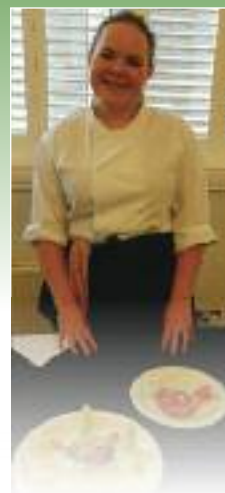


Welcome to the second edition of the **Porthcawl Post** for the school year 2013-2014



Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Spring 2014



Headteacher's Address

May I commence by wishing all associated with our school a rather belated happy new year. Since my last article, we have had several very noteworthy events to share with everyone.

Towards the end of last term, we enjoyed our annual Charities' Week, culminating in the Children in Need Day. The 'Head Team' organised our events and did a magnificent job as our school raised £7700 for charity. As always, the money raised on the Friday went to Children in Need, with the rest of the week's monies being donated to local good causes. Good causes to benefit this year included RNLI, Sandville Centre, Y Bont, Ty Hafan, KPC, Crossroads and the Diabetics Ward at the Princess of Wales Hospital. Thus it is particularly rewarding to note how the efforts of our young people are directly benefiting our community. Young people are often much maligned in society, so it is great to be able to note this massive contribution they have made to the community.

The Christmas Term ended with our traditional Carol Service, held at 'All Saints'. This was an outstanding event, and our thanks go to the organising committee under the guidance of Mrs V Hunt. The term did end with some disappointing news as the national banding of schools was awarded and our school was placed in Band 3. Naturally, all at our school were upset and very frustrated by this, and I need to explain why. Porthcawl Comprehensive School is a high performing school,

our level 2 inclusive score, (5 A* - C grades including English and Maths), for Key Stage IV is 69.2%, the best in Bridgend County Borough Council, and this is the issue. The banding mechanism makes use of the concept of 'relative progress', which is how schools perform year on year. It is difficult to improve a very high level 2 inclusive score by a large margin. Schools with much lower scores can improve by several points; they remain well below our school, but because of 'relative progress' end up with a better banding score. I can assure you that all at the school are determined to improve performance and a whole raft of measures have been developed to help the students maximise their performance.

Currently the school faces a number of quite stern challenges, top slicing of funding for nursery provision, a shortfall in funding for Post 16, the proposed Cornelly catchment boundary changes and the general uncertainty over the budget. There were public consultations over the nursery and catchment boundary changes, and I do hope as many of you as possible participated so our voice was heard. The proposed boundary change may affect pupils coming to our school. Any change will negatively impact upon our school, so I have communicated the school's view to the Local Authority on this matter.

As you would expect, site security and the safety of your children has the highest priority for all at our school. During our recent Estyn Inspection it was pointed out that the short cut from Severn Road to Park Avenue

posed a significant threat to the safety of the children at our school. The HMI leading the Inspection made it quite clear that the school needed to remove the threat posed by this path. I have taken advice from the Planning Department who have informed me that the path is not, and never was a public right of way. I have discussed the threat to pupil safety with the Governing Body and we have decided to increase the security of the site. Consequently, new fences and gates will be erected to provide a safer school for the children. I appreciate the securing of the site will be contentious with some of our neighbours. However, I feel strongly that the security of the site and safety of our children has a higher priority over a short cut to town. Having had a directive from the Estyn Inspectorate, it would be most negligent of me not to act and improve the security of the children.

I have had to address some rather serious issues in the last few paragraphs, so will end with some good news. The school's production of 'Guys and Dolls' was an outstanding success, and played to full houses for four nights. The standards of performance on stage were exceptional and a special mention to our orchestra who handled a difficult score with a maturity beyond their years. The annual production encapsulates all that is so good about our school. The team work, the effort, the commitment and enjoyment sum up all that is best about our students and their teachers. So, very well done and a most sincere thanks to all involved.

A J Slade Headteacher

Bubble Football



Football and zorbing united!

On Sunday 10th November, two Sixth Form teams, (Sacre Bleu & 50 Shades of Allen), along with Mr Pucella's team took part in the first ever Ty Hafan 5-a-side Bubble Football Tournament. It was held at the Cardiff City House of Sport, and had all the excitement of a regular 5-a-side tournament, with the added fun of zorbing body bubbles! This was the first event of its kind in Wales and 32 teams took part.

The rules were simple – bounce off your team mates to score goals and aim to be crowned Ty Hafan Bubble Football 5-a-side Champions.

Sacre Bleu took an early blow with Tom Richardson having to retire after 10 seconds of bubble football action. Unfortunately Mr Pucella's team and Sacre Bleu were knocked out in the group stages. Mr Pucella did manage to somehow score a goal from the half way line, and Joe Downes was the 'Luis Suarez of Bubble Football' being the top goal scorer, and scored in every game! However, despite being knocked around like a rag doll, 50 Shades of Allen, captained by Josh Bell 6AP, progressed to the knock out stages and were very unlucky to lose in sudden death penalties in the Quarter Finals.

It was a fantastic day, and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Well done to team 'Flying Pigs' for winning the tournament and walking away with the trophy.

Well done to Joe Downes, Josh Bell, Arran Martin, Robert Ellis, Jack Power, Tom Richardson, Matthew Parker and Alex Griffiths.



UDO Valleys Streetdance

The UDO Valleys Streetdance Championships were held in Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre on Sunday 2nd February 2014.

Varsity Streetdance Crew from Emotive Dance School came 1st, beating 6 teams in the Under 14 category. Porthcawl Comprehensive pupils in the crew are: Elleshia Browning 9CJ, Hannah Worth 9AR and Amelia Kirkby 9KH.



Porthcawl Christmas Tree Festival - December 2013

The Rotary Club of Porthcawl, in conjunction with All Saints' Church in Victoria Avenue, held their Annual Christmas Tree Festival at the church. A host of illuminated Christmas trees were displayed, and had been provided and decorated by the many organisations of the town. When all the trees were lit up, it created a wonderfully atmospheric feeling within the church. There are not many events where people of all ages can take part, from school pupils to retirement groups, making this a very special event at Christmas time. This year our Christmas tree was made by the Year 10 and Year 11 pupils in the Engineering classes.



They prepared the recycled materials for this year's tree, using discarded tubes which were cut into sections to create the distinctive Christmas tree.

The Junior Choir and four of our Year 10 GCSE Music pupils took part in the service, the Junior Choir giving a beautiful rendition of the famous 'Do You Hear What I Hear' Christmas favourite, in two part harmony. The pupils were very excited to perform this piece for the first time and represented the school brilliantly. They sang with enthusiasm and clarity, with big smiles on their faces. The Music staff were very proud of them.

Lauren Pugh, Katie Davies, Alexandra Hunt and Lowri Howell performed very well as a Wind Quartet prepared especially for the event. They performed two pieces flawlessly and displayed such professionalism for a young ensemble. Alexandra, having achieved 'First Place' in the previous evening's Rotary Club Competition,

YEAR 13 Compact Award Ceremony

On Tuesday 12th November 2013, 90 Year 13 pupils attended a ceremony at the Grand Pavilion in order to receive their Bridgend Post 16 Compact Certificate. This is an annual event for pupils, who during Year 12 have managed to attain a series of goals that result in their attaining this well respected award. Some of the goals include very good attendance and good progress made in school.

Porthcawl pupils were also joined at the ceremony by students from other local comprehensive schools. They received the award from the keynote speaker, Professor Emeritus Danny Saunders OBE.

Following the ceremony, a number of dignitaries, including the Mayor, Professor Danny Saunders, Heads of Sixth Form and members of the 14 - 19 Network, attended a buffet lunch at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. A number of compact graduates were also invited from each school.

The whole morning proved to be a great success and congratulations should go to all our pupils who managed to attain this Compact Certificate!

Mr J Buckley Head of Year 13

then went on to perform a Clarinet solo, delighting the audience with a wonderfully confident performance of a Christmas Jazz arrangement by Christopher Norton.

The pupils received great feedback from audience members and it was a pleasure to take such lovely pupils to the event.

Technology and Music Departments



7CW ADOPT A SNOW LEOPARD!



This year, 7CW are trying to raise money for a number of charities. We have already raised enough money to adopt a snow leopard from WWF for the entire year. We are trying to raise more and will attempt to adopt another animal. The previous CW form bought two goats from Oxfam. This year we want to do something a bit different. We have been collecting spare change every week from our form class. They have been fantastic!

We are thinking about adopting a tiger next or maybe a jaguar... let's wait and see!

Iwan Richards Year 7

AS Update

The AS Department is running fun sporting activities every Monday lunchtime in the Gym. If you would like to find out more, come along to the Gym and meet us at 12.45pm one Monday.

We are also soon to be starting an AS newsletter. If any pupils would like to get involved, please speak to Miss Jones or one of the AS staff.

Computing UPDATE

On the 16th of December a group of 10 Computing students attended Caerleon University for a Computing Conference organised by Technocamps. While we were at Caerleon we had multiple talks from experts who included Stuart Arthur, who is the owner of Box UK. Rebecca Jones also talked to us about applying to university, and the things to consider before applying. We also had talks from Ronan Miles who works at the BT Data Centre and Aimee Bateman about personal branding. During the day we had workshops where we could choose from a range of activities such as Lego Robots, Build your own computer, Greenfoot and Minecraft & Python.

As a group we decided that we would go to the workshop, 'Build your own computer', where we had to take the computer apart and put it back together again, while understanding what each of the parts do and their sizes. We also went to 'Lego Robots' where we programmed robots to do whatever we wanted. It's safe to say that we all thoroughly enjoyed the activities put on by Technocamps.

Coming back from the University and learning more about Technocamps, we have decided that we will organise a Technocamp after school for an hour, for younger pupils where they will be able to learn more about programming.

Hannah Weaver Year 12



Digital Champions

On Friday the 6th of December Junior Digital Champion 2013 was awarded to Matthew Barnard, by Carwyn Jones AM, for his outstanding contribution to the community in the area of Digital Inclusion.

Volunteers from Porthcawl Comprehensive School, including Yuri Roberts, Bethany Cummings, Nathan Williams, Tom Richardson, Hannah Weaver, Alex Edwards, Tom Sheppard, John Stevens and Matthew Wood, have been working as Digital Champions for the past three years in partnership with Lakeview Retirement housing and Creation Development.

The Digital Inclusion project aims to teach a wide range of people how to get on-line and make the most of the internet.

To find out more about the project go to Get Bridgend Online at <http://www.getbonline.co.uk/>

Senior Maths Challenge REPORT November 2013

Back in November 2013, 18, A level Maths students sat the Senior Maths Challenge, a very tough challenge set by the University of Leeds. The questions are problem solving questions at a level comparable with A level standard.

Pupils from Year 12 did exceptionally well, and a big well done to all those that gave this a try. The UKMT Leeds award certificates to the top 60% of students. Nationally there were 104,360 entries for this challenge so it is a very good achievement to receive a certificate.

The certificates go to the following Year 12 pupils;

Best in School/Best in Year and Silver Certificate

JACK BRIDGER YEAR 12

Bronze Certificates were awarded to

DANIEL DONNELLY

CHRIS BLAKE

JACK WAY

HARRIET REES

How would you get on with these?

Example Questions

1) Little John claims that he is 2m 8cm and 3mm tall. What is his height in metres?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A. 2.83m | B. 2.803m |
| C. 2.083m | D. 2.0803m |
| E. 2.0083m | |

2) Rebecca went swimming yesterday. After a while she had covered one fifth of her intended distance. After swimming six more lengths of the pool, she had covered one quarter of her intended distance. How many lengths of the pool did she intend to complete?

- | | | |
|--------|--------|-------|
| A. 40 | B. 72 | C. 80 |
| D. 100 | E. 120 | |

3) In a 'ninety nine' shop all items cost a number of pounds and 99 pence. Susanna spent £65.76. How many items did she buy?

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| A. 23 | B. 24 | C. 65 |
| D. 66 | E. 76 | |

Maths Pop Quiz at University of South Wales

Some of our Year 13 A level Maths students organised themselves into two teams and entered themselves into the quiz run by the Mathematics faculty at the University of South Wales. Dragging Miss Pugh along with them for the afternoon, we all headed for the students Union at Pontypridd for lots of puzzling and mind bending maths problems. Supported by free soft drinks and sweets all afternoon, we all had a good time although by the end of the afternoon were completely mentally exhausted.

A big well done to Jennifer Sham and Rachel Battrick for their organisation and to the rest of the teams, Jamie Boardman, Josh Wallis, Tom Hunt, Salmaan Azam and Sam Denyer for attending the quiz and doing well on some very challenging questions.

CLOTHES SHOW LIVE 25th ANNIVERSARY

Once more, we set off to the NEC Birmingham for our visit to The Clothes Show Live. This year we had 50 pupils and 2 members of staff, even some of our consortium pupils came with us.

We had a good look at the Fashion College/University displays to give us some new ideas and we were able to speak to some students to get a real insight into college life. Some of the college work was similar to some of the projects our A-level students have been

doing, which gave the pupils great confidence and assurance that their work is of the highest level.

In the middle of the day, we all went to watch the incredible catwalk fashion show - the theme this time was, "A day out in the country". There were 12 models and 12 dancers and they were fantastic - lots of hot young men who kept waving and blowing kisses at our girls who were probably making more noise than the rest of the 2000 girls in the audience!



"I liked looking through all the shops and stalls, but my favourite part of the day was watching the catwalk show. Really enjoyed the day!" **Charlotte**

"We really enjoyed meeting the celebrities and seeing all the creations on the catwalk." **Meg and Ellie**

"We enjoyed exploring the university graduates new fashion lines. We managed to preview and buy some garments before they become available to the public through ASOS in January." **Stefan and Katie**

"We enjoyed the catwalk the best, it was much better than we expected. We would love to come again!" **Isabella and Lara**

"I got many ideas and inspiration for my corset. It was a great experience." **Hannah and Layla**

"Really good experience talking to the stall designers and had fun buying everything!" **Meg, Hope, Hannah and Laura**

"We've had the best day and learnt loads about marketing and styling, really tiring though. Feet are killing - if I went again sensible shoes are definitely needed!" **Emily and India**

"Amazingly fun and enjoyable, would jump at the chance to go again!" **Laura**

"Had a fab day, the catwalk shows were really good and we bought loads!" **Emily and Ffion**

"Really good experience, lots of fun and loads of good products to buy! Would love to go again!" **Leah and Amy**

"We really enjoyed our time exploring, shopping and watching the shows apart from the fact that we really needed a map!" **Hannah, Meg, Rosie and Mollie**

"Enjoyed looking at the student collections, shopping and watching the catwalk." **Gemma**

"Big thank you for the opportunity to join you on your annual trip for the second year running - it is greatly appreciated, amazing day out!" **Laura and Bekki - Bryn girls**

Visit From Peter Black Assembly Member



On January 24th 2014, we enjoyed a visit from Peter Black AM who spent a morning with us discussing many issues with our Sixth Form "Head Team". Students found it interesting to speak with an AM and were keen to explore the workings of local politics.



Charities' Week

Before the week had even begun, a variety of events had already been held; a charity quiz, a scavenger hunt, and an all night stay awake. An exciting week of events and hard work lay before the entire school on the 11th November 2013. The week began with a sugary kick of a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale, and the slightly disturbing Sixth Form edition of "Womanless Miss World". Tuesday was led by the first of three slave auctions in which Sixth Formers are sold to the highest bidder from Years 7-11. Tuesday lunchtime saw the ever competitive "Weakest Link" game show with Miss Painter portraying an eerily accurate Anne Robinson. The show saw the Technology Department storm to the top with Mrs Thompson snatching first place!

Those who were looking for a little more action were sure to find it during dodge ball held in the Sports Hall. The second slave auction was held on Wednesday, with lunchtime hosting "Take me out". It took a while to mismatch teachers into 'couples' with teachers showing off their many talents and skills trying to impress all! The final slave auction held on Thursday at break time was the beginning of the build-up to the penultimate event, "I'm a Teacher, get me out of here!" Four teachers braved the mission; Mr Pucella (the standing champion), Mrs Harris, Ms Christopher and Mr Holt, along with our very own Head Boy and Head Girl. Those who were lucky enough to buy a ticket before they sold out were privy to see them drink ketchup blended with sardines and tabasco, eat dog food, and pull out stars from boxes filled with a variety of goods from the traditional baked beans, to locusts. After many rounds, we were down to the final two - Mr Pucella and Mr Holt. Only one more round could separate these two, and an "I'm a Teacher, get me out of here!" version of an obstacle course was to be the decider. This saw Mr Holt victorious, and he took home the crown!

Our final day of events was to take place on Friday 15th November. With Years 7-11 in non-school uniform, and the Sixth Form dressed up in fancy dress, everyone was in great spirits and ready to make the final push. Those teachers brave enough to face the cold headed outside at break time to face the much awaited sponge the teacher - a chance for pupils to get their own back. Sponge the teacher was well supported by pupils and teachers alike, and along with "Guess how many balloons are in the car", filled our program for break time, and gave us two hours to prepare for the main

event of the week, "The X Factor". Three acts graced us with their presence; The Hairy Bikers, Kick the Habit, and Moostache. All acts performed beautifully...well they tried their best anyway, with Moostache storming to victory through an overwhelming vote by the audience.

After a hectic final day of counting and raising money, we found our final total to be £7,700 and decisions lay in our future of where to distribute the money. Thank you to all who helped organise events, collect money and got involved, once again Porthcawl Comprehensive School has outdone itself!

Rachel Battrick Deputy Head Girl





Pictures were kindly supplied for Charities Week by Malcolm Nugent



Where the money went...

After raising over £7,700 during Charities Week, we spent a long time thinking of where we could distribute the money.

Many local charities were considered and one we decided upon was Porthcawl RNLI. Being a seaside town, the RNLI plays an important role in ensuring the safety of the community and its many visitors throughout the year. All members of the Porthcawl Lifeboat are constantly on standby and ready to be called out to sea, including past and present pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. A sum of £1000 was donated to the lifeboat to be used to buy new equipment and fund training. We hope the crew are able to continue their hard work.

Another charity that we made a donation to was the Y Bont Family Centre in Bridgend that caters and cares for young children suffering from a variety of illnesses. Their mission statement is 'Enabling children with a disability to fulfill their potential'. Members of the Head Team delivered the cheque for £500 early on in the year and were kindly given a tour of the center by one of the senior staff members. Our pupils were able to witness first-hand the hard work of all the staff and also had a look at all the facilities, including a tailored sensory room that enhances children's experience of their surroundings.

In addition, we will also be donating a supply of computers to the Sandville Self Help Centre which is situated near Porthcawl. They have recently started construction of a new education wing where they plan to educate residents on using modern technology to allow easier access to everyday tasks such as e-mailing family members or online shopping. Sandville has always had good links with Porthcawl Comprehensive as many Sixth Form pupils volunteer there on a weekly basis. Along with the



computers, we have donated £250 which will be used to supply other resources. We plan to visit the education wing once it has been completed and look forward to seeing it!

It has been a privilege for us to help these and so many other deserving charities and we are sure that the donations made will make a positive impact on our local community. Thanks again to everyone at Porthcawl Comprehensive School who contributed towards the week and I'm sure Charities' Week will continue to be a success in the future!

The photographs feature Deputy Head Girl Rachel Batrick presenting a cheque for £500 to Crossroads, and Deputy Head Boy Tom Hunt handing over a cheque for £1000 to Will Evans, Assistant Head Boy and Porthcawl RNLI volunteer.

Jennifer Sham Head Girl



Young Consumer Awards Competition

A group of Year 12 pupils from Porthcawl Comprehensive School participated in the Young Consumer Awards Competition at the Bridgend Civic Centre. This took place on 29th November 2014, and this year's group consisted of Daniel Jones, Tom Booth, Jack Bridger, and Owen Leary accompanied by Tom Parsons and Daniel Heiling.

The group participated in a quiz that was split into sections about trading standards, the economy, health and safety, legislation and food, followed by a round of general knowledge. Porthcawl Comprehensive School dominated in many of the rounds, but just lost out on first place to Brynteg Comprehensive School, by the narrowest margin of points.

Once again, our school shall be participating in the competition in November 2014, so we shall be looking for a strong team in next year's Year 12's who are taking Business Studies or Economics, in the hope that we can finally achieve a top place finish.

The final scores on the day were as follows:

1. Brynteg Comprehensive	71
2. Porthcawl Comprehensive	68
3. Maesteg Comprehensive	63
4. St Clare's School, Porthcawl	63
5. Archbishop McGrath School	57
6. Cynffig Comprehensive	29

Tom Parsons and Daniel Heiling Year 12



Crest Award for Technology Pupils

All pupils in Year 9 studied the benefits of alternative energy. This opportunity was provided by the STEM organisation, Science Technology Engineering and Maths. We had some record results this year with some of the best outcomes we have ever seen. All pupils completing the event achieved a Bronze CREST Award, a national certificate awarded for Science and Technology.

Maksym Randall describes the event as one of the winning team members;

"We started to learn about the wind project a lesson or two in advance so we would not get confused on what we were doing on the day. When the day came, we were shown the different parts we were going to use and then everyone was split up into form classes and in each form class, everyone split into groups of 2-3. We were quickly shown how to put together the wind turbine and then we started making the turbines. The first step to making the turbine was the most important and that was to drill the holes through the plastic. If you had drilled the holes a bit off centre, the gears placed inside the casing would not align, and your turbine would not work. When we were putting in the gears, we used bits of drinking straws to keep the gears aligned so the turbine would work better. Then we added the generator and the red and black wires which carried electricity that was made by the turbine to the generator. Finally, we made the blades for the turbine. The blades started off being long, but we discovered that they were too heavy, so we reduced the size and then we got better results. When we finished, everyone went to G Block where each turbine was tested and our turbine came out on top generating almost 10 volts!"

The Winning Team for the Wind Project were: Maksym Randall 9AC, Rhys Lewis 9AC, Meuryn Nelson 9AC.

Mr M Evans Technology





Stoke City v Liverpool

Sunday 12th January 2014



Would today be the day that Liverpool would finally solve the riddle of 'The Britannia'? The statistics leading up to the day were;

STOKE:	Played 20	Points 22
LIVERPOOL:	Played 20	Points 39

Seventeen points separated these teams, and one Liverpool player had scored more goals this season than the entire Stoke City side! (Suarez - 20 goals; Stoke City - 19 goals!) Over the last few games, there had been no stopping Suarez. An away win for Liverpool would seem, well, elementary but this conclusion discounts the crucial evidence that Liverpool had never won a Premier League match at 'The Britannia'. The last five meetings were;

STOKE CITY	Wins	3
	Draws	2
LIVERPOOL	Wins	0

The last three meetings had resulted in clear victories for the hosts;

STOKE CITY 3 – 1 LIVERPOOL
STOKE CITY 1 – 0 LIVERPOOL
STOKE CITY 2 – 0 LIVERPOOL

In fact Liverpool had had no league wins at Stoke since 1984. This was perhaps the away league fixture that Liverpool had feared the most.

Liverpool had been stalking the top 4 all season and a win today would put them back in the top 4. The starting line ups were;

Match Report

Stoke City 3-5 Liverpool

Scorers: Cissokho (4'), Suarez (33', 73'), Crouch (41'), Adam (45'), Gerrard (p) (51'), Walters (84') Sturridge (88')

Liverpool escaped the Britannia Stadium with a thrilling 5-3 victory over bogey side Stoke City.

The Reds took a 2-0 lead in the first half, against the run of play, but Peter Crouch and Charlie Adam, (two former Liverpool men), levelled matters before the break.

A controversial penalty allowed Steven Gerrard the chance to give his team the lead again and Luis Suarez made it four, but just as things were beginning to look comfortable, the Potters came back.

Marko Arnautovic set up Jonathan Walters for a third, but Daniel Sturridge sealed it with a fifth late on. It was an incredible game of football.

Mr A Pucella

Pupil's Report

We all left for Stoke at 8.00am and arrived at approximately 12.15pm. On the way to Stoke there was very little traffic so the journey went very quickly. We stopped off in the services and most of us bought breakfast and snacks for the rest of the journey. Most of us had McDonalds as a breakfast snack but some of us had sandwiches.

Once we left the service station we decided to put on a DVD called Water Boy. It lasted for about forty five minutes before the DVD player crashed! This meant that we had to watch another film called Poseidon. We were enjoying the film and then after forty five minutes it crashed again! The DVD player was overheating and the driver said it hadn't been cleaned properly!

After all of that nonsense, we finally arrived at Stoke where we were split up according to our age groups and began our training session with coaches from Stoke City FC. We trained for about an hour learning various skills and tactics on how to shoot etc. We then headed over to the stadium to watch the big match. It was an amazing game, probably the best game of the season! It was absolutely incredible with eight goals scored by various players including Cissoko, Suarez and Sturridge. Stoke also scored with three goals but could not beat Liverpool on their outstanding form.

On the way home we tried another DVD, 'Cool Runnings' which was about the Jamaican national bobsled team's debut in the 1988 Winter Olympics in Canada. Ironically, the DVD player did not overheat and we watched all of the film!

The trip was an amazing experience, one worth going to!

Jack Strong and Jack Barry Year 8



Stoke City: Manager – Mark Hughes
Crouch

Adam			
Arnautovic	Whelan	N Zoni	Walters
Peters	Wilson	Shawcross	Cameron
	Butland		



Liverpool: Manager – Brendan Rodgers
Suarez

	Coutinho	Sterling	
Henderson	Lucas	Gerrard	
Cissokho	Skrテル	K. Toure	Johnson
	Mignolet		



Technology Transition

On the 27th of January 2014 I went to Porthcawl Comprehensive School with the whole of Year 6 to a Technology Transition Day. First we got handed booklets about the subjects we were learning by Mr Jenkins. Next we loaded up our computers and had instructions to write in our booklets to explain what cad and cam mean, after that we loaded up a program to design our air freshener.

After we finished designing our air freshener they got cut out with a laser cutter, filled up with red dyed gel and sprinkled with vanilla scent.

We had a break between lessons with cookies and squash.

In the second lesson we started cooking. First we named Welsh food and used a star diagram to describe what different cheeses taste like (Caerphilly and Cheddar cheese). After this we wrote in our booklets why we liked them and why we didn't. Next we made Welsh Rarebit and ate it. Finally we evaluated the food on its taste, texture and appearance.

I enjoyed the day but the best part was when we made and ate the Welsh Rarebit!

Noah Henderson West Park Primary School

As well as Noah, many other pupils from local primary schools visited Porthcawl Comprehensive School during the week for Technology Transition. Below are some of their thoughts;

"The whole day was excellent. The D & T lesson was fun, computer designing is very enjoyable and the laser cutter was interesting to watch. The Food Tech was fun and tasty, the Welsh Rarebit was delicious and the mixed herbs made it even more tasty."

Jude Daberning Nottage Primary

"Thanks for the DT & food, I enjoyed them both, I really enjoyed designing and making the freshener and the laser cutter was awesome! The Welsh Rarebit was yummy and, the work was fun and enjoyable."

Lloyd Barnston Nottage Primary

"Thank you to the Technology Department for letting us design our own fresheners and for letting us see the laser cutter – it's brilliant! Thanks for the food, I've never tasted Caerphilly cheese."

Cai Spence Nottage Primary

"I had a lot of fun designing my freshener and was very interested in how the laser cutter operated. I also had so much fun making the Welsh Rarebit. Overall I had a lot of fun and will be looking forward to the next transition at Porthcawl Comprehensive."

Ella Mae Williams Nottage Primary

"Our transition was great, I enjoyed DT especially when we made the freshener, I loved seeing them made, it was legendary. I also enjoyed cooking. I tried new cheeses and made posh cheese on toast."

Kyle Coleman Nottage Primary

"It was outstanding being able to cook and eat the lovely food!"

Mackenzie Randle West Park

"Food Technology is awesome!!"

Chad Evans Cornelli Primary

"Food Tech is beast-ed!"

Ioan Delbridge Cornelli Primary

"It was amazing just taking part and making the Welsh Rarebit."

Alex Glover West Park

"I loved this morning because it was great trying our own food and it was a great insight into September."

Dafydd Jenkins West Park





Year 6 ICT Transition

Porthcawl Comprehensive School welcomed Year 6 students from various primary schools to ICT Workshops from 14th - 18th October 2013. During the early morning sessions, students were involved in creating projects based on the history of Porthcawl. Topics included the Samtampa disaster, the Lifeboat Station, the Pavilion and Porthcawl town itself. The second session involved students having an introduction to programming, using free software called

'Scratch'. The students had great fun making different animations. Scratch can be downloaded free from <http://scratch.mit.edu/> Well done to all our Year 6 visitors - it was wonderful to see you all! We look forward to welcoming you to Porthcawl Comprehensive as Year 7 students.

Thank you to the Sixth Form students who gave up their time to assist during the ICT sessions and to Mr Slade for providing us all with refreshments.



WELSH TRANSITION



Bore Pontio - CYMRAEG

On Thursday 28th November and Monday 2nd December 2013, pupils from our local primary schools came to experience a Welsh morning at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

The pupils were involved in folk dancing, making Welsh calendars and learning about the Welsh New Year tradition of Mari Lwyd.

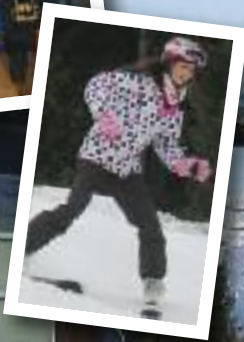
The Year 6 pupils really enjoyed their morning. 'It was great fun!' was the opinion as they returned to their schools clutching their calendars and Mari Lwyd worksheets.

The pupils were split into groups and were able to socialise and make new friends with pupils from other primary schools. At break time, everyone was ready for squash and a biscuit after all their hard work!

We really enjoyed helping and participating in the activities. It was very hard work, but lots of fun! We hope that the pupils learnt from their experience in a comprehensive school and we look forward to seeing them again in September.

Hannah Beasley, Aimee Vincent and Georgia Comley Year 10

SKI



**“MOOSES”
of the week:**
Jenny Passingham,
Louie Flower,
Callum Owen-Davies,
Blythe Hughes-Davies
and Leon Evans.

It was the day after Boxing Day. Everyone was ready and excited to leave the school and head for Austria. Out came the sickness tablets, before we even left! We were all prepared for the 27 hour journey that lay ahead. We picked up Mr Smith at a services near Cardiff, and some people thought we were at Dover already! Perhaps, these people should pay more attention in Geography lessons. By the time we arrived at Dover, everyone was really tired, but couldn't wait to get on the ferry. An hour and a half later and we had arrived in Calais. By this time, we were ready for sleep, as we were absolutely shattered. Many managed to get to sleep straight away, but some of us found it difficult. The main

reason being the one and only Louie Flower, who claimed that he felt like royalty when he discovered that the seats reclined right back! We woke up in Germany in the morning and, unfortunately, hit some bad traffic before arriving in Zell am See.

Everyone was eager to see what our rooms were like and we hauled our luggage upstairs. Why did the girls, who had the biggest cases, have to be on the top floor? After exploring the hotel, we then went for our ski fit. It was an early night for all of us, as we had a big day ahead of us.

The first day was full of laughter. We made our way to the gondola lift from the coach, and as it was the first time that most of us had walked in ski boots,

everyone looked really funny. Things on the slope didn't start too well for the beginners, as Hannah Beesley skied straight into a fence on our first practise run! However, as the days went by, we all got better and improved our turns and stops. Some beginners even moved up into the higher groups, which was amazing! At the end of the week, we all took part in the slalom race. It was quite scary as there were a lot of people watching. Hannah Beesley was definitely the funniest as she skied straight at one of the slalom markers, managed to go under it and still stay on her skis. Well done Hannah!

As part of the ski trip tradition, after dinner, we would have nominations for someone to wear the

SLALOM RESULTS

Beginners (A)	Beginners (B)	Intermediate	Advanced
1. Zak Bennett	1. Callum Owen-Davies	1. Ben Asprea	1. Marcus Fish
2. Daisy Brown	2. Blythe Hughes-Davies	2. Ryan Mahoney-Jones	2. Jack Mort
3. Rachel Richards	3. Jenny Passingham	3. Leon Evans	3. Ieuan Walmsley-Williams

TRIP



'Moose Hat' the next day. This was great fun and we had plenty of funny stories to vote for. In the evenings, we did other activities. One night we went swimming, which was a great laugh. There were diving boards and a slide, which the teachers secretly loved. All of us decided to go down the slide together in a massive line. When we saw the teachers at the bottom, we thought that they would tell us off, but they thought it was so funny, they decided to do the same thing! There were some acrobatic dives off the board, as well as many belly flops. We had an evening walk around the big lake, with some amazing views. After the walk, we had a fantastic treat, as we called into McDonald's. Definitely, the highlight of the week! Thanks, Mr John! On New Year's Eve we had a 'onesie' night, when most pupils wore different onesies and watched the fireworks being let off down the valley at midnight, which were outstanding. We also had a quiz, as well as trying out some Austrian culture when the Austrian dancers came to the hotel. We all had a laugh when we tried playing the alpine horn and taking part in the different dances!

Apart from all this, the best fun was no doubt on the slopes. Sadly, at the end of the holiday, no-one wanted to leave Austria and return to rainy, boring Wales. We had fantastic instructors and we will all have fond memories from this holiday. Skiing is certainly a trip worth going on and we definitely won't forget it. The pupils would like to thank Mr John, Miss Painter, Mr Smith, Miss Owens and Mrs Callister for taking us and making Austria 2013/14 a great holiday.

Georgia Rose Year 10





Ladies and Gentleman
Porthcawl Comprehensive School
presents

Guys and Dolls





'The big stage may seem scary, but you won't be able to see anyone due to the bright stage lights that will blind you'



Guys and Dolls

As Year 10's, for many of us this year's show was our first chance to perform on the Pavilion's stage in front of 500 people. It has been such an amazing experience to take part in the school's long honoured tradition!

Well, our school show story starts with the nerve-racking auditions process; you walk into the Drama Studio, the black curtains are drawn, the stage lights on, and there are the cold hearted, soulless Performing Arts Faculty sitting in front of you! However, don't be deceived as these are the most supportive and encouraging people you will meet. Throughout the show experience they will help you be the best you can be. There is a place for everyone in the show whether you be a Crap Shooter, Hot Box Girl or a Mission Doll! If centre stage isn't your forté, don't fret there's always room in the chorus, and who knows where you'll be next year! As much as we may encourage you to take part in the school show, commitment is vital, so is the lack of a social life. After school, Saturdays, Sundays and even the Christmas holidays!

Crew may seem like the easy option, but you will need to be on stage, in between every scene changing sets for those self involved actors to strut on stage to! Please note, if you suffer high blood pressure or are afraid of the dark please do not enrol for crew. Also, consider the fact your hair may fall out from stress!

The thrill of opening night is an experience not to be missed, you may wet your pants but that is irrelevant. Costumes may not take your fancy, but you have no choice - it looks good on stage and you're wearing so much stage make-up people may not recognise you any way! The big stage may seem scary, but you won't be able to see anyone due to the bright stage lights that will blind you. Taking Drama and Music GCSE is a great way to introduce yourself to the Performing Arts family/clan, who you will be forced to have a great relationship with by the end, due to cramped rehearsing, changing and performing spaces. Not to mention how many times you will be pushed and nudged to 'GET OUT OF THE WAY!' (in a hushed tone of course, because you're in the wings) but don't worry it's not personal. And I know the idea of stage make-up may put many of you, (especially boys), off the experience, but remember, as Phoebe Lewis said, 'If it looks dodgy off stage, it looks good on stage!' Hope to see you next year!

Many thanks again this year to Malcolm Nugent who photographed the show so brilliantly and has shared these wonderful pictures with us.

Lauren Ellis-Stretch and Sarah Spencer Year 10

Drama



BTEC / A Level Drama

Presentation Carol Service

For the Carol Service this year the BTEC Performing Arts students alongside A Level Drama students decided to take on the task of this year's senior drama performance. We wanted to do something different, with meaning to it and decided to explore the power of sign language through song.

Miss Hardwick asked a lady from her church, Mrs Kathryn Dyckhoff, who is qualified in sign language to come in and run a workshop. The workshop started by her giving us a brief insight into why she had gained these qualifications. She told us about her son and how he was born with severe hearing problems and therefore she learnt sign language in order to communicate with him. It was so moving to hear how her son has overcome many of the challenges this disability presented and how, now that he is in his early twenties, he has graduated from university and is also a very accomplished musician.

We chose the song "Glory in the Highest", a contemporary worship song, which we all really enjoyed and thought it was fitting to our message. We learnt a lot from this workshop and felt the final piece was both moving and creative.

BTEC Students

"I was really happy to be involved, especially since this was my last Carol Service."

Rachel Allen

Year 13 Drama Student

"It was a very humbling experience and I was glad to be part of it."

Jamie Sayce

Year 13 Drama Student

"There was a really warm atmosphere in the church."

Isabella Pill-Williams

Year 13 Drama Student



Year 11

Devised drama practicals

On the 12th and 14th of November, the Year 11 Drama students presented their GCSE devised work to parents and friends in the Drama Studio. Each piece had to reflect the genre of Musical Theatre and the theme 'Nightmare'. The work totalled 40% of the GCSE.

"Difficult but it helped me overcome my fear of singing and dancing in front of a full audience."

Bria Grant

"I believe that it drove me to perform to my best potential and because of this I enjoyed the performance night."

Taylor Brooks

"It was a brilliant experience for us technical students and all our hard work paid off...we hope!"

Sophie Harris, Gethyn Rosser-Stanford and Thomas Page

"It was a challenging experience however it was so exciting and helped me improve my own teamwork skills."

Connor Abbott



Year 12 Drama Set Text Drama Practicals

In December the Year 12 Drama Class performed their Set Text pieces to an audience of family and friends in the Drama Studio.

"It was a fun experience but it involved a lot of hard work as well!" Katie Roberts

"A real challenge but great fun." Chloe Rees

"It was grand and I enjoyed nearly every minute of it." Richard Price

"A challenging bundle of fun!" Elli Rosser

"A difficult endeavour at times but my group was pleased with the final results." Bryan Thomas

"Challenging and difficult but overall really fun." Mel Rowntree

Year 12 Drama Trip

Review: 1984 at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff

Yet another voyage calls for yet another review and this one was made in November to the now forty year-old Sherman Theatre in Cardiff for an electrifyingly dark adaptation of George Orwell's novel, 1984. In a crescendo of mind games and political metaphors, our drama students had their values questioned by this twisted stage version co-created by Robert Icke and Duncan MacMillan, in association with Headlong.

The premise resides in a dystopian world where resistance to the totalitarian state is strictly prohibited by the omniscient, ubiquitous Big Brother. Our protagonist, Winston Smith (whose maverick genius was well-portrayed by Mark Arends), attempts to protest against the system

alongside his like-minded lover, Julia (a magnetic Hara Yannas), but finds that it's much more complicated than it looked.

With spectacularly inventive integrations of multimedia, Headlong succeed in updating the fundamental ideas projected in the work and prove that Orwell's message is just as relevant now as it was then, if not more so. In fact, it is unsettling how much of Orwell's theories have come part of our life – the oppressive surveillance of Big Brother and the ominous Room 101 have both become popular television shows.

This production is both a bold homage to Orwell as well as one hell of a thrill ride. Here is theatre that demands an open mind and forces an open mouth.

Sam Pryce Year 12

"1984 was the best piece of theatre I've ever seen."

Tabitha Carrington

"Truly thought-provoking in every kind of way."

Ellie Rosser

"I liked it a lot!"

Tom Sheppard

BTEC Panto Review



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 beautiful Jack Easterbrook looked in a dress!...Maybe not!

'The Fellowship Theatre Company' presented this year's performance of "Dick Whittington" starring Katelyn Weaver as Dick Whittington, Georgia Young as Alice Fitzwarren, Lois Hadley as King Rat, Jessica Kilpatrick as Lazy Jack, Ellie Morris as the Captain and Jack Easterbrook as the beautiful Sarah Suet.

The tour travelled for over a week around the local primary schools, stunning the audiences and generally upsetting the infants. Surprisingly, there weren't too many tears this year...but let's be honest, having a few thespians from the "big school" singing and shouting is pretty terrifying!

The tour was a hit and fair play, we all had an amazing time.

We would like to thank the Drama and Music Departments for all their support.

The Fellowship Theatre Company
BTEC Performing Arts

Year 12 London Trip A Midsummer Night's Dream



Miss Hardwick's driving skills were put to the ultimate test during October-November half-term when she escorted her Year 12 Drama Class to see A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Noël Coward Theatre, London via PCS minibus. The trip itself was organised in preparation for the written examination on a prescribed, pre-1900 text which, in our case, is Shakespeare's well-known comedy of carnal potions and intertwining love affairs.

This production was just one of five directed consecutively by theatrical giant Michael Grandage as part of his season at the Noël Coward. The season boasted a medley of renowned actors – Judi Dench, Jude Law and Simon Russell Beale to name but a few. In this one, a hilariously hammy David Walliams starred as Bottom, as well as the boisterous Sheridan Smith cavorting as the sharp-tongued Titania. Although these stars did see fit to hog most of the limelight, some iotas of stardom were handed to the other members of the company who were just as proficient at channelling the Bard.

With various puzzling facets – psychedelic fairies, soporific concoctions and a play-within-a-play – it is a story that's likely to lose some audience members along the way. Yet under Grandage's directorial eye, it's made accessible to the young, old and anyone who perhaps thinks Coriolanus is something you should see your doctor about.

After the show, we briefly met David Walliams so that he could scribble on our programmes and pose for a photo (see image). A heartfelt thank you goes to Miss Hardwick and Mr Smith for not leaving us there, as tempting as it may have been.

Sam Pryce Year 12

Year 8 & 9 Drama CLUB UPDATE

Lauren Owens, Rhiannon Griffiths and I were asked to help out Year 8 and 9 Drama Club earlier this year and were delighted at this opportunity. I had directed the Year 7 Drama Club production of A Midsummer Night's Dream last year and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It is always fun to help out in the Drama Club and it's good to help develop the talent of the younger generation! There is so much talent in the younger years and it is great to see them perform and remind us of what we were like in our younger, happier and more energetic days. There is always great fun to be had there and it is on Monday lunchtime in Mr. Smith's room if any Year 8's and 9's are interested.

Rhys Owen Year 11



Drama Trip

Love and Information @ RWCMD

A few months ago, Drama students from Years 11, 12 and 13 were taken, by the most capable hands of Miss Hardwick via minibus, to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama to see a throbbing production of Caryl Churchill's latest play, Love and Information. The trip was organised as an accompaniment to the Year 13 Drama course, which comprises another of Churchill's plays, Far Away, as a text for study.

The opportunity to see Love and Information provided us students with a broader understanding of Churchill's sharp, compassionate style as well as experiencing a captivating theatrical event. With 57 scenes and 100 characters (played by a talented cast of around 10 - 15 actors), it's quite a lot for the adolescent brain to stomach. Through a kaleidoscopic assortment of clipped, curt vignettes of modern life, Churchill dissects 'love' and 'information' – what they are, how they work and how we use them – in an age where they rule supreme. The script itself is written without stage directions or even character names. So, with only the unassigned dialogue to work with, the company are left much to their own devices. What follows are scenes in which two or more characters discuss relationships in correlation with a plethora of topics – religion, mathematics, grief, multiverse theory, depression, etc.

Whilst it left us slightly perplexed in parts, and completely bewildered in others, it was generally agreed that the production's originality in staging and engaging energy kept us watching and thinking. Good on ya, Caryl.

Sam Pryce Year 12

"It was different to anything I'd seen before. It was a good experience to see work performed using Traverse staging."

Georgia Young Year 13 Btec Student

"It moved along at a fast pace and the production kept me engaged throughout."

Lois Hadley Year 12 Btec Student

"I really loved the way the play explored the effects of the mobile phone on today's society."

Ellie Morris Year 13 Btec Student

"Loved it."

Rachel Allen Year 13 Drama Student

"Innovative"

Vicky Davies Year 13 Drama Student

Music

'BBC National Orchestra and Choir of Wales Does Christmas'

A few of our pupils got to take part in a truly magical and musical Christmas experience with the BBC after being members of the Bridgend County Choir. Read below to see how they got on.

We all love being part of Bridgend County Choir. We've all met new people within different age groups. When we were asked to take part in the Christmas Concert: 'BBC National Orchestra and Choir of Wales does Christmas', we were thrilled. When we arrived for rehearsals the Orchestra sounded amazing, with the Choir of Wales performing at the very end to finish it off! We loved every minute of being a part of it from singing with the Orchestra and



Choir to just listening to their beautiful sounds when we weren't performing ourselves.

James said, "There was a buzz as soon as I stepped into the theatre and I loved being a part of it and meeting new people."

Phoebe said, "I was so excited to be working with a different choir, after being lucky enough to sing with the Mariinsky Choir and the Welsh National Opera Choir last year, it was a blast!"

Layla said, "I really enjoyed the experience of working with the BBC and I am looking forward to the next time I can perform with them and the choir. I have met so many new friends and I hope to meet more as others join our choir."

Overall we really enjoyed the experience of performing with professional singers and musicians. It would be a pleasure to do it again.

James Evans-Jones (Year 9), Layla Millar (Year 9), Phoebe Ann Lewis (Year 10), Robert Davis (Year 11)

National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain for Rhianwen Keirl

In December 2013 we received the fantastic news that Rhianwen Keirl (Year 9) has again been successful in being selected as a Violinist in the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain. She will be progressing from the Under 13's Orchestra into the Main Orchestra of the NCO. We are absolutely thrilled with the news, as her acceptance letter said that there were a record number of applicants this year. It says on the NCO website that, "Getting a place in Main Orchestra is the ultimate NCO achievement. This full Symphony Orchestra for children up to the age of 14 showcases the very best of the NCO experience."

During this year with the NCO Under 13s Orchestra, Rhianwen was chosen to be the leader of 2nd Violins for the concerts held at Leeds Town Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall and The Royal Festival Hall, London. With the NCO Main Orchestra 2014, Rhianwen will continue to have the opportunity to perform in some of the most impressive Concert Halls in the UK.

Rhianwen contributes greatly to the extra-curricular groups she belongs to in school and is a great role model for her peers. We can't wait to hear all about her experiences in 2014, and wish her the very best of luck. Here is what Rhianwen has to say about her achievement:

"This year I have been selected to represent the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain. This is my second year. I am extremely pleased to have been given the opportunity of being part of such a prestigious Orchestra. My first concert of the year is in The Lighthouse, Poole. Also in the Summer I will be performing at Bristol, Colston Hall. Finally the year will end with a fantastic concert in the Royal Festival Hall, London. I have made loads of like-minded friends and we all can't wait for the next time we perform together." Rhianwen Keirl 9AC

Miss L Mayo Music Department



Porthcawl Comprehensive School's Musicians are 'Wowing' the Judges on a Regional and National Level!

We are so fortunate to have some truly outstanding musicians at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. These pupils don't just learn to play an instrument, they learn how to be musicians and their dedication, motivation and professionalism is to be highly commended. Several pupils from Year 10 and Year 12 have really excelled themselves this year, both inside and outside of school; whether it's been playing at an exceptionally high standard in the School's production of 'Guys and Dolls' to entering competitions and auditioning for the very best youth music organisations in the country. We are extremely proud of their recent achievements and still can't believe that they are reaching such professional, high standards at such a young age. Both regionally and nationally these pupils are wowing judges! What a future these ambitious pupils have. Read their reports to hear about the amazing experiences they have had so far this year!



Several pupils from Year 10 and Year 12 have really excelled themselves this year, both inside and outside of school



Alexandra Hunt Year 10 – GCSE Music

"In November 2013, I auditioned for the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Wales on Clarinet and was accepted. This was my first year auditioning and I had to perform one Grade 8 piece, several scales and complete a sight reading assessment. The course will be taking place in Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls for a week at Easter. I am very excited about attending the course and feel very privileged for having been accepted and given this opportunity.

I have also recently entered the Rotary Club – Bridgend District Competition on Clarinet, in which I won First Place! I then went on to participate in the District Finals at Cwm Tawe Comprehensive School in Swansea. It was a very good experience and I am looking forward to the upcoming Margam Music competition."

Lauren Pugh Year 10 – GCSE Music

"I entered the Rotary Club Competition for the first time this year on the Clarinet. I have thoroughly enjoyed it, coming runner-up in the local round and then going forward to play in the District Round in Swansea. I had to play two contrasting pieces from my Grade 8 repertoire. I have an upcoming competition this month for the Margam Abbey Music Foundation. I am hoping to play my Grade 8 piece there as well. I have had a fun time performing and hope to do more in the future.

I am also planning to audition for the National Youth Orchestra and Wind Band of Wales in the upcoming months, which I am looking forward to immensely."

Alistair Noden Year 12 – AS Level Music

"I am very excited about having been accepted onto the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. In my audition I had to play 2 contrasting pieces, scales, an orchestral excerpt and complete a sight reading task. I was very nervous and anxious about the outcome of my audition, but was delighted to find that I had been accepted! I am looking forward to attending the course this Summer."

Thomas Phillips Year 12 – AS Level Music

"This is my first year on the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Wales playing the Tenor Saxophone. I had to play one Grade 8 piece, several scales and do a sight reading assessment. I felt very anxious as it was my first audition for an orchestra. It was a tense wait for the result, but now I have been accepted I feel very grateful for getting a place this year. I am very much looking forward to the experience."

Robert Young Year 12

"This year is my second consecutive year on the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Wales. The course takes place in the Summer Term and is held in Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls. For the audition I had to play two contrasting pieces, scales and prepare an excerpt from a popular Jazz piece. I was also given sight reading to play and asked questions about my musical interests. Last year's course was really good and so I'm really looking forward to the forthcoming course!"

Imogen Kent Year 12 - AS Level Music

Imogen Kent also did extremely well to be given a reserve place on the National Youth Orchestra of Wales for Violin, which was very impressive, considering that this was her first audition in a highly competitive field. She also competed extremely well in the Rotary Club Competition.

Congratulations also go to Hee-Chan Kang (Year 10), Harriet Maine (Year 12 – AS Level Music) and Thomas Phillips (Year 12 – AS Level Music), who also competed in the Rotary Club Competition and provided some beautiful performances.

Miss L Mayo Music Department



Lovely London



On the 27th and 28th of November, 35 lucky Year 9 students had the chance to go to London. We were picked up in the morning by our coach and arrived in London at midday. We went straight to the Houses of Parliament, being met at Black Rod's entrance by Madeleine Moon's secretary - James. After the obligatory security checks we proceeded through the rooms of Parliament to one of the committee rooms right up high on the top floor. Here we were met by our MP who very kindly took questions from us and who in turn gave us some good answers about what was happening in our local area of Porthcawl - now and in the future. We were then treated to a live debate which we watched from the public gallery - Great fun!

After we left the Houses of Parliament, we did the first thing you'd expect to do in London - sight-seeing. We walked with our guide to No 10 Downing St, Horse Guards' Parade and up to Trafalgar Square, where we could look right down the Mall. Our coach picked us up here and drove us so we didn't have to walk, to Covent Garden and a shopping opportunity for all. We finished the evening in the Rainforest Café for our evening meal with the monkeys and elephants! We chilled now on the coach to our hotel which took a little bit longer due to the traffic.



After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast we left the hotel bright and breezy for the Olympic site - the Queen Elizabeth Park. In between our tour we conducted a questionnaire on people around Westfield's in Stratford and carried out a regeneration survey of the area to see if the Olympics going to London had made a

difference. Had it left a lasting legacy? It was an enjoyable two days and well recommended to you Year 8's out there. Watch out for the opportunity in the yellow bulletin!

Mitchell Rhys Davies Year 9

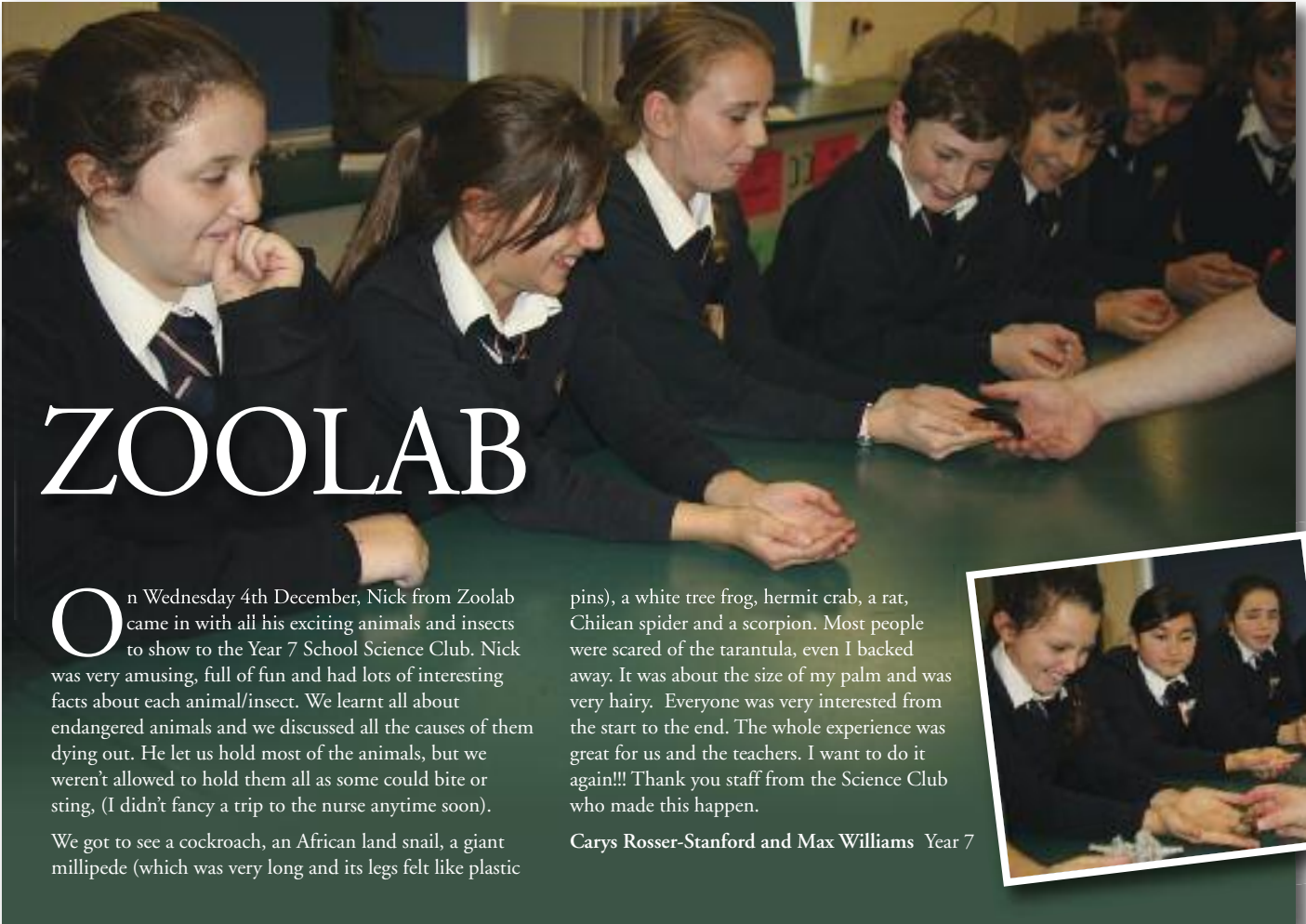
Year 10 Geography Christian Aid Mosquito Net Collection



As part of the GCSE Geography course, Year 10 pupils have been studying how mosquitoes affect so many people around the world by spreading malaria. Every year some 300 million people contract malaria, resulting in over 1 million deaths worldwide. Ninety percent of deaths occur in Africa, mainly in children under the age of 5. It is an entirely preventable disease however and one method of reducing it is to encourage the use of insecticide treated bed nets. This is a very effective way of combating the disease and is relatively cheap. Each bed net costs only £3. However, many people in rural areas of countries like Malawi are unable to afford this.

Year 10 Geography pupils agreed that they would try and raise some money to purchase these bed nets that prevent the mosquito bites. As part of a programme to combat malaria, the charity Christian Aid has been distributing nets to people in several African countries and so pupils decided to donate the money they raised to this organisation - an admirable and thoughtful idea and well done to all who contributed.

Mr J Buckley Geography Dept



ZOOLAB

On Wednesday 4th December, Nick from Zoolab came in with all his exciting animals and insects to show to the Year 7 School Science Club. Nick was very amusing, full of fun and had lots of interesting facts about each animal/insect. We learnt all about endangered animals and we discussed all the causes of them dying out. He let us hold most of the animals, but we weren't allowed to hold them all as some could bite or sting, (I didn't fancy a trip to the nurse anytime soon).

We got to see a cockroach, an African land snail, a giant millipede (which was very long and its legs felt like plastic

pins), a white tree frog, hermit crab, a rat, Chilean spider and a scorpion. Most people were scared of the tarantula, even I backed away. It was about the size of my palm and was very hairy. Everyone was very interested from the start to the end. The whole experience was great for us and the teachers. I want to do it again!!! Thank you staff from the Science Club who made this happen.

Carys Rosser-Stanford and Max Williams Year 7



Year 12 Geography Our Orierton Experience

On the 18th of November the 22 members of our AS-level Geography class met at 7:15 am outside the school to begin our venture to the Orierton house. After spending 'some' hours going in the wrong direction, (intentionally), and sitting in Bridgend Industrial Estate, admiring the glorious scenery; to get a new tyre (which we didn't actually need), we finally started going in the right direction to begin our jaunt, (stalling all the way,) to the charming Pembrokeshire countryside.

We were greeted by a characterful man – Deputy Head of Centre, who explained to us the “do’s” and “don’ts” of the quirky house. We then made our way to the labs, (which were a freezing cold stable block, but on the plus side they had a cracking Wi-Fi signal), to meet our tutor Sarah who explained to us what would be occurring on our two day expedition. First on the agenda was a trip to Kilgetty where we started our field work, including interviewing random residents, (who rejected us a couple of times and ripped out our hearts), and surveying what facilities the local area had to offer. We then followed this up in the bigger coastal town of Saundersfoot. We then returned to base and continued to work, writing up the data we collected late into the night, (well until about 9, meaning we missed ‘I’m a Celeb’, totally gutted).

After an ‘interesting’ night we rose at the cracking of the bell to begin our final day of exciting outdoor activities. This day we were studying hydrology, meaning some people got quite ‘damp.’ Our favourite activity took place on this

day and involved a very happy rain cloud in the form of Tom Parsons!

After a great couple of days we made our journey home (less stalling this time). Making a quick detour to McDonald’s, (it had to be done), we arrived back at school exhausted but very content. We had a great time; we learned a lot and improved our class morale. On the behalf of the whole class we’d like to say a big thank you to all the staff at the Orierton Field Centre, and an especially big thank you to Sarah, Mrs Mackey and Mrs Coleman who made the trip more enjoyable.

Daniel Vinen and Kate Slennett Year 12





Coffee Morning Review

For my hospitality event Chloe, Sarah and I ran a charity coffee morning in the staff room.

It was loads of fun making all the different recipes like rocky road muffins, chocolate oaties, Viennese swirls, lemon cupcakes and Welsh cakes. We had to trial them first which means lots of taste testing! Planning our event meant that everything ran smoothly, costing the event was tricky but it really helped us on the day because we had an idea of how the event would turn out.

When the bell rang for break and the staff began to queue for their coffee and cake we were nervous but all the teachers said how tasty the cakes were and our customer service skills were good. I was really proud of myself and my team.

Ffion Ward Year 11

Italian Lunch Review

E lai, James, Ffion, Connor and I ran an Italian lunch. We invited teachers to the event and we prepared a 2 course set menu which they pre-ordered in advance. James and I were waiters during the event, which I enjoyed very much. We wore white aprons and we looked really smart. The kitchen staff wore chef whites - they looked very professional.

We made beef cannelloni, the vegetarian option was spinach and ricotta cannelloni served with a salad, we served focaccia (Italian bread) with oil and balsamic vinegar to dip. For dessert we served vanilla panna cotta with a raspberry coulis.

We took time to plan, so everything was organised well on the day of the event, especially the layout of the tables, which we dressed with an Italian theme. Overall the event was enjoyable and the teachers had a delicious lunch!

Becky Dixon Year 11



Charity Cake Sale

For our Hospitality and Catering coursework Chantelle, Kara, Gaby, Emily, Lilith and I ran a cake sale. We trialed a range of cakes and savoury items that we could sell, we priced our ingredients and advertised our event to pupils and staff. We all had fun making and icing the cakes, as we were allowed to make what we wanted. The cake sale was a great success, we raised over £70 and everyone said how tasty our cakes were - what a great project for GCSE!

Amy Black Year 11



Mexican Restaurant Evening

The Mexican Evening was held in G Block where a range of Mexican foods were available for family and staff to enjoy. A starter, entrée and dessert were prepared for the guests at a small cost of £10. The food was all made using traditional Mexican recipes and cooking methods.

We spent several months planning the event as we had to decide what to cook, how we should lay out the service and dining area, what roles we would all have, and who to invite. We all agreed to cook well known, traditional Mexican cuisine, like chilli con carne and burritos, as all our guests liked these foods. For dessert we made chorros with chocolate sauce - they were the highlight of the meal!

Table d'hote (a set menu and table service) was chosen, which reduced waste and cost. All roles were filled easily and everyone was comfortable with their jobs. Family and staff were invited to the event and all were happy to attend the meal.

Overall, the event was a great success. Money was raised for charity and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Hannah Murphy Year 11



Future Chef is a national competition for young people who have a passion for cooking. On November 11th, myself along with 5 other pupils competed in the school heats to determine who would go on to represent Porthcawl Comprehensive School in the local heats. In this round I cooked a chocolate and hazelnut pudding, with a lemon and hazelnut praline. I was then chosen to go on and represent the school.

Congratulations to Angel Williams, Amaan Abbas, Emily Childs, Jenny Tanner and Joshua Russell who competed in the school heats.

Local Heat - Bridgend College

On January 9th, myself and two other students from schools in the local area, aged 16 and 15, cooked for an hour and a half to the best of our ability. The menus for this round had to consist of a main and a dessert for £7 or under, for two people. This was a challenge, as good quality ingredients are expensive. For this I cooked a pork escalope with a Welsh rarebit topping, accompanied by parsnip and apple mash, braised leeks and vichy carrots. For dessert, I made a rhubarb and ginger tartlet with a crème anglaise and sugar spun spirals. The competition was extremely tough and I barely served in time!

Luckily though, I managed to win. I was so shocked at the fact I won that I burst into tears. I am currently preparing for the next round to go on to represent Wales in the final, so wish me luck!

Megan Goldberger Year 11

Winter Games

Winter Games 2013 upheld the very essence of school sport. Mass participation was the greatest outcome of the two days of sporting competition with in excess of 400 pupils taking part.

There was the usual high spirited senior competition as our pupils in the Sixth Form and Year 11 took time out from their studies to support their houses.

The highly talented Year 10 age group did not disappoint. Numbers of participants were unrivalled, as were levels of commitment, enthusiasm and competitiveness.

As always, KS3 were a joy to behold. The pupils wore their house colours with pride and energised the PE Department with their excitement and endeavour.

Our new Year 7's were the pick of the lower school competition with every team overflowing with pupils wanting to be involved.

Over two days of competition, 120 games of rugby, football, netball and hockey were played. Our pupils played a total of 800 minutes of sport and battled for every single house point available.

The final results for Winter Sports 2013 are as follows:

BOYS

4th Morgannwg

3rd Powys

1st Dyfed & Gwynedd

GIRLS

3rd Dyfed & Powys

2nd Morgannwg

1st Gwynedd

OVERALL

4th Powys

3rd Morgannwg

2nd Dyfed

1st Gwynedd

Finally a big thank you to all pupils who took part over the two days and once again made Winter Games 2013 a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Andrew Stradling PE Department

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Congratulations to Rebecca Adams, (Year 9), who was selected for the Welsh Girls' Army Cadet Force Football Team. In November, the team travelled to Nottingham where they played teams from England, Ireland and Scotland, and got through to the semi final stages. We wish Rebecca every continued success with her football. Come on girls – I'm sure there are more budding footballers amongst you!

H Davies PE Department

Gymnastics Success

Huge congratulations must go to the following pupils:

Paige Sheen (Year 7)

Asia Farnworth (Year 7)

Nia Eales (Year 8)

Skylar Evans (Year 8)

Stephany Chilcott (Year 8)

The girls competed as a team in the Welsh Schools Floor and Vault Championships. Over 300 gymnasts were involved and the girls managed superb performances which led to them taking 1st place. They are now Welsh Champions and will go on to represent Wales in the British Championships in May.

This was an amazing achievement, and we wish them every success in the next round. Fingers crossed for more medals girls!

A few days later, the above girls, along with Bethan Golding, Harriet Thomas and Millie Fry, (all Year 8 pupils), competed in the Mid Glamorgan Schools

Vault and Tumble Championships. The girls entered as two separate teams and again displayed their prowess and commitment.

The A Team won the entire event, and the B Team came 3rd, another brilliant result which the school are very proud of.

The top 6 individual gymnasts from the entire competition were then selected as a team to go on to represent Mid Glamorgan in the forthcoming Welsh Schools Championships. These included:

Nia Eales 1st

Paige Sheen 3rd

Stephany Chilcott 4th

Asia Farnworth 5th

Again, we wish them good luck in the Welsh Championships!

Miss H Davies PE Department

Cross Country News

More excellent cross country results from some of the girls who participated in the Glamorgan Valleys Schools' Championships recently.

YEAR 7

Emily Phillips (4th), Emily Ezard (19th), Penny Sinclair (20th), Nicola Hughes (21st)

These were exceptionally impressive results, as there were a total of 180 runners in that race. Sadly, Emily Phillips just missed out on an individual medal, and as a team they were placed 4th, missing 3rd place by only 2 points! So again no medal but a superb effort!

YEARS 8 & 9

Elen Mcloy (Year 8 - 29th), Lili Furness (Year 9 - 35th)

The total number of runners in that race was 172. Well done girls!

YEARS 10, 11, 12 & 13

Felicity Williamson Sarll (Year 11 - 6th)

Another excellent result in a hard fought senior race.

Heather Davies PE Department

Pupil Achievements

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Alexandra Hunt – Year 10

Rotary Club of Bridgend and Porthcawl Young Musician 2013 – First Prize Instrumentalist

Member of the National Wind Orchestra of Wales 2014

Member of the Four Counties' Orchestra December 2013

Lauren Pugh – Year 10

Rotary Club of Bridgend and Porthcawl Young Musician 2013 – Runner Up Instrumentalist

Member of the Four Counties' Orchestra December 2013

Robert Young – Year 12

Member of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Wales 2014

Tom Phillips – Year 12

Member of the National Wind Orchestra of Wales 2014

Member of the Four Counties' Orchestra December 2013

Rhianwen Keirl – Year 9

Member of the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain 2014 (Leader of 2nd violin section)

Member of the Four Counties' Orchestra December 2013

Alistair Noden – Year 12

Member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales 2014

Member of the Four Counties' Orchestra December 2013

Imogen Kent – Year 12

Reserve Member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales 2014

Member of the Four Counties' Orchestra December 2013

Lowri Howell, Harriet Maine, Peter Sloggett, Tom Hunt and Lucy Pugh-Bevan – Years 10 - 13

Members of the Four Counties' Orchestra December 2013

James Evans-Jones, Layla Millar, Phoebe Anne Lewis and Robert Davis – Years 9 - 11

Members of Bridgend Youth Choir who performed in a BBC broadcast on Radio Wales in December with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the BBC National Chorus of Wales

Megan Goldberger – Year 11

Won the school heat, then won through local heat to represent Wales in the final of the National Future Chef Competition

Gabriel Williams-Rumble and Morgan Carter – Year 10

Selected to represent Wales U16 at Basketball in the European Championships in Malta

Jack Williams and George Neeson – Years 7 & 8

Walked from Porthcawl to Bridgend raising over £350 for Typhoon Haiyan Disaster Fund

Paige Sheen, Asia Farnworth, Nia Eales, Skylar Evans and Stephen Chilcott – Years 7 & 8

Gymnastics – Welsh Schools' Floor and Vault Championships – 1st Place, making them Welsh Champions

Will represent Wales in the British Championships in May

Rebecca Adams - Year 9

Welsh Girls' Army Cadet Force Football Team

Emily Stradling – Year 9

U14 District Hockey Captain

Maicie Williams – Year 7

Tang Soo Do Karate

Won Gold Medal in Girls' U16 (Sparring) at Neath National Championships in November

Catlin Rees – Year 7

Cornwall U13 Badminton Tournament Bronze Medal

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Has your child achieved success or recognition relating to an extra-curricular activity? If so, please email pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk

