responsible for their production, operations, marketing, sales, human resources and financial accounting. The Young Enterprise Company Programme allows pupils to set up a business and develop skills and gain practical experience in a real business environment. All pupils taking part in this programme will have the opportunity to sit the Young Enterprise Qualification worth 40 UCAS points.

The names of the companies registered are:-

**The Hawkers
Premier Worldwide
Avenue**

We have also registered a Year 10 Company – Crefft Ty. They will experience setting up and running a Business Enterprise with all profits made being donated to charity. They are interested in making Welsh Crafts and Cards and their Welsh business name translates to Craft House. The 12 pupils involved have worked extremely hard to raise funds to start their business venture.

Good Luck to the 4 teams!

**Sarah Morgan
Business Studies and Young Enterprise Link Teacher**

Hawkers In Porthcawl?

A powerful new business venture which has grown from nothing into a fully functional business, with roles set, money earned and a bank account opened. We have set the roles between ten people, all of which using unique skills and attributes that help the business to survive and grow in the world around us. The skills we will be using and developing include communication, Information Technology, problem solving, working with others and financial accounting. All these qualities are fuelled into our team.

Our name, Hawkets and Co. is a play on words as one of our member's surname is Hawker. A Turkish trader is also called a hawket (Comic I know). We are currently investigating various products which we could peruse and sell to the general public and in school. We are also participating in the Young Enterprise IKEA event and also the Christmas Fayre in school. We hope that you will be buying from us soon.

Curtis Wade - Managing Director

Premier Worldwide

Our business is called 'Premier Worldwide' and it consists of 10 directors, Daniel Evans, Rhodri Booth, Will Griffiths, Adam Mounce, Conor Rees, Gareth Davies, Leonie McQuaide, Rhys Griffiths, Shannon Short and Ben Evans. We are all hard working students and have a positive attitude to succeed. We are currently researching product ideas and we are looking forward to attending Trade Fairs and events to sell our products to the public.

Daniel Evans - Managing Director



Tesco Computer Vouchers



Every year as a school we collect Tesco computer vouchers. You may wonder what actually happens to them. On average we usually collect between 6500 and 11500 vouchers per year. Last year was very good as we collected 11376 vouchers. Every Department is then asked to look at the catalogue available and items are then ordered for the school.

This year headphones were ordered for the ICT suites, some extra headphones went to the PE Department. The Welsh Department ordered lots of stationery e.g. card, glue, coloured pencils etc. to be used in class.

Physics had a new all-in-one scanner, copier and printer. In the past, Departments have ordered digital cameras, flip vids, usb pens etc. As the Tesco advert says "Every little helps". Please continue to support this scheme when it runs again next year. Thank you.



A Pucella - IT Department

European Day of Languages 2011

Bonjour! Guten Tag! Bore da!

This year, we celebrated European Day of Languages on September 29th, although the official day was September 26th.

In Year 7, we had a special assembly which Form 7AR took. Members of our Form did greetings in many different languages (including Thai and Hindi) and we (Jaycie, Robert and Laurence) read out some facts about languages around the world. Did you know, for example, that it is estimated that 75% of the world does not speak English?

Everyone in the assembly sang songs in French, German and Welsh.

In lessons, the teachers used different languages to greet us, and the menus in the canteen were translated into French, German, Italian, Polish, Spanish and Welsh!

Lots of Year 7 pupils handed in special European quizzes. The 4 people who got all the answers right were: Laurence Hunt and Mit Russell from 7AR, Max Budding from 7AW and Brandon Cooper from 7EC. Most people thoroughly enjoyed the day!

Jaycie Dyer, Robert Fenton, Laurence Hunt, Shannon Strong - 7AR Form Reps

Did you know, for example, that it is estimated that 75% of the world does not speak English?

Pictured: Quiz winners Mit, Laurence, Brandon and Max. Also winner of the MFL Transition World Cup Rugby Poster - Robert Fenton (Ryan Jones) and runner up Jodie Sinclair (Shane Williams).



Porthcawl Pals Ladies That Lunch

This is a new, regular item in the Porthcawl Post looking at the range of people who make up the staff at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

For our first reveal we delve into the world of the canteen. You know what they say "If you can't stand the heat ..."

Cook: Jan Shell

Assistant Cooks: Rose and Nigena

Catering Assistants: Adele, Joanna, Jane, Corrina, Hayley, Leanne, Caroline and Rosemary.

What is the most popular meal?
Panini and pasta are quite popular with everyone and cooked dinners with the younger years.

Is there a lot of waste?
No, not a lot.

What time to you start and finish?
Range from 6:55am to 3:45pm.

What is the favourite part of your job?
The children's smile and appreciation.

What is your favourite film?
Dirty dancing, The Little Mermaid, and The Twilight Saga.

What is your favourite band/artist?
Metallica, Motown, Cee Lo Green, Michael Jackson.

What is your favourite meal?
Cooked dinner, fish and chips.

How long have you been working in the school?
Ranging from 8 to over 20 years!

It is a high pressured job catering to Porthcawl's pupils in the space of one hour - remember to appreciate all those who help to make up the community and school because "when the chips are down" you can count on the ladies that lunch!





Junior Maths Challenge Report

The Maths Department would like to thank all the pupils in Years 7 and 8 who took part in the Junior Maths Challenge back in April this year. These two year groups produced 18 certificate winners with half of these from Year 7 which is very good as this is, for many of them is their first attempt.

Over 235,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge with approximately the top 6% receiving Gold certificates the next 13% Silver and 21% Bronze. The UK Maths Challenges are run by the UK Mathematics Trust at Leeds University, a registered charity whose aims are to advance the education of children and young people in Mathematics. Porthcawl Comprehensive School has a long tradition in entering pupils and has had some very good success over the years.

The following students gained certificates

YEAR 8: SILVER CERTIFICATE

- Richard Lugg (Best in School)
- Megan Fish
- Sophie Harris

BRONZE CERTIFICATE

- Felicity Williamson
- Joe Graham
- Joshua Manley
- Megan Goldberger
- Ben Pearson
- Benjamin Thomas

YEAR 7: SILVER CERTIFICATE

- Daniel Song
- Lauren Pugh
- Hee Chan Kang

BRONZE CERTIFICATE

- Josh Brown
- Liam Crockett
- Jessica Bennett
- Lydia Pickett
- Callum Evans
- Cameron Rees

Here is a selection of questions from the Junior Maths Challenge this year:

1. All Old Mother Hubbard had in her cupboard was a Giant Bear chocolate bar. She gave each of her children one-twelfth of the chocolate bar. One third of the bar was left. How many children did she have?
2. The pupils in Year 8 are holding a mock election. A candidate receiving more votes than any other wins. The four candidates receive 83 votes between them. What is the smallest number of votes the winner could receive?
3. The world's largest coin, made by the Royal Mint of Canada, was auctioned in June 2010. The coin has a mass 100Kg, whereas a standard British £1 coin (manufactured in Llantrisant South Wales) has a mass of 10g. What sum of money in £1 coins would weigh the same as the record breaking coin?

Answer (1: 8, 2: 22, 3: £10,000)

John Street Underpass Community Project

During the summer holidays Anik Cartwright and Louis Browning gave up holiday time to help Pink Diesel Limited with a recent community art project.

The revamped ageing underpass has now been turned into an urban art gallery where 13 pieces of art are now on show in the newly refurbished 'Hibiscus Walk' along with a plaque identifying the Porthcawl Comprehensive pupils.

Anik and Louis not only contributed art work but also help paint murals on the entrances of the tunnels.



Pupil Achievements

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Dan Pearson 13LB

May 2011 - Welsh Junior Road Race Champion
July 2011 - National Junior Road Race Champion
September 2011 - Commonwealth Youth Games in the Isle of Man - 12th in Road Race, 12th in Circuit Race and Bronze in Team Road Race

Dylan Winn-Davies 10AF

Sound Engineer and Operator at the Hampstead Festival in July. Scored 3 tries in first match with Bridgend District Rugby

Keland Phinnemore 10LT

Second Welsh Cap at the Welsh Surf Lifesaving Team in July. Member of Welsh Youth Team who won the Celtic Challenge Cup against Scotland, Ireland, France and England. Welsh Dragon Open Swim event in Mumbles - 3rd in Juniors

Laura Ashton 9AE

Silver and 2 bronze medals at the Cardiff International Swimming Event in July and 4th in the Open Water Swim in the British Nationals in Sheffield

Lewis Platts 8HP

Purple Belt in Karate

Alex Houston 13ME

Received 2nd Prize in the Tata Steel Link Scheme Work Experience

Allie Young 10CW

Selected as part of the Wales Women's Under 17 Football Team for a Training Camp in preparation for the UEFA European Women's Under 17 Championship 2011/12 in September 2011. Selected for the Wales Women's Under 17 Football Team to take part in UEFA European Women's Under 17 Championship 2011/12 which takes place in October. Selected for the U16 District Hockey

Anik Cartwright 13JH

Helped paint murals on the entrances of the John Street Underpass during the summer holidays and also donated art work for the community project.

Louis Browning 13GW

Helped paint murals on the entrances of the John Street Underpass during the summer holidays and also donated art work for the community project.

Jessica Powell 13LB

Donated art work for the John Street underpass.

Bethan Williams 13AP

Donated art work for the John Street underpass.

Alysha Jones 13ME

Donated art work for the John Street underpass.

Drew Richards 13SD

Donated art work for the John Street underpass.

Tshireletso Tshose 13AP

Donated art work for the John Street underpass.

Gareth Richards 13LB

Donated art work for the John Street underpass.

Bethany Thomas 13AP

Donated art work for the John Street underpass

Holly Brooks 13SD

Donated art work for the John Street underpass

Rachel Kinsella 13AP

Donated art work for the John Street underpass

Zoe Parris 13LB

Donated art work for the John Street underpass

Katy George SD

Donated art work for the John Street underpass

Jakob Williams 11KV

Selected for the Ospreys Elite Under 16 Development Squad

Oliver Banner 11KV

Selected for the Ospreys Elite Under 16 Development Squad

James Needs 11RL

Selected for the Ospreys Elite Under 16 Development Squad

Harriet Maine 10BH

Selected to represent her ATC Squadron at the Royal International Air Tattoo in Gloucester in July
Selected for the U16 District Hockey
Selected for the U16 County Hockey

Olivia Norris 10JS

Selected to represent her ATC Squadron at the Royal International Air Tattoo in Gloucester in July

Abi Gallafant 9AE

Selected for the U14 District Hockey

Angharad John 9HT

Selected for the U14 District Hockey

Glance Flower 9HT

Selected for the U14 District Hockey

Hannah Spencer 9MJ

Selected for the U14 District Hockey

Becky Wardman 10TL

Selected for the U16 District Hockey

Bethan Eales 10TL

Selected for the U16 District Hockey

Ryan Bevington (Former Pupil)

Selected for the Rugby Squad for the World Cup in New Zealand

Rachel Bowen-Jones (Former Pupil)

Selected to dance at the Millennium Stadium in the Michael Jackson Tribute Concert

Owen Leary 10TL

Welsh Dragon Open Swim event in Mumbles 1st in Juniors - 8th in Men's

Philip Pickett

Head Boy

Nia Thomas

Head Girl

Peter Greenwood

Deputy Head Boy

Sophie Howe

Deputy Head Girl

Thomas Beer

Assistant Head Boy

Christopher Hontoir

Assistant Head Boy

Hayden Lau

Assistant Head Boy

Connor Moody

Assistant Head Boy

Thomas Newbery

Assistant Head Boy

Rachel Halley

Assistant Head Girl

Alexandra Howells

Assistant Head Girl

Lowri Patterson

Assistant Head Girl

Sidney Rogers

Assistant Head Girl

Amy Sheppard

Assistant Head Girl

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Has your child achieved success or recognition relating to an extra-curricular activity?

If so, please contact Mrs Wallace at school (Tel: 01656 774194) to let her know.

