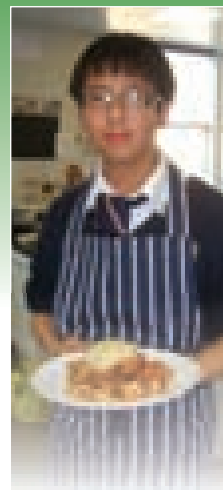
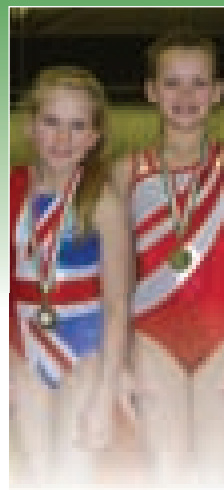
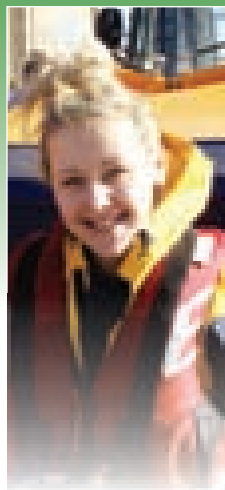


Welcome to the second edition of the **Porthcawl Post** for the school year 2012-2013



Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Spring 2013



This is my first article for the “Porthcawl Post” as Headteacher. I wish to begin with a word of thanks for all the kind messages of support I have received over the past weeks.

Since my appointment, two other key management posts have been filled. The school’s Senior Management Team (SMT) now comprises:-

Mrs A O’Brien	Senior Deputy Headteacher
Mrs J Sloggett	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs N Thomas	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs V Hunt	Assistant Headteacher
Mr N Card	Secondee to SMT

Continuing with the theme of staffing, there are other important developments. Two long-serving and very valued teachers will retire at Easter. Mr D Rees has taught Science and Maths at the school since September 2001. He has been an excellent teacher who has contributed much to our very successful Maths Department. Mrs J Cleaton, teacher of English and Head of Year 8, has given over a decade of service to our school and has made a particular impact with the excellent pastoral care she has given her “flock”. We wish them all the very best for the future.

As teachers leave, we need to replace them – Miss H Redmond was appointed to the Science/Maths post and Miss L Slowinski has been appointed to the English

Department. To replace Mrs Cleaton as Head of Year 8, Ms R Gould will fill this post and she will also continue in her role as the Deputy Safeguarding Teacher – two challenging roles I’m sure Ms Gould will relish. The summer term will see a warm Porthcawl Comprehensive School welcome to our new staff members.

To replace Mr Card for the duration of his secondment, Miss K Owens takes over as Head of Year 10.

The final piece of staffing news is the appointment of Mrs M Callister as Head of Biology.

It appears that there is much change but I’m confident that the new appointments, given the opportunity, will flourish in their new roles. We have had some excellent news concerning university applications. Under the guidance of Mrs R Williams, some one hundred and twenty two of our students have applied for university. It is very pleasing to see our students being offered places at some of the most prestigious seats of learning. The school is particularly proud of the outstanding achievements of the following three students:-

Heulwen Evans	Law, Oxford
Daniel Pugh-Bevan	Music, Oxford
India Rees	Medicine, Oxford

Of course, we wish all our students who have applied to university every success in obtaining a place.

Continuing with our senior students, the Head Team co-ordinated a charity week which culminated in the

“Children in Need” day. More than £6,000 was raised and this has been shared between “Children in Need” and local charities. It is so rewarding to see the whole school combining to raise these much-needed funds.

The move from primary to secondary school can be a daunting prospect for some. To ensure a smooth move to secondary school we have developed a very detailed transition programme. Mrs Sloggett and her team have organised a whole range of visits and activities – these have helped reduce anxiety and increase familiarity with our school. As you read this edition of the Porthcawl Post, you will find several examples of young learners enjoying their visits. In September, we are expecting over 50 “out-catchment” pupils from almost 20 primary schools – our school remains as popular as ever.

No spring edition of the Porthcawl Post can be complete without reference to our annual school show. As I write, the Drama and Music departments have just staged “Jesus Christ Superstar”. This year, we enjoyed our thirty-fifth production, continuing the tradition of excellence of which we are all very proud. I should like to thank the cast, teaching staff, parents and support staff for the monumental team effort. The show was an outstanding success and we look forward to “curtains up” next year.

The other major cultural event is our annual Eisteddfod held in the Grand Pavilion. The whole school participated and we were treated to over 20 on-stage competitions. Many schools have scaled down or let slip

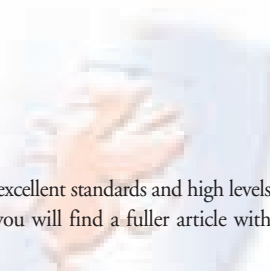
From front page

their Eisteddfodau. I am delighted by ours in terms of its excellent standards and high levels of pupil involvement. As you read on in this edition, you will find a fuller article with photographs of the contestants.

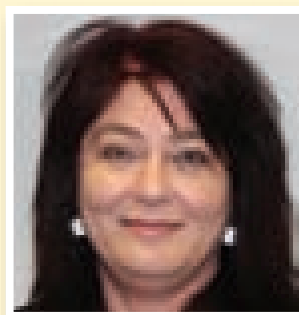
The learning environment is of paramount importance at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. I am delighted to announce several major pieces of investment for our learners. A second Music Room has been refurbished, complete with computers and sequencing keyboards. The fitness room has been completely refurbished with new fitness equipment and weights. A Biology Laboratory has been refurbished and refitted to a very high standard. At the time of writing, we are planning another ICT room to meet the increasing demands upon our ICT resources. These projects all directly benefit the students and teachers and will impact positively on standards achieved by our learners. I am very pleased that we can continue our long-standing programme of investment and improvements for our students.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Porthcawl Post - as I read it, I am astonished at the sheer number and variety of events that take place at our school. I am very grateful to all who make it so successful.

A J Slade Headteacher



Child Protection

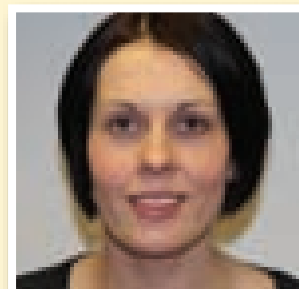


All schools have a statutory duty to exercise their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of their learners.

At Porthcawl Comprehensive School there is a designated Child Protection Officer, Mrs J Sloggett, and a deputy Ms R Gould. There is also a nominated governor, Mrs A Thomas. All procedures followed are set out in guidance by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, which are in line with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

Should any pupil have any worries in relation to their own wellbeing, or that of others then they should speak to Mrs Sloggett (M8) or Ms Gould (D10) as soon as possible. If they are unable to find either member of staff then they should speak to their Head of Year or Form Tutor.

Where a professional has a concern about a child or a referral has been made to them, they will, in general,



seek to discuss these with the family and, where possible, seek their agreement to making a referral to social services.

The school aims to create an atmosphere of openness. We want our pupils to feel secure and feel that their concerns will be listened to. What they say will be taken seriously and every effort will be made to work with parents/carers in a positive and constructive manner in order to support the children.

A Peer Listening Service is also available every lunchtime in the Student Support Centre – near M8.



Peer Listeners

The school once again arranged for a number of more senior pupils to receive training from the Bridgend Youth Service on Basic Counselling Skills Level 2. This was carried out over a number of mornings in the autumn term and now means that these pupils are able to offer a Peer Listening Service to other pupils. This service is available every lunchtime in the Student Support Centre next to M8.

Peer Listeners have also been paired up with Year 7 form classes, with whom they spend time once a fortnight during assembly time.

Pupils can self refer or be referred by teachers or parents. It is an opportunity to share worries and concerns with older pupils who may have had similar experiences.

7HR – P16 Matthew Williams (6HC)
Samantha Denyer (6EP)
Rhiannon Anderson (6NS)

7KE – P13 Tom Hunt (6LB)
Jennifer Sham (6AP)
Rhiannon Bevan (6ED)

7SR – P8 Rachel Allen (6HC)
Alex Lloyd (11CW)
Lauren Hill (6NS)

7ST – P10 Katie Sheppard (6CD)
Tom Wootton (11DR)
Catryn Ellams (6ED)

7RL – P11 Tom Parry (11CW)
Robert Young (11CW)
Maddy Williamson-Sarll (6AT)

7HD – P12 Terri Jones (6AT)
Chloe Jaques (6ED)
Rachel Batrick (6HC)
Jack Jones (11GM)

7KV – P15 Yuri Roberts (6AT)
Helen Anderson (10RE)
Emma Jenkins (6BH)

7SW – P9 Tom Allen (6NS)
Heaven Heanue (6LB)
Sarah Pickett (6NS)

DAY	ON DUTY
Monday A	Matthew Williams Samantha Denyer Rhiannon Anderson
Tuesday A	Tom Hunt Jennifer Sham
Wednesday A	Rachel Allen Alex Lloyd
Thursday A	Katie Sheppard Tom Wootton
Friday A	Tom Parry Robert Young
Monday B	Terri Jones Chloe Jaques Rachel Batrick
Tuesday B	Yuri Roberts Helen Anderson Emma Jenkins
Wednesday B	Tom Allen Heaven Heanue Sarah Pickett
Thursday B	Rhiannon Bevan Lauren Hill
Friday B	Catryn Ellams Maddy Williamson-Sarll Jack Jones

Helplines

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline	0808 800500
CHILDLINE	0800 1111
Children's Commission for Wales	01792 765600
Children's Legal Centre	08088 020 008
Samaritans	01656 662333



Charity Cake Sale

In Year 9 Food Technology we did a charity cake sale project. We all worked in groups to design and make cakes which we sold in G Block at break-time. The profits were to be given to a chosen charity. The group which made the most money got to choose the charity. There were many different charities that we considered, but we decided to give it to Mr Card and Mrs Callister. They were running the Cardiff Half Marathon to raise money for Velindre Hospital, specialising in caring for people with cancer.

Mr Card became our top choice with his charismatic approach and also because he was our former Head of Year. So during an assembly, I handed over the cheque for £75 (the profits from the cake sales), to Mr Card and Mrs Callister to celebrate, their past, and ongoing work for the Velindre Cancer Centre.

Another £75 profit from the cake sales was donated to Mr Price and Mr Saunders. They also completed the Cardiff Half Marathon and the money that they raised went towards research into Motor Neuron Disease.

A big well done to everyone that took part and raised the money!

Matthew Van Rooyen

ONLINE MEDIA COMPLAINTS PORTAL ~ PARENTPORT

Recently received information from Mrs Madeleine Moon MP regarding the launch of an online media complaints portal "ParentPort". This is a one-stop show for parents to help them keep children safe when online, watching films and playing video games. Despite a large volume of useful tips and online safety advice already being available online, this information is often difficult to find.

ParentPort has brought this information together and organised it into a number of easily accessible top tip categories to help parents learn more about setting up online controls, improving mobile safety and keeping children safe on social networking sites.

ParentPort was set up in October 2011 to make it easier for parents to complain about material they see or hear across the media, communications and retail industries. It was jointly developed by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), the Authority for Television on Demand (ATVOD), the BBC Trust, the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) and the Video Standards Council (VSC)/Pan-European Game Information (PEGI).

I would urge parents and carers to visit the website at the following address:-

www.parentport.org.uk/

A Slade Headteacher

Senior Maths Challenge Success

The Senior Maths Challenge is primarily aimed at the sixth form Maths A' level students. The entry this year was a healthy 17 pupils who had a go at this very difficult challenge and from these entries 4 students achieved certificates.

A big well done to all those who had a go and to our year 12 entrants there is another chance next year!

Certificate winners were:-

Joe Strong	Bronze Certificate and Best in School
Elliot Yip	Bronze Certificate
David McIlwraith	Bronze Certificate and Best in Year
Jennifer Sham	Bronze Certificate



BRIDGEND CYSTIC FIBROSIS

During the week of Children in Need, the school successfully raised £6,700 and it was agreed that some of the money raised would be shared amongst local causes. One of the chosen charities was the Bridgend Cystic Fibrosis fund, to which we donated £1,800.

This is a hospital fund which supports children with Cystic Fibrosis in Bridgend and the surrounding area. The fund supports local children with the condition that affects their lungs and digestive system. Patients need to exercise and take medication every day to manage symptoms such as breathing difficulties. The money will be used for specialist equipment to help the young patients with their treatment.

It has been a great opportunity for the pupils and staff to actively support the community and have a positive effect on our local hospital, the Princess of Wales.

Staff at Princess of Wales said:-

"We were absolutely delighted to receive their donation. We will use the money to purchase nebulisers for our patients to use at home. They enable the children to breathe in their medication which helps the airways to open more quickly and make breathing easier."

Leonie McQuaide, Head Girl



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Sunday 27th January to some is just another day but to many it is known as the Holocaust Memorial Day. On Friday 25th January, Mrs Thomas and I were invited to Bridgend Council's Chambers to their commemorative event. The theme this year was "Communities together build a bridge" which is very appropriate for Bridgend.

On January 27th 1945 Auschwitz was liberated and so was made the International Holocaust Memorial Day. On this annual day of commemoration many councils across the country honour the victims of the Nazi era and also strive to educate people against future genocides. The guest speaker this year was Andrew White of Stonewall Cymru. Stonewall Cymru is a charity which aims to achieve legal

equality and social justice for lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Wales.

Andrew was a pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive School and spoke about the trauma and bullying he went through as a gay young boy in school and linked it to the persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany. Andrew's speech was incredibly moving and really made people at the event think about the way homosexuals are treated in today's society.

At the end of the event we were lucky enough to hear Bridgend Youth Choir which included two of our own pupils', Daniel Pugh Bevan and Lucy Noden perform "Bridge over Troubled Water".

Eleri Connick



Real Human Being

In November a number of our year 8 pupils were involved with a visiting project which sought to educate young people about the impact of Disability Hate Crime on the lives of disabled people.

Disability Wales working with Taking Flight Theatre Company, an integrated company working with disabled and non disabled professional actors, developed a theatre piece. It was presented to Year 8 pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and other schools across the Bridgend area.

The pupils watched a piece of theatre then worked with a facilitator and the professional actors to dissect the issues in the piece to explore characterisation and solutions to the problems encountered. Forum Theatre techniques were used allowing the young people to work in a safe, controlled environment to revisit scenes, 'stop', 'rewind' or 'fast forward' the action in order to suggest changes to the behaviour of the victim, and explore the motivations of the antagonists. Further techniques such as 'thought tracking' and 'hot seating' characters also allowed the pupils to gain an understanding of the impact of DHC upon its victims and the thought process and psychologies which lead to someone becoming a perpetrator of such crime.

The theatre piece had been devised in conjunction with disabled people from within the local community who have shared their own experiences with the writer and director. Cast members included professional actors Cara Readle (known for her role as 'Layla' in The Story of Tracy Beaker and 'Elen' in Baker Boys) and Dan Edge, an Aerialist in the Paralympics London 2012 Opening Ceremony.

The pupils found it a challenging piece and most enjoyed talking in-role to the characters about their personal experiences.

<http://www.takingflighttheatre.co.uk/>

French Department

Literacy and Reading Skills in French

Our trip to the library!

One French lesson in the Autumn term, we had a chance to go up to the library to look at some French reading books. The experience was fun and "très intéressant". We all took something out of this and hope to do so again in the future. Madame Morgan gave us some book review sheets and we had to record information about the books down on those sheets such as the title and the plot. Overall, everyone enjoyed this fun "trip" out of the class and found it very rewarding.

Mitchell Davies (8EC/8Y1)

Year 12 French Extra-Curricular Lessons

We've completed over a term of Year 12 and so far it's going well. This year, French is not all that you would expect. We only have a class of eight, meaning lessons are always so much more relaxed and we all get on well. French AS doesn't just mean a ton of essays and a load of grammar. Not far into the term we made a trip to the cinema in Swansea to see the French film "Les Intouchables". As well as this, just before Christmas, we moved our lesson to the food technology classroom. By following a French recipe, we made two chocolate cakes and against all odds, they were delicious. The rest of the lesson, we were able to relax while helping ourselves to cake. It was an enjoyable experience and a relief after working hard all term.

Our French has improved immensely since last year and we've learnt a lot. It's a great subject and not all just hard work!

Anna Bonet

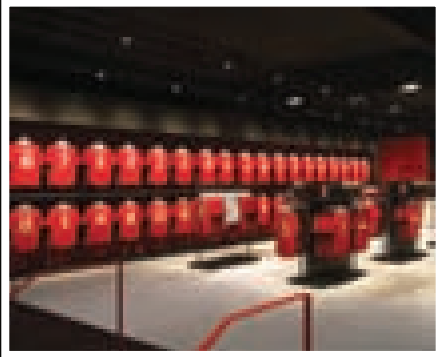
European Club - Year 7

European Club has been running for many years now and is still attracting a good number of Year 7 pupils who are keen to learn more about languages in a fun atmosphere! No work here, just games, games, games! Last term, we practised our French and some German. Very soon, we'll be starting Spanish and Italian. So, come and join us every Monday from 1.45pm to 2.15pm in P28. A bientôt!

Madame Morgan



Man Utd TRIP



Match Report

Man Utd had made five changes going into this match and van Persie took a breather by being on the bench. West Brom had made seven changes as a result of illness and injuries. The Premiership leaders were taking on a team that has made a heroic effort this season.

Although we left school in plenty of time for the game, the weather resulted in the traffic being very slow. We were bumper to bumper for much of the journey. At one point we travelled 4 miles in one hour. Luckily we had Mr Pucella's quizzes and DVDs to pass the time. Year 8 boys seemed to spring into life when they started singing along to Swedish House Mafia Don't You Worry Child on the radio. They sang very well – certainly opportunity for them to show their talents again in the school Eisteddfod. By chance, the driver knew a shortcut and we had to rush to get to the start of the game for a 3pm kick off. Some boys had their bags searched and our seats were in the Sir Alex Ferguson Stand but on the third tier which proved a bit of a fitness challenge.

Ashley Young made some threatening runs at the start of the game. He then made a cross into a dangerous area which resulted in McAuley scoring an own goal on 9 minutes. However, West Brom grew in stature in the second half and ensured a nail-biting afternoon for any Red Devil supporters.

While travelling to Old Trafford we could see extensive flooding in many parts of the country. Thankfully, the rain that had prompted a pre-match pitch inspection had abated but the soggy surface necessitated the Reds getting the ball forward quicker than usual.

Steve Clarke's side managed to finish a one-sided half in the ascendancy by earning a couple of free-kicks around the area but captain Vidic kept things tight in defence after earlier proving his full return.

After being given some encouragement, the visitors improved following the interval with Brunt firing a fierce drive straight at David De Gea and Carrick clearing from McAuley from a dangerous free-kick to the far post. Brunt and Graham Dorrans also had efforts as United struggled to rediscover the flowing football that was a feature of the first period.

As the rain started to cascade down again, the match remained in the balance with Foster barely tested until clawing away a Valencia attempt. Everyone in the group then started chanting "Bring on van Persie". Sir Alex Ferguson must have been listening because he made his changes, bringing on van Persie and Scholes.

Substitute Paul Scholes had a shot blocked before helping it on to van Persie via Valencia and the deadly striker did the rest, biding his time before bending a brilliant effort over Foster to double the advantage and finally sink the brave Baggies.

Robin van Persie's late strike proved decisive as Manchester United were made to work all the way for three points against West Bromwich Albion in the Reds' final match of 2012. This wasn't vintage United but it keeps Sir Alex's side seven points clear at the top of the table heading into 2013.

"The changes I made with van Persie and Scholes allowed us to be more composed and they certainly proved to be a handful".

Sir Alex Ferguson Man Utd Manager

"We created some opportunities in and around the box".

Steve Clarke West Brom Manager

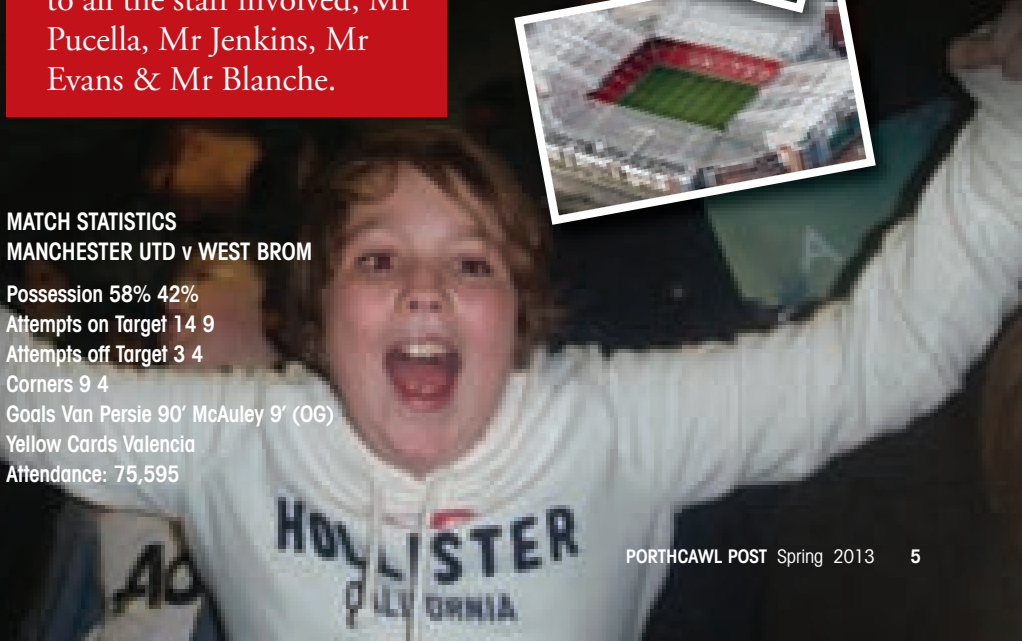
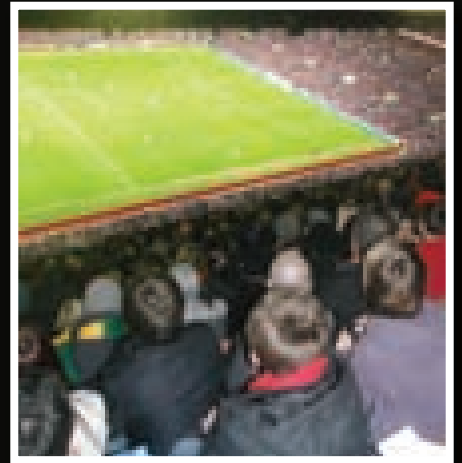
"The best part of the trip was the excitement getting to our seats, although it was a climb to the 3rd tier. The stadium was really busy, with 75,595 tickets sold. The capacity is 75,765. As we got into England we saw major flooding due to the recent weather. The Man Utd shop was huge and sold everything you could think of to do with football. The trip was a great experience and I advise other pupils to go on any future Premiership trips.

Josh Richards 8EC

Overall, everyone really enjoyed the trip. Thank you to all the staff involved, Mr Pucella, Mr Jenkins, Mr Evans & Mr Blanche.

MATCH STATISTICS MANCHESTER UTD v WEST BROM

- Possession 58% 42%
- Attempts on Target 14 9
- Attempts off Target 3 4
- Corners 9 4
- Goals Van Persie 90' McAuley 9' (OG)
- Yellow Cards Valencia
- Attendance: 75,595



DRAMA

BTEC PANTO

Cinderella

Once again, the BTEC's annual Pantomime Tour was a success! "Oh No It Wasn't!"we think you'll find it was amazing beyond all standards and showed how utterly beautiful Ryan and Kieran look as women.... maybe not!! The newly re-branded group "The Fellowship Theatre Company" presented this year's performance of "Cinderella", starring Ellie Morris as Cinderella, Jess Kilpatrick as Prince Charming, Katelyn Weaver as The Fairy Godmother, Georgia Young as Dandini/Baron, Jack Easterbrook as Buttons, and Ryan Jenkins and Kieran Bluck as the "beautiful"...mhm, we mean Ugly Sisters.

The tour travelled for over a week around the local primary schools, stunning audiences and generally upsetting the infants. Surprisingly, there weren't too many tears this year...but let's be honest, having seven thespians from the "big boy school" singing and shouting is pretty terrifying! The tour was a hit and, fair play, we all had an amazing time. Although Mr Smith might change this in the final draft, we would like to thank him for all his support and everything he does for us!

The Fellowship Theatre Company
BTEC Performing Arts



Year 7 Drama Club Update!!

Recently the three of us ... Jack, Lewis & Rhys have been given the opportunity to run the Year 7 Drama Club every other week. It has been a pleasure to see such young members of the school flourish in a subject that the three of us really do enjoy! We've all seen their confidence build 'dramatically', if you pardon the pun, and it's fantastic to see new members every week. It's been a great experience for us as we've learnt so much. We'd like to thank (ourselves) no, no, no... Miss Hardwick, the rest of the Drama Department and of course the children for putting up with Rhys... Thanks!

Love from Jack Davies, Lewis Scott and Rhys Owen (Year 10)

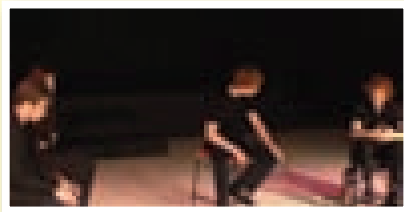
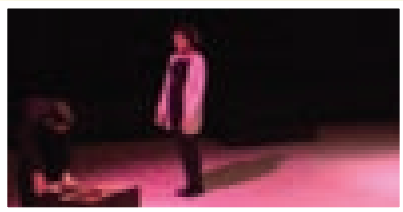




MAESTEG TOWN HALL EXPERIENCE

YEAR 11 DEvised PRACTICAL EXAMS MUSICAL THEATRE

In November, Year 11 Drama students performed 60% of their overall GCSE. For months before they created their own pieces to fit the style of Musical Theatre and the theme of 'The Nightmare'. They studied Rogers and Hammerstein musicals, such as Oklahoma, and Carousel and used them as inspiration. With help from Miss Hardwick and Mr Smith they produced a plot, and then set about finding perfect songs and character building. After months of rehearsals the finished product was about 20 minutes long, in front of an audience of friends and family.



A lot was taken away from this experience, for example a better understanding of Musical Theatre and how to overcome problems as a team. The overall quality of work was excellent and the audience were hooked from the very beginning!
Katie Roberts & Ellie Henderson
 Year 11

'Jolly good fun! A true eye opener to the world of Musical Theatre!'
Elli Rosser

'It was a lot of work but it was all worth it in the end! It was a great experience'
Tabitha Carrington

'If you asked me before the prac 'Can you sing?' I would have said 'No' but if you ask me now 'Can you sing?' I would still say 'No' but I enjoyed it none the less!
Tom Sheppard

'We all think that the performance stretched us as actors due to our theme of 'The Nightmare' and genre of Musical Theatre. It was a great confidence boost!
Hannah Berry, Jess Torkington, Lois Hadley, Jess Wood and Nick Jones

'Gwych!'
Richard Price

'It was an interesting experience as it developed our dramatic knowledge. It moved us out of our comfort zone as we had to sing. It was hard work but rewarding'
Bryan Thomas, Becky Blackburn, Olivia Norris, Kelson O'Connor and Chris Long

'It was a great experience that built us into actors by forcing us out of our comfort zones to sing in front of people. It really helped build confidence and new talent!
Cai Russell



The Years 10 & 11 GCSE Drama Technical Students visited Maesteg Town Hall on the 4th January to help build the set for Joseph's Technical Coloured Dream Coat. The day was organised by Mr Unsworth, the Performing Arts Technician. We all had an amazing day working alongside theatre professionals. We learnt how to use a follow spot, fly bars in and out, set up stage microphones and set off pyrotechnics. We would like to thank the crew in Maesteg Town Hall for giving their time and expertise to help us develop our skills. They made us feel really welcome.

GCSE Drama Technical Students

"It was a very fun experience and we learnt so much about professional theatre in such little time".

Jessica Courtney-Hatcher Year 11

"Everyone was so friendly and we really felt like part of the crew".

Josh Reeve Year 11

"I'd love to repeat the experience again! Thanks AJ for organising it!"

Dylan Winn-Davies Year 11

"I had such fun and using the follow spot was awesome".

Sophie Harries Year 10



AN Department
Trip – 6th
February 2013

Cardiff University Discovery Visit Day

Chocolate Workshop – Cardiff Metropolitan University

On the 1st January, pupils from Years 10 and 11 Hospitality and Catering went to Cardiff Metropolitan University, to learn about the Food Science and Technology degree course. This was to give us an insight into possible careers that could lead from the new A level being offered from September - Food, Health and Nutrition.

We experienced firsthand the scientific side of making chocolate. We learnt about the history of chocolate and potential jobs in the food industry. We really enjoyed ourselves and the chocolates that we made!

Thank you Mr Brennen for a wonderful day and for showing us around the University.

Megan Goldberger and Elai Platts



An open day for young people with Asperger Syndrome

We took 5 year 10 pupils to Cardiff University for the Open Day and they all found it highly successful. The Open Day was an opportunity to find out about university subjects, explore the university campus and meet university students. There were talks about applying to university and student accommodation and also about the support available at Cardiff for students with Asperger Syndrome.

“Expertly creative. The best day ever!”
Owain

“Enjoyed lunch – great chicken! They explained what they do on the computing course. It was interesting.”
Josh

“We saw all the lecture halls and science labs. They were the size of five of our labs rolled into one!” Charley

“It was a useful day because it told us what we needed to do to get to university, what to do when we get there and how to live independently. There were wonderful people there – especially the girls!” Luke

“It was a very interesting day. It was good to see all the courses that were available. There is a nice variety of accommodation in Cardiff.” Ben

Sian Richards

Additional Needs Dept.

DNA Conference:

6th form Biology November 2012

On the 28th November, fifty Porthcawl pupils from Years 12 and 13 Biology classes attended a conference in Cardiff. The event was organised by the Wales Gene Park and took place at St David's Hall in the city centre. The event had a focus on the modern techniques utilised by scientists around the world to decode DNA. The conference was presented by six speakers, each bringing ideas from their own specialist fields and communicating their own views on modern genetics.

All speakers highlighted the important and sometimes controversial aspects of genetic research. Some key points discussed at the event included the views of The Right Reverend Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon who talked about the ethical dilemmas surrounding the advancement of genetic medicine. Welsh native plant research has made world news, thanks to Dr Natasha de Vere and her team from The National Botanic Garden of Wales and Aberystwyth University supporting Wales in becoming the first nation to include all native plants in a national genetic database.

The pupils enjoyed their day and gave them a great insight into what they should expect from university in the coming years.

Children in Need 2012

Once more, Porthcawl Comprehensive pupils proved themselves generous and empathetic during the fundraising week before Children in Need. As usual the Head Team planned and executed a terrific week of fun for the enjoyment for all, with highlights including Mrs Callister's slip during I'm a Teacher, Get me Out of Here! and the river of baked beans that trailed down to A Block that Mr Parker helped clear up when the Head Boy dropped the paddling pool. Many thanks, Sir. The money was divided up, and since charity begins at home, has been distributed to several local charities where our donations were well-received. Thanks must be extended to all staff who took part in events, the office and library staff for photocopying, ordering, money-storing and letter distributing and the cleaning staff for tidying up those areas the head team missed. Without these people we would not only be without an education, we would be without a fundraising week too.

Thank you very much to local photographer Malcolm Nugent, who supported our events and took these wonderful photographs!

Dan Pugh-Bevan

Healing the Wounds Charity Donation

One of the charities that will be receiving a £500 donation from Porthcawl Comprehensive School is Healing the Wounds. Healing the Wounds is an Armed Forces charity based near Bridgend. They deliver support for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to serving personnel, Veterans and the Police, Fire and Ambulance emergency services and their families. The charity has recently moved from a small office near Bridgend to the Rest Convalescent Hotel at Rest Bay in Porthcawl.

It is therefore now able to offer adequate space to serving and ex service men and women who are suffering the effects of post traumatic stress. The charity now has support officers who help with post traumatic stress disorder and also offer links with organisations for re-training for new job opportunities and possible placements. The charity's goal is to provide a dedicated support facility, from which they can provide 2 to 3 day treatment courses and help to access re-training and job opportunities or help with other issues. Healing the Wounds' future plan is to provide a residential facility that will give Veterans the support they deserve in a peaceful, home from home environment, and Porthcawl Comprehensive School's donation of £500 will help towards achieving this aim.

Heulwen Everton



Porthcawl RNLI

After raising over £6,700 during Children in Need week, £500 has been donated to the RNLI in Porthcawl. Porthcawl RNLI is home to two different lifeboats, the Atlantic 85 and the D Class lifeboat. The crew consists of around 22 members, along with shore crew helpers and other personnel who are all volunteers. The RNLI in Porthcawl plays a key role in keeping the community of Porthcawl safe at sea and along the coast. The Lifeboat in Porthcawl is called out many times a year to assist and to help save lives at sea. As a serving crew member of the RNLI crew in Porthcawl, I know the money will be a massive benefit to the station and we are very grateful to have received the money. The money donated to us will be used to buy new operational equipment which is required in the station and also on training.

Daniel Evans

LATCH

After raising such an impressive sum of money during our Children in Need week, we decided that we would donate some of the money raised to local charities. One of our chosen charities is LATCH. LATCH is a charity which supports children who are receiving treatment for cancer at the Children's Hospital for Wales, where around 70 new cases are diagnosed every year.

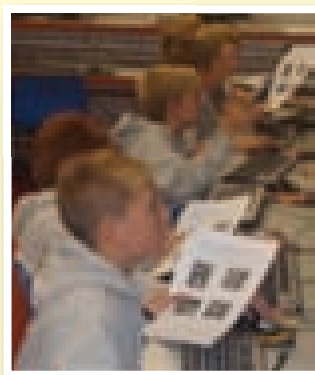
As well as caring for the children themselves, LATCH also offers support to their families during this very difficult time. Volunteers help organise a range of activities to help boost morale and keep children occupied and amused during their long stays in hospital. They also organise trips for the children and their families to keep their spirits up whilst recovering from treatment at home.

The £500 we donated to the charity will go towards the purchase of a new caravan

which will be situated in Trecco Bay. This will allow patients to take trips to the resort and enjoy the facilities and the seaside. It has been a privilege for us to help such a great cause and have a positive impact on our local community.



Year 6 ICT Transition



During the week commencing 22nd October 2012 many pupils from our local feeder schools and out of catchment primaries were involved in an ICT transition project. The session was split into two parts. The first session was based on the History of Porthcawl. During the last few years, the History Club at Porthcawl Comprehensive School with the help from the ICT and Technology departments, have been successful in achieving Heritage Awards for pupils' work on local projects. Topics that have been studied include how the town of Porthcawl was affected during World War II, the Samtampa disaster, History of the Pavilion, History of the Lifeboat Station and Trecco Bay Holiday Park. To view pupils' work please have a look at the following websites:-

<http://humanitiespcs.weebly.com/>

<https://sites.google.com/site/historydeptcs/>

Year 6 were given a research task into these topics and created a multimedia presentation on the History of Porthcawl. Pupils demonstrated many useful techniques within their presentation including their own video.

Year 6 then had a well earned break in the canteen and enjoyed the chocolate chip cookies and squash provided. (Thank you Mrs. Shell).

The second session introduced year 6 to an introductory programming language called Scratch. Scratch is a programming language learning

environment enabling beginners to quickly get results without having to write lines of code. It is intended to motivate for further learning through playfully experimenting and creating projects, such as interactive animations, games, etc. Scratch can be downloaded for free from <http://scratch.mit.edu/> Year 6 were introduced to basic projects such as creating a Breakdancer dance on a stage, animating the letters in their name etc. Year 6 quickly adapted to the program and many developed their own solutions to the tasks set.

Bill Gates founder of Microsoft is currently worth approximately 50 billion pounds. He has donated an enormous amount of money to charity.

Bill Gates earns approx £3,356,100,000 (£3.4 billion approx) a year,

- which is £279 765 000 (£279.7 approx) million a month,
- which is £62 150 000 million a week,
- which is £8 878 571.43 million a day
- which is £369 940.48 thousand an hour,
- which is £6 165.67p a minute,
- which is £102.76 a second.

Who knows! Someone from Year 6 may be the next Bill Gates of the future!

We look forward to working with everyone again in September.

Mr. Pucella ICT Dept

Welsh Play

Recently, the Key Stage 5 Welsh pupils visited the Sherman Cymru Theatre in Cardiff to watch a Welsh language play: Llanast (Carnage). The play was a translation of Yasmina Reza's *Le Dieu de Carnage*, by Gareth Miles, which was also recently a smash hit film starring Kate Winslet and Jodie Foster. The play consists of 2 mothers, 2 fathers, 2 sons, whiskey, tulips and a mobile phone all equating to utter carnage. Two sets of parents meet to discuss their unruly sons. As time goes on, however, the civilised veneer soon slips, and carnage ensues! It is a brilliant comedy of bad manners. Although the play was performed in Welsh, the dynamic nature of the play definitely made the plot clear to Welsh language learners. Although adding difficulty, the language barrier did not stop everyone greatly enjoying the play and it absolutely helped improve our understanding of the Welsh language. A great evening for all! Gwych!

Heulwen Everton



Welsh Transition Mornings, December 2012

December proved a very exciting month when the Welsh Department held its inaugural Transition Mornings at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Pupils from our feeder primary schools were joined by around 40 'out of catchment' pupils for a morning of activities which included calendar making, folk dancing and learning about some of our Welsh Christmas traditions namely, Y Fari Lwyd.

According to Elis from Trelales, 'It was really fun. I enjoyed it all and the folk dancing was brilliant'. Indeed, the folk dancing proved very popular with members of the Sixth Form, namely Matthew and Geraint, who not only helped supervise the proceedings but were very keen to take part. 'It was a sight to see' said Miss Davies. 'They were bendigedig!'



The department also helped solve any Christmas present dilemmas with the pupils making colourful Welsh calendars, which were very well received by friends and family.

Pupils had a very big surprise when entering Mr Priest's classroom to find a Mari Lwyd greeting

them. Mr Priest explained the ancient tradition which involves a person wearing a horse's skull and cloak, decorated with ribbons, visiting houses on New Year's Eve and greeting the occupants with a rhyme. The pupils showed their creative flair for writing by composing some very interesting and amusing verses.

A very big 'diolch yn fawr' must go to members of the Sixth form as well as pupils in Years 9 and 10 for their invaluable assistance during the mornings. Also, to Mrs Shell whose chocolate cookies were, as always, legendary.

The Welsh Department is looking forward to saying 'Croeso Mawr' to many more pupils in the future.

KEEA

Business Studies

IKEA Young Enterprise Trade Fayre



On the 7th December 2012 a number of pupils taking part in the Young Enterprise Programme attended a Trade Fayre at IKEA Cardiff. It was a freezing day yet the girls from 'FUSION' weren't put off by the cold weather, they were there to sell, sell, sell! The girls made a profit of approximately £100 selling Christmas gifts and it was a good experience for all. Young Enterprise was impressed with the girls' enthusiasm during the day and their efforts to make sales and interact with customers.

Young Consumer Competition



On Friday 30th November 2012, four team members attended the Civic Offices at BCBC to compete in the Young Consumer Competition. Six teams were entered and the competition was very close on the day. Ross Jenkins, Rachel Battrick, Jennifer Sham and Oliver Banner answered questions relating to the following:-

- Money and Finance
- Consumer Rights and Responsibilities
- Food & Health
- Safety and the Environment
- Europe

The team were fantastic on the day and answered many questions under pressure. We are looking to take a team to the competition next year. If you are currently in Year 11 and good at quiz questions relating to the above topics, please speak to Mrs James (Business Studies) to register your interest.

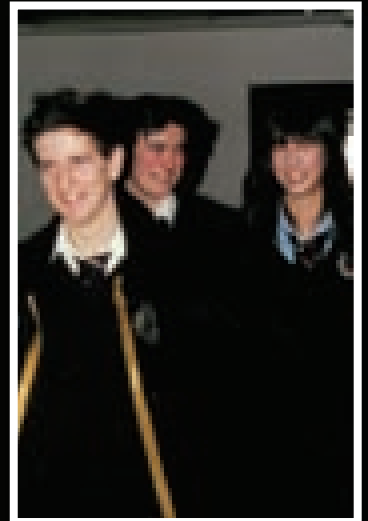


Eiste

Eisteddfod yr Ysgol 2013

Cynhaliwyd Eisteddfod yr Ysgol eleni ym mis Mawrth yn y Pafiliwn. Yn y bore cynhaliwyd yr Eisteddfod Uwch ac ar ol cinio yr Eisteddfod Iau. Roedd cystadleuthau o bob math, yn cynnwys canu, dawnsio, adrodd ac actio. Braff oedd gweld safon uchel y perfformwyr a brwdfrydedd y disgyblion oedd yn cefnogi eu tai. Llongyfarchiadau arbennig i enillwyr y Gadair a'r prif wobrau. Rhaid diolch i'r beirniaid am eu cyfraniad gwerthfawr ac i staff yr ysgol sydd yn cynorthwyo bob blwyddyn. Eleni y ty llwyddiannus oedd Powys. Llongyfarchiadau iddyn nhw.

Mrs. A. Weedon Head of Welsh



dddfod

Results 2013

Off stage competition:

1st – Powys	366
2nd – Morgannwg	329
3rd – Dyfed	269
4th – Gwynedd	265

On stage competition:

1st – Powys	474
2nd – Morgannwg	364
3rd – Dyfed	321
4th – Gwynedd	248

Overall Eisteddfod result:

1st – Powys	806
2nd – Morgannwg	677
3rd – Dyfed	573
4th – Gwynedd	497

Choir competition:

1st	Gwynedd
2nd	Powys
3rd	Dyfed
3rd	Morgannwg

Junior Eisteddfod Champion:

Anna Arrieta - Dyfed

Senior Eisteddfod Champion:

Joe Wiltshire Smith - Morgannwg

Senior Drama Competition:

Kieran Bluck - Morgannwg

Winner of the Junior Welsh Chair

Hee Chan Kang - Powys

Winner of the Junior English Chair

Jack Ellis - Morgannwg

Winner of the Senior Welsh Chair

Jack Bridger - Gwynedd

Winner of the Senior English Chair

Sam Pryce - Powys





Crime Prevention Quiz - 2012

We set off in the minibus on Friday 16 November at 9:05 to travel to Bryngarw House, Sarn for the yearly Crime Prevention Quiz.

We were all excited and keen to get there, probably because it meant we were missing a day of school!

School quiz teams from 5 other schools were there and the competition had six rounds with 20 marks for each round, the aim to get 120 marks in total. Each of the four team members had learnt and studied the books on certain topics.

Layla had the topic of Health Challenge Wales,

Mitchell had the topic of Ages in Law,

Chloe had the topic of Fire Facts and

Robert had the topic of Drugs, Alcohol and Volatile Substances.

The quiz began and the first round was on the topic of drugs and alcohol. We were all a bit nervous but excited and we completed the answer sheet, this went to be marked and scores read out, the Porthcawl team had won the first round by 5 points!

Spurred on the four subsequent rounds were challenging, we all contributed in each round and the answer sheets went in. To wait for the results the tension was like being in an X factor competition. As scores for each round went in, we could see we were just ahead in points but another school was getting closer.

We handed in our answer sheet.....had we managed it?..... YES!

Our score total score was 85 points, we had won the local round and would now go on to the regional finals in December.

We celebrated by congratulating one another with a high five and then went to shake hands with the other quiz teams. We had our photos taken and were given a certificate, pen set and a trophy.

Mr. Davies did a great job in keeping us on track and we all thanked him.

We came back to school and continued celebrating in the events on Children in Need day and looked forward to the regional round, wish us luck!

Quiz Team - Mitchell Davies, Layla Millar, Chloe Green and Robert Fenton.

Regional Finals

17/12/12

We were ready to go at 9:05 to travel to the Bridgend Police Headquarters for the Regional Round of the yearly Crime Prevention Quiz.

This time the stakes were even higher because we were representing the region of Bridgend. No pressure then!

We had studied hard and become experts in our fields, but we also had to learn the 'Highway Code' and 'How to stay safe online'. We did have another person in our team: Laurence Hunt from 8AR, who would help us out on the Health Challenge Wales and Highway Code.

The quiz began and the first round was on the topic of Drugs, Alcohol and Volatile Substances. The questions were harder this time but we managed to score a total of 18 points. We were in second place!

The second round was Fire Facts (how to keep safe in our community). We tried hard and came away with 14 points, keeping us in second place.

The next four rounds consisted of the observation round, Health Challenge Wales, Ages in Law and How to stay safe when online.

We nervously waited for the results, and we could see that we were in the top three for most of the rounds. The final score came out. Had we won?

No! We were very close but came in a good position of fourth with 80 points. There were 8 teams so we were in the top four.

We were presented with a certificate and a £5 Gift Card from Amazon for participating. We also had our photos taken.

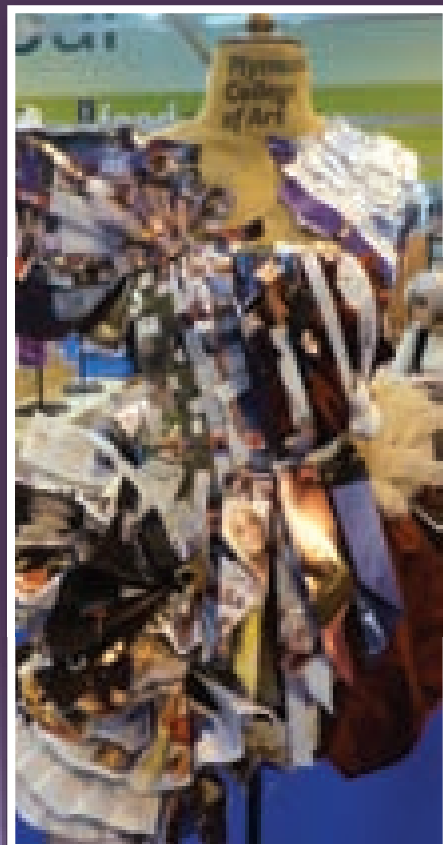
Clothes Show 2013

Once more we set off to the Birmingham NEC for our visit to the clothes Show. Fifty pupils and two members of staff were present this year, even some of our Textiles consortium pupils came with us.

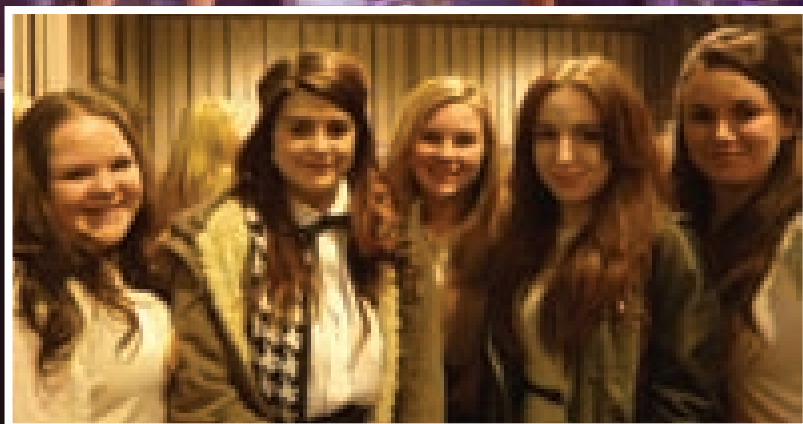
We had a good look at the Fashion College displays to give us some new ideas and we were able to speak to some students to get a real insight into college life. One college had done a recycling project which was great for the

GCSE Textiles pupils; one of their controlled assessment test questions was to develop an outfit for a teenager using recycled products.

The visit ended with watching the incredible catwalk show – there were twelve models and twelve dancers and they were fantastic. Lots of young men kept waving and blowing kisses at our girls, who were probably making more noise than the rest of the 2000 girls in the audience!



“The visit ended with watching the incredible catwalk show – there were twelve models and twelve dancers and they were fantastic”





Food & Technology Restaurant Year 9



On the 6th December, a group of Year 9 pupils put together a three course meal which we served to our parents and teachers. We had been coming in at lunch times for a couple of weeks to prepare the butternut squash soup, turkey curry and puff pastry plait which we then cooked on the night and served to our guests.

It was like working in a real restaurant. This experience was a great way to bring together all the skills we've learnt through the years so a great big thank you to Mrs Thelwell-Davies, Miss Lambert, Mrs Thompson and Miss Thomas.



The school heat of the Future Chef competition, run by Springboard, was very exciting. Pupils from all parts of the school took part and produced very good meals. The day after the school heat was when I was told that I would be put through to the local heat at Neath College.

As I prepared to start cooking on the morning of November 12th, the atmosphere in the professional kitchen became more exciting. When it came to 10 am, the clock started and I began to cook the main course and dessert.

Time was up and the cooking stopped. We waited anxiously outside as the judges tasted our carefully crafted meals. Finally, it was time to find out

what the result was. Unfortunately, I didn't go through to the next round. My pork dish with sauce and fried rice, served with a custard tart as a dessert, was good, as were all the other chefs' dishes, but it wasn't the best dish on the day.

If you didn't participate this year and you like cooking, I would definitely recommend taking part in the Future Chef Competition next year, as you have a chance to go and cook in London and become the national champion. If you are thinking of taking Hospitality and Catering for GCSE then it is an amazing opportunity to work in the kitchen.

Lincoln Chung 9UM

Future Chef

Competition



The Design Technology department is participating in an exciting competition which could ultimately result in one of our pupils being crowned Future Chef 2013.

Future Chef is a national cooking competition which helps young people aged 12-16 to learn to cook. It inspires them to explore food and cooking as a life skill by developing their culinary talent and informing them about entry routes into the hospitality industry.

There are four stages of the Future Chef programme, culminating in the National Final in London in March 2013.

On Thursday 25th October the first stage of the competition was to cook a hot main meal for two people within an hour and to a budget of up to £5.00. This was judged by Mrs Thelwell-Davies and Mrs

Thompson. Eighteen young chefs from Years 7-10 took part in an energetic, exciting hour. Dishes ranged from spaghetti carbonara to salmon cooked in coconut milk with fragrant rice.

The winner of the school heat was Lik Kan Chung in Year 9; he cooked a tasty battered chicken in sweet and sour sauce with egg fried rice. Lik Kan will now start preparing for the local heats, fighting it out against pupils from other schools around the Bridgend area. Lik Kan's challenge will be to prepare and cook a hot main course and a hot or cold dessert for two people within a budget of up to £7.00.

I would like to congratulate all pupils who entered especially the winner Lik Kan Chung and Amaan Abbas the runner up.

Mrs H Thelwell-Davies, Technology Dept

The winner of the school heat was Lik Kan Chung in Year 9



Design & Technology Exhibition Awards

'The evening was enjoyed by all with many parents saying how great it was to meet the staff and see the pupil's work'

We held an Awards Evening on 10th October 2012 at the school. Pupils from all classes and years were nominated for having the best project in their class for work produced in the last academic year. The 1st place pupils received a trophy, and the other nominees received certificates to celebrate their achievement. Mr Slade gave out the awards with the different year groups being introduced by the staff of the Technology Department.

The Exhibition opened at 6pm with the Award Ceremony planned for 7pm, but we were so well supported by the pupil's parents, we had to do the Year 7 awards early and ask them to look at the displays in the class rooms to allow the parents of the older pupils to sit down! The evening was enjoyed by all with many parents saying how great it was to meet the staff and see the pupil's work.

Year 7 Food & Textiles Winners – 1st Emily Stradling, 2nd Jenna Blake, 3rd Katie Shears

Year 7 Product Design Winners – 1st Mitchell Davies, 2nd Jordan Price, 3rd Ioan Clatworthy

Also nominated - Georgia Baglow, Kaisha Clee, Lauren Evans, Anou Yader, Tian John, Layla Millar, Jodie Poacher, Maksym Randall, James Evans-Jones, Rhiannon Mainwaring, Anna Whitstance, Katie Hill, Isabel Humphries, Patrick Matthew, Olivia Lewis, Caitlin Toy

Year 8 Food & Textiles Winners – 1st Megan Cobb, 2nd Nia Powell, 3rd Sarah Spencer

Year 8 Product Design Winners – 1st Lik Chung, 2nd Daniel Sung, 3rd Hannah Beesley

Also nominated Lydia Pickett, Trystan Wynn Davies, Elen Morris, Maddy Dawson, Charlotte Williams, Tia Robbins, Jonathon Grossey, Bethan Rees, Catherine Chick, Lauren Ellis-Stretch, Lowri Howells, Phoebe Howells, Sam Jones, Imogen Tandy, Lauren Pugh, Chelsie Reese, Morgan Carter, Isobel Overton, Grace Hadley, Elle Morey, Sarah Williams

Year 9 Food & Textiles Winners - 1st Ayesha Callaghan, 2nd Rachel Jones, 3rd Ben Thomas

Year 9 Product Design Winners – 1st Eve Lugg, 2nd Gethin Phillips, 3rd Elliot William

Also nominated - Laura Ashton, Abi Gallafant, Laura Marlow, Lydia Shallish, Ffion Wilkins, Erin Brown, Tabitha Ellams, Shermey Baiju, Ben Cannon, Ross Walters, Jess Sutton, Molly Thackery, Rachel Jones, Megan Goldberger, Katie Lloyd, Taylor Brooks, Sarah Owens, Georgina Morley, Kerys Hughes, Lois Roberts, Jess Sadd, George Croft, India Davidson, Angharad John

Year 10 Outstanding Students - Resistant Materials – Becky Wardman, Textiles Georgia Budding. Also nominated: Alex Lloyd, Lewis Gunning, Lois Hadley, Elli Rosser Stansford, Tom Parsons, Mali Powell, Tom Matthews, Elen Azzopardi

Year 11 GCSE Students of the Year – Resistant Materials - Catrin Ellams, Textiles - Lucy Pugh-Bevan, Product Design - Dylan Squires, Child Development - Rachel Lewis

Year 12 AS Level – Student of the Year - Lois Rossini, also nominated Kieran Richards, Kyle Richards

Year 13 - Jess Powell



Stem Wind Turbines 2013

We were also lucky to have another Stem Cymru event. Huw Hall & Alan Rolls came into school on 4th & 5th December to work with Year 9 pupils on a sustainable energy project. The pupils designed and made wind turbines. Each one was tested using an electric fan and a multimeter to see which produced the most power. We found the winners from X Band and the winners from Y Band who then competed for the title of overall champion.



The winners were as follows:

Day 1 – Y Band 1st Dan Hughes & Liam Crockett 6.65w

2nd Grace Hadley, Britany Key & Maisie Williams 3.25w

Day 2 – X Band 1st Ollie Mullins, Ben Lacey & Andrew Lynn 5.5w

2nd Bethan Rees, Catherine Chick, Alex Hunt 2.68w

Overall Champions Dan Hughes & Liam Crockett 6.97w

Johnson & Johnson 'Stem' visit to Porthcawl



The Year 10 GCSE Textiles Technology pupils took part in the launch of a practical manufacturing workshop hosted by Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Pencoed, who are part of the Johnson & Johnson Group. The event took place on Monday 17th December 2012. It was part of an initiative by Stemnet Cymru to encourage businesses into education. The pupils worked in a mocked up factory line to produce stickle brick models, which had to be exact or they were sent back by the customers - Mark Sibley & Martin King. The pupils went from standing back and watching to shouting for parts in a matter of minutes, competing to see which team could produce the most correct models in the fastest time.

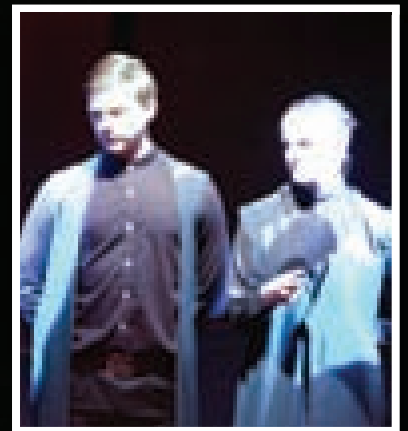
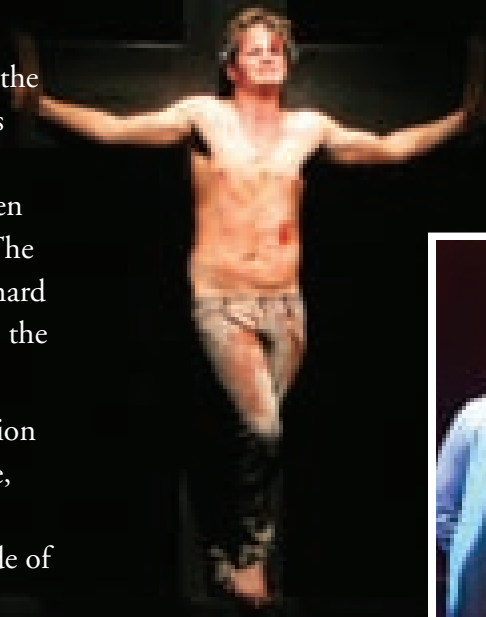
The pupils' comments ranged from: **Stressful!**
Interesting! Was really fun, thanks! **Awesome!**
Good laugh!



Jesus Christ Superstar

Once again the time came for the annual school show, and this year a different and controversial show was chosen and adapted to fit the school's audience. The pupils and members of staff worked very hard this year to bring Jesus Christ Superstar to the Porthcawl audiences.

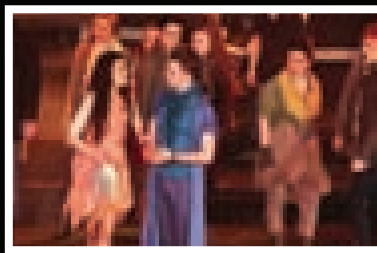
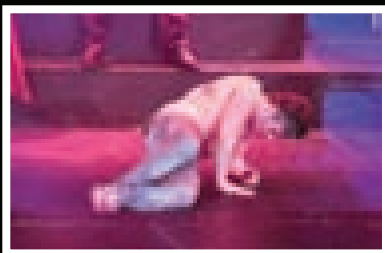
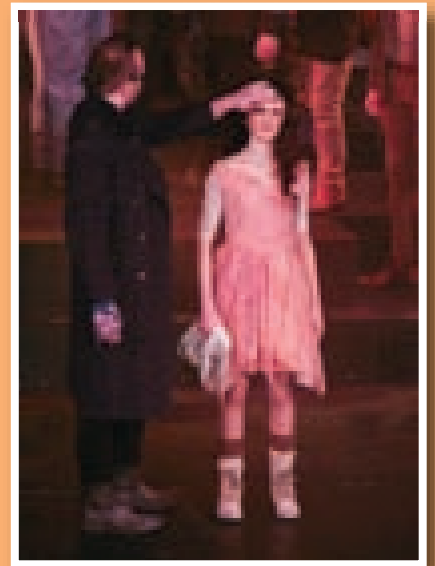
Miss Hardwick who directed this production worked all the cast and chorus to the bone, and newly appointed Head of Performing Arts, Miss Mayo thrived in the musical side of the show. The classy sets, built bigger and better every year, were brought to us by the dream builder himself Mr Smith (with the assistance of the BTEC).





“It was a pleasure to perform at a high standard with such talented people for my last school show”

Kieran Bluck (Herod)



The musical is about the story leading up to the death of Jesus. We see the hate and jealousy of Judas and the Priests as they send the Jewish messiah to the Roman leader Pilate. He is then sent to King Herod where a cheap song and dance doesn't get Jesus to talk, so he sends him back to Pilate to be prosecuted. Pilate sends him to his agonising death.

The final scene of the show gripped audiences and filled them with emotions of tears and grief as it shows Jesus' final moments on the cross, before he dies. The drama and the staging brought this moment to life and will stay with the cast, crew and audience for many years.

Miss Hardwick, the director of the show, created the dark figures to show the reasoning behind Judas actions. The idea was developed well, brought and justified the dark actions and thoughts that clouded Judas's mind.

The show was a massive success and a triumph that will just add to the endless shows and 'A' class standard of drama brought to us from Porthcawl Comprehensive School. We look forward to the next production the school presents.

Thanks to Malcolm Nugent for yet again providing us with fantastic photographs!

More photographs on next page 

Jesus Christ Superstar



"It was lots of fun, and we're really sad it's over." Katelyn Weaver & Ellie Morris

"Absolutely loved it! Can't wait for next year's." Jack Easterbrook

Leavers

Joe Wiltshire Smith
Natasja Bryant
Kieran Bluck
Richard Evans
Ryan Jenkins
Harvey Jones
Hazel Elstone
Abbie Owen
Joel Frank
Lucy Noden
Lewis Wilkins
Andy Lewis Jones
Beck Brown
Kate Ebdon



"Brilliant" – Ryan Jenkins (Judas)

Btec Performing Arts

technocamps

Technocamp Visit - ICT Dept (Year 9)

On the 6th-8th January 2013, the ICT department ran a free trip to Technocamps at the University of Glamorgan for year 9. The £6million Technocamps project – led by Swansea University in partnership with the Universities of Aberystwyth, Bangor and Glamorgan – has been created to develop those skills which will have a positive impact on a pupil's ability to better understand a wide range of topics within Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (the so-called STEM) subjects. Pupils took part in workshops and had the opportunity to gain a real insight into computational thinking, applied in a practical and fun way. The work of Technocamps supports and enhances the ICT and Computing curriculum taught in schools and colleges.

We travelled to the University in style with a luxury coach provided from Edward's coaches with leather seats etc. When we were dropped off our teacher took us on a mini hike through the campus up many hills until we reached the ICT room which was based in the Students Union building.

On arrival we were all given free pen drives containing resources and free software. During our first break we were provided with free drinks.

Pupils received introductory tutorials in a number of software programs including programate, Greenfoot which incorporates Java programming and GameMaker. Java is the technology that is involved with many of the latest mobile phones on the market.

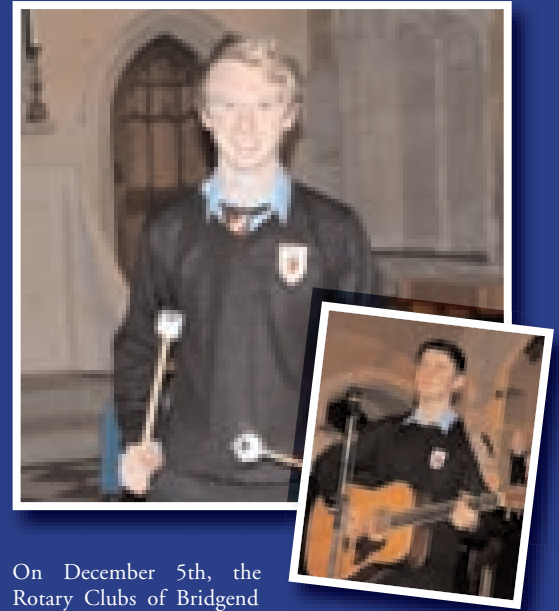
For lunch we were taken to the relaxed area of the Student Union. There were pool tables, vending machines and wheelie chairs/stools which many of the boys were addicted to.

Lessons were learnt when George Hurry challenged Mr. Pucella to a game of pool. A confident George setup the table in a match best of 3. Unfortunately, George was taught another lesson in how to play pool as Mr. Pucella swept him away 2-0. Lewis McQueen was quietly studying the match and he also challenged Mr. Pucella. Unfortunately Lewis was taught a lesson in tactics and also crumbled under the pressure.

In the afternoon pupils received a careers talk and were taken on a tour of the university where they had an opportunity to visit some of the facilities e.g. sports facilities, departments, food halls, lecture theatres etc. Tyler Williams was watching some of the skills demonstrated by students in the sports hall and was quite happy to have a chat. Tyler then demonstrated his own belly dancing skills which was very entertaining!

Pupils had the opportunity of sitting in a lecture theatre and were shown demonstrations of new Leap Motion technology and a video of Google's first self-drive car which in the future will help people who are blind.

The Music Department and the Rotary Club of PORTHCAWL



On December 5th, the Rotary Clubs of Bridgend and Porthcawl held the Rotary Young Musician competition at All Saints Church, Porthcawl.

The four very talented musicians performed a contrasting programme of music to an appreciative audience. The 10-minute interval became 20 minutes, and the audience wondered if the adjudicators would ever come to a decision.

Eventually, chairman of adjudicators, Aldon Rees, delivered the result and said how difficult a task the adjudicators had been given. He praised the quality and accomplishment of the four competitors, each of whom could have been a worthy winner.

Daniel Pugh-Bevan was awarded first place for his performance on the Pipe Organ. Other Porthcawl pupils who entered were Rhianwen Keirl and Hee Chan Kang.

Following his success, Daniel was invited to perform in the concert the following evening which the Lower School Choir had also been invited to attend. The choir was heavily praised for their performance of two works and it was excellent to see such a strong mix of voices in a choir that is ever growing in both strength and number.



All pupils enjoyed the day and gave positive feedback.

"I found it valuable to have information on jobs that are accessible if I study ICT/Computing". *Arran Pearce 9CL*

"I found having an introduction to Java with Greenfoot software interesting". *Lewis McQueen 9OW*

"I was amazed with the range of courses you can study at University e.g. Ethical Hacking". *Berry Williams 9CL*

"I thought Google's Self-Drive Car was the best part of the day". *Maisie Williams 9CL*

"I enjoyed Java". *Alex Taylor 9CL*

"It was useful to have an insight into what Uni life is like". *Megan Perrin 9HP*

"It was good to see campus life". *Lorcan Breheny 9CL and Tyler Williams 9HP*

"I enjoyed finding out about Leap Motion technology". *George Hurry 9IE*

There will be opportunities for pupils to visit Technocamps again in the future to further improve their skills.

Mr. Pucella ICT Dept



ZOOLAB

On the 16th January the Year 7 science club had a treat and ZooLab came in. They brought with them knowledge of the rainforest and many animals including a corn snake, a giant African land snail, hissing cockroaches, a jumping tree frog and a scorpion (harmless I think!). They taught us about the many layers of the rainforest – the floor, the understory, the canopy, and the emergent layer – and the habitats of different animals. In all, we had lots of fun and had a go at holding whatever came around. We learnt some fantastic facts on each of the animals, for example, the giant African land snail is sensitive to vibrations and is the largest species of snail found on land and grows up to 20 cm in length!

By Amaan Abbas Year 7



BAFTA Children's Awards

On 25th November, I went to London to attend the BAFTA Children's Awards as a nominee for the BAFTA Young Game Designer's award. I created the game for my DiDA course, and Mrs. Christopher entered it for me. I was firstly informed that my game was on the shortlist, and then about a week later I was told it was in the top 3. The BAFTA people arranged train tickets, tube tickets and a hotel booking.

The train to Paddington was delayed, so we had to bolt it to the hotel to get changed and had about half an hour before the cars arrived to take us to the red carpet. When we arrived at the Hilton, we walked down the red carpet and had our photos taken with celebrities. Next came the reception, where we had champagne, orange juice and posh crisps.

The ceremony itself was great fun and I met lots of celebrities including: Tyger Drew-Honey, Anna Shaffer, David Jason, Jedward 1, Jedward 2 and the cast of Horrible Histories. After the ceremony, an army of waiters descended on the ballroom and we all had a lavish meal. The executive cars then took us back to our hotel by Hyde Park.

The next day we were given tube passes and had a look around Westminster, before returning home.

Unfortunately, I didn't come first, but I had a great experience and met a load of famous people. It is an annual event and I would strongly recommend that anyone with a game enter.

Jack Bridger (Year 11)

Four Counties Youth Orchestra



On the 5th of January, following the first of four residential courses in the 2013 season, the Four Counties Youth Orchestra performed in Cardiff City Hall. In a programme including Tchaikovsky's "Suite from the Nutcracker Ballet", Borodin's "Polovtsian Dances from the opera Prince Igor", Highlights from Sweeney Todd, Jacob's Original Suite, James Bond Highlights and the Bach Double Violin Concerto the orchestra entertained an audience of parents, old members, school-teachers and local governors. The talent of Porthcawl Comprehensive School was reflected in the number of pupils that hold positions in this orchestra, making up 15% of the overall number of players.

App Fantastic



On the 18th & 19th July, pupils from the Year 12 IT class went on an iOS course in Swansea University to have a chance of designing and programming their own mobile applications. For those who aren't literate in technology, iOS is the name of the software used on all apple devices; such as iphones & ipads – which we got to play around with!

When we got there, we were split up into teams of four and had the freedom to make anything our imagination let us.

Our team decided to make a game involving falling ice creams and a penguin that had to dodge them – yes it sounds silly, but it made for a really enjoyable game aimed at younger children. During our time there, we were spoilt with Domino's pizzas and regular trips to Starbucks to keep us going. It was surprisingly a lot of hard work, but we gained a lot from it and had the incentive of having the game we made put onto the Apple "App Store".

From a personal level, I learnt a lot during the experience, including everything that goes into the creation of applications, from the design and audio contained to the actual programming. I know I can't be the only one, as when the majority of the pupils who attended were asked if they would want to attend a similar course, they answered 'yes'. This has made me think about a career in computer games programming – especially after having a chance to talk to the Computer Science graduates during this experience.

Callum Hawker



Ex-pupils Elizabeth Hunt (Clarinet), Lucy Millership (Bassoon) Peter Greenwood (Tuba) and Sam Woodford (Clarinet)

Year 13 pupils Daniel Pugh-Bevan (Bassoon/Celeste) and Lucy Noden (Violin).

Year 12 pupil, Lucy Pugh-Bevan (Flute)

Year 11 pupils Robert Young (Trumpet), Harriet Maine (Violin) and Thomas Rees (Tenor Saxophone)

Year 9 pupils Lowri Howell (Flute), Alex Hunt (Clarinet), Lauren Pugh (Clarinet), Lydia Pickett (Cello)

Year 8 pupil Rhianwen Keirl (Violin).

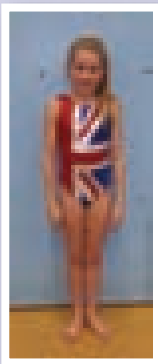


Carol Service

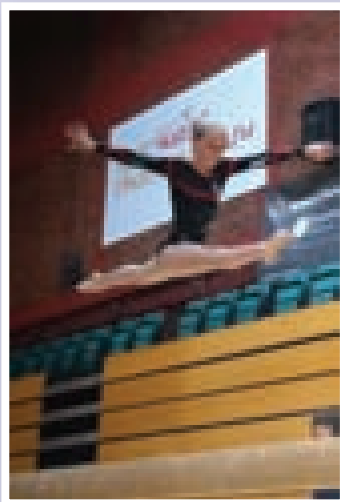
Following tradition the school pulled out all the stops (literally, the organ was used!) for the annual Carol Service in All Saints' Church. All ensembles were showcased on the night and the dedication of the tutors and pupils after months of preparation accumulated into a shimmering success. Talent aside, the camaraderie that comes with playing or singing in a musical ensemble was evident in the tight and accurate performing, and the night suggested the festive peace and tranquillity of Christmas as the young co-operated with the old(er) staff to make outstanding music. It was too the final Carol Service for Mr Dykes, and indeed his last address as headteacher to the school. He will be greatly missed. The school extends its thanks to the Rector, Churchwardens, and congregation for the use of such a beautiful church, and to all staff that nurture talent within the school.

Dan Pugh-Bevan

GYMNASTICS



On 6th February, the Porthcawl "A" and "B" Gymnastic Teams travelled to Merthyr Tydfil to compete in the Mid Glamorgan under 14's Tumble and Vault Championships. Although both teams were only in Year 7, they put on a mature performance with the "A" Team being named Mid Glamorgan Champions and the "B" Team finishing in fifth place. Individually, Nia Eales finished in second place and Steff Chilcott fourth. Both girls go on to represent the school and Mid Glamorgan in the forthcoming Welsh Finals on 4th March in Cardiff.



Nia was selected for the Welsh Gymnastics Squad when she was six as part of Welsh Development. In September this year she was selected as a member of the Welsh Preparation Squad training five times a week. Last year she was a member of the Welsh Team which came first in the British Grades finals, coming fourth herself. This weekend she qualified as part of the same Welsh Team and will be competing in the British finals in Birmingham on 20th April.

PE DEPARTMENT

CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

In October Lucy Dennis raced to victory again in the South Wales Regional Cross Country Championships held in Cardiff. Well done Lucy! Another inspiring and convincing performance. Lucy was also selected to run in the Welsh Inter-Schools competition held in Brecon on 17th November, she raced in the U13 category and against some girls who were a year older than her. Yet again, Lucy came first with another outstanding run. There seems to be no stopping her at the moment. Lucy has now been selected to represent South Wales in Builth Wells on 8th December. We wish her every success.

Congratulations also go to Harry Jenkins, Year 11, who has also been selected to represent South Wales in Builth Wells. Good luck Harry.

WOMEN'S RUGBY

Congratulations to Robyn Wilkins who has been selected to play for the Women's Ospreys Rugby Squad.

CARDIFF HALF MARATHON

Congratulations to Lora Roberts, Year 13, who not only completed the Cardiff Half Marathon but also managed to come 3rd in the Women's U23 category and then admitted she'd done no training!! Oh! To be young and fit!

Miss H Davies PE Dept

ICO WORLD KICKBOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Many congratulations to Jordan Williams (Year 11) who was awarded a silver medal at the ICO World Kickboxing Championships held in Paris on 15th-19th November.

Jordan, who took up kickboxing a mere nine months ago, is a member of the WKU Bridgend Warriors team who also represented Wales.

Jordan competed in the under 65 kg division for competitors aged under 17. After facing 3rd, 2nd and normal black belt opponents he went on to win the silver medal in the continuous category - ranking him 2nd in the world! This is an amazing achievement having taken up the sport so recently and having no prior experience of martial arts.

Jordan's mum thanked the school for supporting and helping Jordan in his fundraising efforts for the trip to Paris and for the school's donation.

We wish Jordan every success for the future and feel sure that with his undoubted talent he will continue to astound us!

Mrs H K Wardman



More X Country News

Congratulations to the following pupils who were selected to represent the Glamorgan Valleys team in the McCain Cross Country Challenge on 20th January. It was a freezing cold day, the ground was snow-covered and running conditions were far from easy! Teams from all over Britain entered this event and the competition was beyond what most of these youngsters had previously encountered.

As ever, all athletes were a credit to the school, giving their all in very difficult conditions.

James Lampard	Yr 7	Lucy Dennis	Yr 7
Leah Thomas	Yr 10	Ethan Newberry	Yr 11
Owen Leary	Yr 11		

Particular congratulations must go, yet again to Lucy Dennis who achieved a very creditable third place. Lucy has also now been selected to represent South Wales in the UK Inter Counties Cross Country Championships in Birmingham on 9th March. We wish her every success in this next race.

Miss H Davies P E Dept

RUGBY NEWS

Robyn Wilkins (Yr 13) rugby success continues to go from strength to strength. She has recently been selected to join the Women's Welsh Regional Squad. In effect this is a talent identification squad and Robyn is hoping that participation in this will lead to greater things for her playing career. We all wish her the very best of luck.

Miss H Davies P E Dept

Pupil Achievements

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Allie Young – Yr 11

U17 Wales Women's Football Squad

Lora Roberts – Yr 13

U18 County Hockey Squad. 3rd in Women's U23 category in Cardiff Half Marathon Oct 2012

Likkan Chung – Yr 9

Future Chef competitor

Isabel Humphries – Yr 8

Promoted to 2nd Degree Black Belt E-Dan – youngest person ever to hold this rank in Tang Soo Do Federation. 1st, 2nd and 3rd places respectively in 'Weapons Forms', 'Traditional Forms' and 'Sparring' at Tang Soo Do NW Open Championship (Oct 2012)

Adam Jenkins – Yr 10

Tang Soo Do NW Open Championship-2nd & 3rd places in Traditional Forms & Sparring. Red Belt Boys 14-15 yrs (Oct 12)

Hannah Jenkins – Yr 8

Tang Soo Do NW Open Championship-3rd place in Sparring. Red Belt Girls 12-13 yrs (Oct 12)

Jordan Williams – Yr 11

2nd in world at U65 kg U17 category at ICO World Cup KickBoxing Championships in Paris Nov 2012. Gold medal winner "continuous" and Silver medal winner "points" ICO English Open Kickboxing Championship, Birmingham (Feb 13)

Mitchell Davies, Robert Fenton, Chloe Green, Layla Millar – Yr 8

Winners of Crime Prevention Quiz at Bryngarw House – Nov 2012

Jack Bridger – Yr 11

Finalist-BAFTA Children's Awards Young Game Designer's Gong (1 of 3 shortlisted from the whole of the UK)

Joe Wiltshire-Smith – Yr 13

Best Lead Actor in short film "Walk or Fly" – IT'S MY SHOUT 10th Anniversary Awards Evening

Lucy Dennis – Yr 7

1st place (Yrs 7 & 8) at Welsh Interschools X-Country, Brecon. Selected for S. Wales X-Country team. Welsh Schools X Country Champion (representing Glamorgan Valleys) Brecon (Feb 2013)

Imogen Kent – Yr 11

Junior Welsh Archery Training Squad & member of Junior Welsh Archery team competing in National Indoor Championships, Coventry Dec 2012

Nia Eales – Yr 7

Welsh Intermediate 11-12 Individual Tumbling Champion and Welsh Team member champion

George Beale – Yr 10, Rhodri Booth – Yr 13, Thomas Furneaux – Yr 12, Cameron Morris – Yr 10, Jacob Prosser – Yr 13, Benjamin Vance-Daniel – Yr 13

Junior Glamorgan Golf Champions Team

Robyn Wilkins – Yr 13

Osprey's Women's Rugby Squad (Seniors)

Harry Jenkins – Yr 11

Selected for SW X Country team (Dec 2012)

Stephany Chilcott – Yr 7

Silver medallist Welsh Improvers 11-12 Tumbling and Welsh team member

Felicity Williamson-Sarll – Yr 10

Lions' Fun Run Women's U20 winner (Dec 2012)

Laura Ashton – Yr 10

Selected to represent Swim Wales in Switzerland-May 2013

Deri Edwards – Yr 10

PADI – Open Water Diver & Scuba Diver awards and SLSA Wales – Junior Surf Lifesaver & Pool Lifesaver awards

Rhianwen Keirl – Yr 8

Member of National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain

Kira Buckland – Yr 10

Selected as a dancer for the 'Babes in the Wood' pantomime at the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot – Jan 2013

Brandon Cooper – Yr 8

Member of Swansea AFC Football Academy

Berry Williams – Yr 9

Distinction in Electric Guitar Grade 2 and UWLQ Level 1 Award in Graded Examination Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)

Daniel Pugh-Bevan – Yr 13

1st Place in Rotary Clubs of Bridgend and Porthcawl Young Musician Competition

Michael Thomas – Yr 9

Publication of book "Roary & Sparkle"

Matthew Taylor – Yr 11

Selected to attend Paragliding Course in Crickhowell with aim of achieving Elementary Pilot Certificate – Feb 2013

Lora Roberts – Yr 13

Selected as member of U18 South Wales Hockey Squad-Feb 2013

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

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

If so, please contact Mrs Wardman at school (Tel:774193) to let her know.

