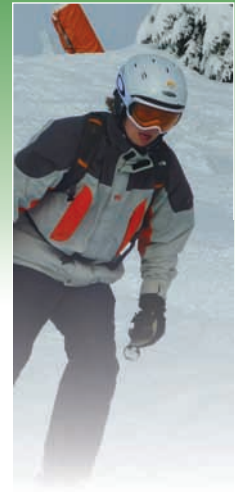
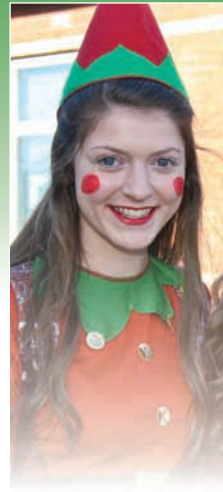


Welcome to the second edition of the **Porthcawl Post** for the school year 2014-2015



# Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Spring 2015



## Headteacher's Address

# Belated Happy New Year

May I start this article by wishing everyone a rather belated "Happy New Year". A new year brings fresh challenges and opportunities to grasp.

As you read this the school's excellent production of "Grease" is a memory but the music still lingers on in the corridors around school. I hope you will agree with me that the show was an absolutely resounding success. It was enjoyed by an audience well in excess of 2000, with Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances being a complete sell out. Our proud tradition of musical theatre goes from strength to strength and this is down to talent and sheer hard work. The young people who sang, danced and played in the orchestra are talented but also work incredibly hard. I must also pay a very public tribute to the staff who put in hours and hours of time to rehearse and practice. The school show is the epitome of team work, and shows off our school at its very best. So, in essence, it's a massive thank you to the staff, students and parents who collaborated to deliver such an excellent and fulfilling show. The annual production has again left the school glowing with pride and the feedback has been extremely positive. Some of you may have seen or met Mrs

Rhiannon Giles, our new Head of Music, we bid her welcome to our school. Mrs Giles is an ex-pupil of the school, so she will be aware of our shows and will not be daunted by the prospect of producing one!

Some may have noted the new Welsh Government Schools' Categorisation Model. We have been classified as 2, B and Yellow. This basically means we are Standards Group 2 out of 4 with 1 being the highest. The 'B' and Yellow refer to our capacity to bring about improvement; these categories indicate it is felt we are able to improve. Anyone wishing to get a deeper understanding of the system may get details from the Welsh Government website; there is a Ministerial Statement that explains the whole process. May I also refer parents to the Welsh Government website [www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk) where there is a guide, "Understanding how your child's school is performing."

We have been making huge efforts to improve standards at our school. Over recent months, we have held classes on the weekends, in the holidays, before school and after school. The main area of focus is English, Maths and Science and I thank all those staff who have given their time so generously. With all the extra effort and commitment from staff and students, I am confident we will improve standards at our school.

There are a few staff changes to bring to your attention. Chris and Non Williams are due to retire; Non at Easter and Chris at the end of May. Non is very familiar to all as our School Receptionist. Non has undertaken this most demanding of roles with a calm assured presence. Chris will be familiar to the students in his role as our Examinations Officer. The organisation of examinations is a mammoth task and it is completed by Chris with great care and diligence. All at our school wish Non and Chris all the very best for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

There are more very familiar faces set to retire in the Summer and we will pay tribute to them in the next Porthcawl Post.

Following the recent tragic accident at Maesteg School, I feel it is important to touch on the subject of traffic safety. No parent is to drive onto the site during the school day, ie: 08.35 – 15.35. There are visitor and disabled parking spaces to the left of A Block. Would parents please refrain from parking along Park Avenue and Carlton Place. Cars parked in these locations mean children cross between parked cars which is a particularly dangerous practice. Should anyone need to drive onto the campus "out of hours", then please observe our 5mph speed limit. My only concern here is the safety of your children and I trust I can rely on your support on this matter.

# Housekeeping

## Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the large number of pupils with an attendance of 97% or over and in the green 'Callio' category. All pupils in Years 7 to 11 now receive an update on their attendance once a month from their form teacher. If your child's attendance is currently in amber or red, every week of full attendance will raise their overall attendance percentage. We are striving to reach the Welsh Government's target of 95%.

I would also like to remind parents and pupils that being late in the morning, after registration has closed, is coded as an absence. Being late without a valid reason is coded as an unauthorised absence. Also 10 or more late marks in one term may trigger a Fixed Penalty Notice. Please ensure that your child signs in with a letter at Attendance to explain any lateness. Fixed Penalty Notices may also be triggered by 10 or more unauthorised absences, including a holiday in term time or a failure to engage with the school, particularly in matters relating to attendance. Further information is available on the school website.

Thank you to pupils and parents who are going through the School First Aider when illness occurs during the school day. It is essential that the First Aider makes the contact with home if needed, rather than the pupil phoning home themselves. Pupils who do phone home themselves and organise their own parents to pick them up will be given an unauthorised absence.

## Uniform

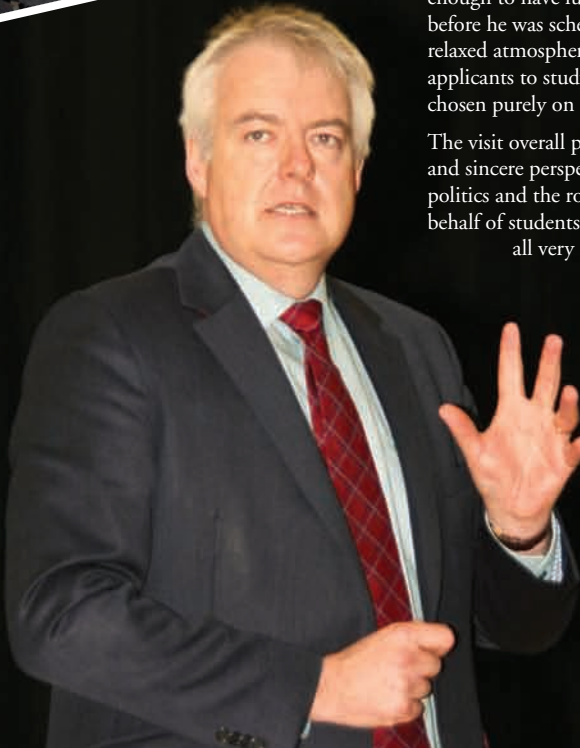
At events in the local community our pupils continue to be praised for the excellent standard of their uniform and I would like to thank parents for supporting the school, ensuring that we can continue to be proud of our pupils wherever they go. I would just like to remind you that coats should be a dark colour and that leather/leather-type jackets are not allowed. Also, very short hair, shaved heads and dyed hair are not permitted.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs V Hunt Assistant Headteacher



# A PCS Visit from Carwyn Jones AM



On 23rd January 2015, our First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones took time out of his busy schedule to discuss his lifestyle and opinions with Sixth Form students in a frank and enlightening forum. As the Welsh Assembly's representative for Bridgend, Mr Jones began with a candid, ten-minute talk about what his job entails, which proved useful for students considering a career in politics. He detailed his own role as well as the Welsh Assembly as a whole in running and improving Wales.

In the second half of the talk, Carwyn Jones bravely asked for questions from the audience. Mr Jones was then grilled on funding for the NHS, the Welsh Baccalaureate, university funds and the future of the Welsh language, among many other intriguing and revealing topics. His answers proved honest, hopeful and illuminating, with much of his attention directed towards his hope for a brighter future in Wales.

The Head Team and staff were then lucky enough to have lunch with Mr. Jones afterwards, before he was scheduled to leave. In a more relaxed atmosphere, he encouraged university applicants to study a subject they enjoy, and not chosen purely on future prospects.

The visit overall provided students with a clear and sincere perspective in regards to Welsh politics and the role of Wales' First Minister. On behalf of students, I think it is safe to say we were all very grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and interact with someone at the helm of Wales' government.

Sam Pryce Assistant Head Boy

*Thank you to Malcolm Nugent for coming along and taking some wonderful photographs.*



We found out about Liberty Horses through one of our pupils last year. Her support was provided by the Local Education Authority. Once we saw the progress made by this pupil we decided that this was an effective way of helping other pupils too. We paid for some support sessions for a young lady now in Year 9. Keziah Rhoden from Liberty Horses approached us and asked if we would like her to work with a number of pupils in school and of course, we said yes! The pupils were chosen for a number of reasons: lack of self-confidence, anxiety, self-esteem issues and to improve social and communication skills. Only 2 pupils have a diagnosis of ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) but all of them have responded very positively to the sessions.

Since starting these sessions, we have seen increased self-confidence and better communication skills in nearly all pupils. In fact, all pupils say they are more confident. The youngsters appear happier in school and some, who have challenging behaviour, have appeared more relaxed. The end result for them is improved behaviour in school. There is a noticeable improvement in teamwork and cooperation between this group: they now display good turn taking skills.

However, if you ask the pupils they would say simply that it is fun and they look forward to Tuesdays when Bonnie, Tango and Sweetie come to school!

One pupil says, *'It is the best thing I have ever done!'*, another pupil says *'It is awesome!'*

Mrs Dilley

## Visit from The Liberty Horses



## Only Men Aloud Experience

On the 16th of January, members of the famous choir 'Only Men Aloud' made a visit to Porthcawl Comprehensive School to host a workshop at the school. They began the workshop by

showing us a 5 minute presentation of what they were all about, telling us where they perform, about their success in "Britain's Got Talent" and their future concerts. Then they moved on to warm-ups and showed us some interesting and fun activities which are quick and easy to learn. These warm-ups got everybody so pumped and ready to get involved. After we finished the physical warm-ups we moved to vocal. The vocal warm-ups were brilliant and they gave us new exercises that we can use for future music rehearsals.

When we finished all the warm-ups they split us up into four small groups to sing an Italian song called 'Bella Mama'. This was a great experience for everybody who has never sung in a choir or even sung before. It was easy to learn and comfortable for the not-so-confident people. It was a fantastic experience for everybody involved and we were very lucky to have met some members of the group. They also informed us of their youth choir, 'Only Boys Aloud' and inspired many of us to join them in Bridgend on Thursday evenings for rehearsals. If any pupils are interested in becoming a member then please go and see Mrs Atherton for details.

We would like to thank the 'Only Men Aloud' members who came for the workshop as it was an excellent experience for everybody. Also thank you to Mrs Atherton for organising it.

Sam Spriggs Year 13





# News from the Primary Schools

## West Park Primary



Our topic for the first half of this year has been 'Warriors'. In the Autumn Term we made our own weapons and held a competition to see which would fire the furthest. More recently, we have completed experiments to discover materials that would be good insulators. Our aim was to discover if the Celts would be able to improve the quality of their homes by using alternative materials. We have also written diaries as if we were Celts writing about our daily life.

The English Department from PCS came to visit us in November last year and we all created questions about things we wanted to know about life in the Comprehensive School. The English Department took the questions away and the Year 9 pupils, with their wealth of knowledge, were able to answer them all. They were delivered back to us this week and we all enjoyed reading their open and honest answers. Thank you to all the Year 9 pupils who give us so much inside information!

We all really enjoyed our most recent transition visit with Porthcawl Comprehensive, a trip to see Grease!! It was a fantastic performance; we couldn't believe that it was only the dress rehearsal. It was lovely for us to see some of our past pupils too, some of whom had obviously developed a real passion and talent for the dramatic arts. We are sure your production was a resounding success. Congratulations to all the staff and pupils involved.



## Newton Primary



Year 6 started the Spring Term with a 1960s disco as part of their study into the Swinging Sixties. They learnt many of the dances from this period including The Pony, Madison and Jive before dressing up as a Mod, Rocker or Hippie to dance the afternoon away. Following on from this the children studied a range of aspects from the 1960s and compared them with life today. They were a little surprised by some of the artefacts, such as the size of the records or the CDs of the day, and enjoyed the visit from a group of Mods who turned up on their scooters. Obviously one of the main events in this decade was the moon landings. The children researched the events running up to the launch of Apollo 11 and the footage of Neil Armstrong walking on the moon. They then used their research to produce their own news reel of the event which, with the use of the iPad, was filmed outside the NASA's Kennedy Space Centre. The other main event that was discussed was Martin Luther King's speech, 'I have a dream'. After listening to the original footage of the speech the children wrote their own speeches for their community showing understanding of the underlying themes of this famous speech and how they are still relevant today.

Year 6 have also been busy writing stories which were entered into the Shining Scribes Competition. They were able to use any stimulus for their ideas before writing an original story in no more than 500 words. Three entries were put forward by the school, the budding writers being Holly Thomas, Kara Morgan-Rees and Matthew Sleep. After judging by a range of famous people, including Bonny Tyler, Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, Scott Quinell, Ruth Jones, Iwan Thomas and Iolo Williams, Kara Morgan-Rees' entry, The Girl in the Red Hat, was awarded a place in the final top ten stories. In March Kara and her family will be attending a ceremony in the SWALEC stadium in Cardiff where the overall winner will be announced. The staff and pupils wish Kara the best of luck Kara and would like to congratulate Holly and Matthew for writing stories to such a high standard.

Photo shows Newton Primary School's Shining Scribes Finalists - Matthew Sleep, Kara Morgan-Rees and Holly Thomas.

Miss Kenwood Year 6 Teacher

## Porthcawl Primary School

'Porthcawl Power' Formula One

At Porthcawl Primary School we are concentrating on Formula One as we have once again entered a car making competition. We have decided to go for the name *Porthcawl Power* as it ties in to our logo which is a lightning bolt!

We are currently designing our car and we are making excellent progress. Last year, we entered the competition with the *Porthcawl Piranhas* car.

Formula One is a car design, make and racing competition that gives an outstanding experience for pupils. It allows children to take control and responsibility for their team.

We aim for our car to be, as the nursery class says, like *Lightning McQueen!*

We are enjoying every single step of the activity. We are coming closer and closer to what we think will be victory.

All of the Formula One team and supporters in the school are putting in 100% effort and a very positive attitude into their roles.

Tegan McGlynn and Katie Moses Year 5 and Year 6



# Nottage Primary

The Spring Term started well and I am pleased to report that the children have quickly settled back to their studies after the excitement of Christmas.

Our school value for January was 'Appreciation' and thanks go to our regular visitors, Mrs Pauline Lewis, Father Craig and Steve Lock, for leading assemblies in the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.

Schools' Police Liaison Officer, PC Steve Carpenter, will also be busy in the months to come delivering aspects of Personal and Social Education throughout the school.

Every Thursday, come rain or shine, Kerbcraft continue to do a wonderful job at school in developing the road awareness skills of children in Year 2. Diolch yn fawr.

Porthcawl Comprehensive treated Years 5 and 6 to their latest production of 'Grease'. The performance was brilliant and thoroughly enjoyed by an enthralled audience. It was also great to see so many past pupils treading the boards with the professionalism that would befit the West End. Congratulations on a wonderful show!

Well, the end of an era came to school in January when almost 200 battered and bruised chairs, used for shows and concerts, finally went to furniture heaven. The chairs were originally from the Grand Pavilion but purchased from Porthcawl Comprehensive in the 90s. I am sure many past pupils will have 'fond' memories of moving them on and off the stage at Nottage! Our appreciation goes to our PTA for helping us to replace the old stock with lovely, new, colour co-ordinated, folding chairs.



## SCIENCE TRANSITION



October saw the arrival of our local primary schools and a large number of out of catchment pupils for their first Science transition. The pupils were cast away on a desert island and were given the opportunity to plan their survival using a variety of interesting Science experiments. The pupils were very excited at the prospect of using the Bunsen burners and could not wait to get started. The experiments involved burning foods and materials and

testing fuels. A number of Year 9 pupils were on hand to help with any challenges the pupils faced and also to answer any burning questions they had on life at PCS.

The pupils demonstrated excellent Science skills and took the investigation very seriously. I must say, Mr Bear Grylls himself would be very impressed. Some of the suggestions were very creative, it was very clear that we had some 'I'm a celebrity...get me out of here' fans!

On behalf of all the staff in the Science Department we would like to say a big thank you to all those pupils who attended and supported this transition event for their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm displayed – it was an absolute pleasure meeting you all. We look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Miss H Redmond  
Science Department



## WELSH TRANSITION Pontio 2014

Over two mornings in November and December, the Welsh Department welcomed around 240 Year 6 pupils to the annual transition event.

Children from the local schools, as well as a considerable number of pupils from out of catchment area, took part in a series of activities designed to not only help pupils familiarise themselves with the school, but also to experience a taste of Welsh language and culture.

A full programme of activities awaited our visitors from folk dancing to what the children decided was the earliest form of text messaging namely, the love spoon, to card making and learning of the New Year Welsh tradition of Mari Lwyd.

At break time everyone was ready for a welcome drink and cake – especially those who had been folk dancing!!

Diolch yn fawr iawn to everyone who contributed in making the event such a success.

We look forward to welcoming our new pupils in September.

Mrs C Davies Welsh Department





# Charity Week 2014

The biggest task that haunts PCS's Head Team is always the week culminating in Children In Need. As Pudsey Bear rears his poor, bandaged head once again, students and teachers look slightly more shaken than usual. As part of PCS tradition, from 10th to the 14th November 2014, we managed to pull off a successful week of charity events and performances that attempted to put the 'fun' in 'fundraising'. Ahem. Come on, now, BEAR with me. *Yes, yes. Thank you. I'm here all week.*

Throughout the week, teachers and students alike were paraded in front of the school, forced to display their singing, dancing and mental talent. Sixth Formers were auctioned off to the younger years as slaves at jaw-dropping prices rising even above £50.

In *Womanless Miss World*, boys who were usually more at home in rugby boots were instead strutting out in heels. Tuesday's showing of *Mastermind* saw Mr Jenkins fight off the competition with his comprehensive knowledge of 'Back to the Future'. Teachers were left soaked and humiliated after *I'm A Teacher, Get Me Out of Here* and even more so by the *Ice Bucket Challenge*.

And to finish off the week, *Strictly Come Dancing* and *Stars In Their Eyes* gave staff and students a chance to show off their talent to a panel of scowling judges. Miss Brown and Mr Lewis shook their tail feathers while Miss Mayo and Mrs Atherton shoo-be-doo-wopped their way to victory. We would like to reassure you that no teachers were harmed in the making of these shows.

As far as I know.

On Friday, a Non-Uniform and Fancy Dress Day took place for a final push for donations. And this year's diversity in costumes was enough to make Gok Wan shed a tear. Teletubbies, the cast of *Anchorman* and beans of the green and jelly variety swarmed the yard. As the Jubilee Theatre filled with pupils, so too did the collection buckets. All in the name of Pudsey.

The Head Team would like to thank all the teachers, students and anyone else who were able to help out with events, whether they were prancing about on stage or giggling/squirring in the audience. On top of that, funds from the Sixth Form Party also went into the pot. Thanks to you lot, we raised a whopping £6,000. This will be distributed equally between LATCH, Mind, Gulu Mission Initiative, Motor Neurone Disease Association, LLM Fund, Touched by Cancer, RNLI, Sandville, and £1,200 going to Children In Need.

We would also like to say a special thank you to Malcolm Nugent who came along and took these wonderful photographs.



Picture shows the Head Team presenting the Porthcawl RNLI with a cheque for £600

Sam Pryce Assistant Head Boy

## Fancy Dress





# FundRaising

The Head Team at Porthcawl Comprehensive work very hard to set up fundraising events but none of it would be possible with the support and involvement of the whole school. In

November we had a 'Charities' Week' concluding with Children in Need Friday raising a grand total of £5975 from which a number of charities benefitted from. Throughout the week we sold tickets for

spoof 'Strictly Come Dancing' and 'I'm A Teacher Get Me Out Of Here.' These are shows which the teachers volunteered for and 'Womanless Miss World' including the Sixth Form boys. Over 15 teachers completed the 'Ice Bucket Challenge' and a Sixth Form Party raised over £1000 alone, all to be donated. These events enabled us to send a large portion of the money to the official Children in Need charity but we also made a conscious effort to support the local charities in our community e.g. Sandville self-help centre and the Porthcawl RNLI Station. We fairly divided the money and £600 was sent to 7 local charities.

After distributing the money we held some back so that if we needed the money to help any other cause we were able to. This came in handy when we realised that the Children's Ward in the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend was in desperate need of a new fridge/freezer in the parents' room which we were able to provide for them.

Our 'Interact' group in school also carries out extensive fundraising, through cake-sales, Christmas Jumper Day and setting up various different parties. They have raised approximately £1000 for 'Y-Bont', another local charity. We all feel it is essential to help out as much as possible, offering all the support we can for these important causes.

Alisha John Assistant Head Girl



## Why a Fridge/Freezer?

Having had a child admitted to Children's Ward on many occasions we are always extremely grateful for the care and attention received. During a fleeting visit a few weeks ago we noticed that the fridge that once stood in the parents' room was gone. It had recently broken down and the ward did not have the funds to replace it quickly. The parents' room is an invaluable resource for anxious parents – a quiet space away from the ward where parents can go to make a phone call, or just recharge for a few minutes. It has tea/coffee making facilities and had a fridge to keep milk or store some food if you're staying with your child on the ward.

As a teacher at Porthcawl Comprehensive School I know that the pupils work hard each year to raise funds for Charities' Week, the proceeds of which are split between local charities. After making enquiries with the pupils on the Head Team who are responsible for the fund raising, they very kindly agreed to buy a new fridge for the Children's Ward.

After discussion with Sister Kay, a fridge/freezer was decided upon as this would enable ice lollies, for example, to be stored by parents of children on the ward in the Summer months. The fridge/freezer was purchased and delivered to a very grateful Children's Ward by The Sixth Form Head Team from Porthcawl Comprehensive School on Wednesday 10th December.

As a parent I know it will be much appreciated. Many thanks to Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Angelo Pucella ICT Department



## Stars In Their Eyes



## Fancy Dress



# European Club

**E**uropean Club is a lunchtime club which helps broaden our understanding of languages. During the club, we learn French, German, Spanish and Italian. We play games, make cards and listen to Frozen in all different languages! It's great, I am always learning new things!

The club is on every Monday lunchtime in P28 at 1.15pm. The Language Ambassadors are always there to have a good time! But who are they?

The Language Ambassadors are a group of Year 9 pupils who have been involved in the club since

Year 7: Jamimah Cook, Sophie Corbett, Nicola Gladding, Sophie Williams and me! Our duty as Language Ambassadors is to get involved during the club, attend school assemblies to promote languages and give out prizes for various competitions. This is a photo of us with the winner of the Year 6 Transition Poster Competition and the winner of the European Quiz Competition.

Well done!

See you at the club!

Emily James Year 9

## FAIRTRADE TUCK SHOP



**W**e are a team of seven and we love helping Mrs Felton with the Fairtrade Tuck Shop. We get new supplies from *Sussed* in town, every week. It is always fun to get new stock.

We want to raise money for *Sussed* as well as promoting Fairtrade products in school. Two of us are responsible for taking a tray round at lunchtime to sell to staff. The most popular thing we sell to the reception staff is the figgy flap jack!

The good thing is that people love it and look forward to it. We are open every Thursday in P13 at break and lunchtime.

Fairtrade fortnight is happening soon. We are planning to have a big event with lots of extra cool stock.

The pupils who regularly help in the tuck shop are: Ellie Granville, Megan Stonehouse, Jess Davies, Asia Farnworth, Bethany Parker, Joshua Russell and Eddy Osborne.

Joshua Russell Year 8

## Young Consumers

**O**n 28th November, Porthcawl Comprehensive competed in the Young Consumer Competition in Bridgend Civic Offices. The competition was run by Trading Standards and was open to teams of 4 Sixth Formers from all the schools in the county. Our team consisted of Jack Bridger, Nathaniel King, Matthew Dang and Felicity Williamson-Sarll.

We left school first thing and when we arrived, Ellis Roberts (the Quiz Master) gave us an introduction whilst we enjoyed complimentary tea and biscuits. As there were 11 teams, we were split into two heats. Our team was in the second heat which gave us the chance to watch the first round and get used to the format of the quiz. Each school was given a booklet of information to learn prior to the event and the questions that were asked were based on this. They covered consumer laws, safety, government and politics, finance and general knowledge. The top three teams from each heat went through to the final and we could see from watching that Pencoed were going to be our biggest competition.



After securing a place in the final, we had a short break before beginning the next round of gruelling questions. We managed to stay calm and answer the questions well, despite being very nervous. Going into the last few rounds, Pencoed were slightly ahead of us, with Y Dderwyn and Brynteg very close behind. After a final round of quick fire questions, the end results were shown. They revealed the scores in reverse order and we were very excited to see that we had won! We had managed to score 74 points, with Pencoed in second with 66 points. Y Dderwyn had 58 points, Brynteg had 55 and Maesteg finished with 53 points. The day ended with an awards ceremony where we were presented with a large trophy, individual slate plaques, a tablet for the school and my favourite prize, a box of Heroes! We will now go on to compete in the Welsh Final in Cardiff City Stadium in March, where we hope to secure a place in the National Final in London.

Felicity Williamson-Sarll Year 12





# Guides International Project

Sarah Davidson of Year 9 has been successfully selected to attend an International Guides Project in Estonia.

Originally the selection process was choosing successful candidates to go to Zambia to do charity/project work. Unfortunately, due to the Ebola crisis, that trip has had to be cancelled. Instead Sarah will be heading out to Estonia for 2 weeks doing voluntary conservation work. Only 12 guides from Wales were chosen for this exciting experience. It is an incredible feat to be chosen as the selection process is extremely rigorous and Sarah had to take part in various activities such as problem solving, team work, making shelters and sleeping in a survival bag to name but a few!

I'm sure it will be an amazing lifetime experience and we look forward to hearing all about it on her return.

Miss H Davies

## Leo Club

The members of the school LEO Club took part in a sponsored bike ride on 27th October 2014. In total they raised £230, and the money will be divided between Queen Elizabeth Hospital (care for Veteran's families), Stroke Association and the Teenage Cancer Trust. Well done to all of you!

Mr Laurence Pearce Leo Advisor

## Welsh Club

Welsh Club is a great way to improve your Welsh with your friends. We meet every Tuesday lunchtime to take part in games and competitions, which are lots of fun, but also educational.

We will be designing and making the posters to advertise the school Eisteddfod over the next couple of weeks. We make lots of posters which is fun. We have made some new ones to advertise the club, which has influenced more people to attend. Last week, we enjoyed delivering Santes Dwywenn cards to the lucky recipients in Years 7 to 13. Most excitingly, we have cake days at the end of term which we all look forward to! In my opinion, Welsh Club has improved my Welsh a lot. It's amazing!

Caitlin Matthews Year 9



# Future Chef Competition 2015

## School Heat

I entered The Future Chef Competition because I love cooking and I took Hospitality and Catering at GCSE and thought it would give me a chance to expand my skills further.

I made an Asian fusion dish; salmon with a chilli lime glaze served on French beans and



a lime crème fraiche. The dish was very colourful and tasty; the judges loved it!

I was one of the first competitors to finish and be judged by

Mrs Thelwell-Davies, Miss Lambert and Megan Goldberger, (last year Megan got through to the Welsh Heats). There were a number of other competitors from Year 7 right up to Year 11. After seeing what the others had made I was sure that I was going to lose!

I was very shocked and delighted when Megan announced that I was going through to the next round. Mai Phillips and I are going to the Bridgend Heats in January and we are determined to win and progress to the Welsh Heats in Pontypridd.

Cerys Watts  
Year 10



## County Heats

My name is Mai Phillips, and along with my fellow class mate Cerys Hughes we spent a day in January at Bridgend College competing in the County Heats of the Future Chef Competition.

On the day of the event we arrived early, we were both really excited and nervous as well! We met our Judges, a chef from the Millennium Stadium and Andrew Huddart, the owner of Huddarts in Cowbridge which is Michelin Star recommended.

I made salmon with a sweet chilli sauce, served with rosemary and garlic crispy potato wedges and pan fried asparagus, and for dessert I made a chocolate tart served with a chocolate coated strawberry.

When I was preparing and cooking the food, it went well; I stayed calm and made the food in time without any problems. When they said that I had won I was shocked as I didn't expect it because everyone else's food looked fantastic!

This has been a very exciting and interesting experience for me because I love to cook and to learn new skills. I have been interested in cooking for many years as I have grown up cooking different foods with my Mum.

I am now getting ready for the Welsh Heat which will be held in in Nantgarw College, Pontypridd. I am currently

receiving mentoring from Andrew Huddart at his restaurant, so I get to see how a restaurant service is run and learn how to present my food in a professional way.

I am really excited to develop my food and take part in the next round.

Mai Phillips Year 10





# Successful Year For Ex-Pupil

James Stroud left Porthcawl Comprehensive School in the Summer of 2004 following achieving 3 A's at A-Level.

James went on to study at the 'Oxford School of Architecture', Oxford Brookes and graduated with first class honours in the Summer of 2008.

Since graduating, James joined the award winning Loyn & Co Architects based in Penarth where he has enjoyed a wealth of experience ever since, with 2014 being the most exciting year yet!

Last year, James along with his colleagues appeared on a new BBC2 series 'Building Dream Homes' which followed 5 different Architects' practices from around the UK as they work with contractors and homeowners to realise their 'Dream Homes'. The programme aimed to illustrate the crucial role that Architects and Designers play in shaping the environment around us and in particular the bespoke homes! The 5 episodes, which featured Loyn & Co Architects, followed James and colleague Chris Loyn as they oversaw the construction of an environmentally friendly upside down house in the Vale of Glamorgan. It

showcased their painstaking attention to detail for every aspect of the project as well as their sheer determination and enthusiasm to deliver the vision the homeowners had fallen in love with.

Since appearing on the television another of Loyn & Co's projects, which James spent the last 6 years working on with his colleagues has been awarded the 'Manser Medal' by the Royal Institute of British Architects. This is a prestigious award given each year to the best new home in the UK. The project, called 'Stormy Castle' has been likened to something out of James Bond and Falling Water by Frank Lloyd Wright and is constructed from a palette of concrete, glass and corten. Located in north Gower, an area of outstanding natural beauty, James said it had been a tough but truly rewarding project on an inspirational site. The project has been given a great deal of recognition and was also awarded the Eisteddfod Gold Medal as well as a Welsh Architecture Award.

Some of the teachers will remember James from his school years which he recalls fondly. Others will in fact be more familiar with and even, perhaps have



eaten an ice-cream or drank a coffee in another of his buildings, the Piccolo Bar, situated on the Promenade in Porthcawl. James told us how much he enjoyed and felt encouraged by both GCSE and A-Level 'Design and Technology' whilst at PCS, where his passion for Architecture developed. The School and Porthcawl is very much close to his heart. In his own words...

'The Piccolo Bar was, after working weekends and holidays there during my latter school years and during University holidays, a wonderful privilege. Adapting the building to provide a year round, contemporary, spot to admire the ever changing sea and sunsets of my home town was a project that filled me with personal and professional pride!'

Two Porthcawl Comprehensive pupils are celebrating their success at being offered places in Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Madeleine Williamson-Sarll, aged 18, has been offered an unconditional place at Lincoln College, Oxford to read German. Madeleine achieved 3 A\* and 1 A in her A Levels last Summer in English, German, Welsh and French, jointly gaining the best results in the whole school. Madeleine is currently taking a

Gap Year. Year 13 pupil Alicia Cooke, also 18, has been offered a place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to read Geography, with a conditional offer of A\*AA. Alicia is currently studying Geography, History and Biology at A Level.

With recent news that Wales is launching a national network of "learning hubs" to help the brightest students get into Oxbridge and other top universities, Madeleine and Alicia have proved that earning a place at one of the UK's and, indeed, the world's top-ranked educational institutions, is achievable with hard graft and focus.

Coming hot on the trail of Madeleine's WJEC A Level Award for the best Welsh A Level results in the UK, getting the offer from Lincoln College, Oxford, in January was, says Madeleine, "the icing on the cake". She added: "I am over the moon about this opportunity to work with some of the best tutors in the world over the coming four years". Madeleine and her sister have been raised in a bilingual German-English environment at



## OXBRIDGE SUCCESS

home, both being taught by their mother from a young age. Madeleine has already taught in a German school as part of her work experience.

With an obvious ear for languages, Madeleine's teachers say she is "incredibly quick to pick up the complexities of grammar and syntax - of which there are many in German" Madeleine had to sit a tough entrance exam for Oxford and cope with two challenging interviews, in which she was asked to discuss a literary and philosophical text in German. Not an easy task!

Having worked for two months in Austria, Madeleine has also been teaching English to teenagers in Poland, followed by further travelling for the remainder of the year, hopefully to the Far East ("Maybe to learn Chinese?") and possibly Patagonia. In the future, she hopes to pursue a career with languages.

Alicia has always been extremely focused. One of Alicia's Geography teachers, Mrs Adele Mackey, said: "As a Department, we are very proud to hear of Alicia's offer. She is a very hard working and dedicated young lady, so this is well deserved". As part of her preparation for her Cambridge application, Alicia attended Summer School in Homerton College.

As well as being an excellent student, Alicia has gained considerable success in her extra-curricular activities. She was formerly a member of the National Children's Choir of Great Britain and has been a modern lyrical and tap dancer for many years, both with the Sarah Burnell School of Dance and with Caroline Brown. In 2013, she was part of a team in the All England Dance Competition, resulting in a performance in the West End. This coming half term, she will be taking part in the Regional Final of the same Championships in Cheltenham. Also an excellent sportswoman, Alicia was a member of the Welsh Rounders Squad, representing her country in Year 10.

Alicia says she is "absolutely delighted to be offered this incredible opportunity". Her interest is in International Development, with her "dream job" being a post with the UN. Alicia is already widely travelled, having visited countries such as India, China, Vietnam and Iceland. In the future, Alicia would like to work with developing countries to improve health and education and to create better rights for women.

Headteacher, Andrew Slade added:

**"All at the school are delighted with the success of both students. Results like this are the result of hours of dedication and sheer hard work. The university offers are a testimony to the efforts of the girls. Well done to both".**





# WJEC AWARDS FOR TOP STUDENTS IN WALES

Two Porthcawl Comprehensive pupils have been honoured in the recent WJEC Achievement Awards, which took place on December 18th at the Exam Board's Head Office in Cardiff.

Madeleine Williamson-Sarll, who achieved 5 A grades at AS Level and 3 A\* and 1 A at A Level, received the award for the best A Level results in Welsh 2nd Language in the whole of the UK. A dedicated and gifted linguist, raised in a German-English speaking environment, Madeleine studied German, Welsh, English and French for A Level, having also studied Religious Education to AS level. Madeleine is a superb advocate for the Welsh

gained 593/600 UMS marks, which included full marks in three modules. This was a fantastic achievement and it was a pleasure to join her at the Awards Ceremony. She is an incredibly clever and hardworking student and deserves this recognition. Llongyfarchiadau a phob lwc am y dyfodol!"

"I am extremely proud of this achievement" says Madeleine" and would like to thank my Welsh teachers for their support and encouragement. I hope to continue with my Welsh studies in the future and to build on this success".

"This is a truly outstanding achievement" said Headteacher Andrew Slade "and we are very proud of the honour you have brought to yourself, the school and the community. All of your examination marks during your time at Porthcawl Comprehensive School were first class, and gaining the top mark in Welsh is a reflection of your fantastic aptitude for languages, as well as your hard work and determination. Well done, Madeleine!".

Mr Slade and his staff were also delighted by the success achieved by Shannon Rock, who received the WJEC award for the best A Level Law results in the UK.

Shannon, who studied Law at Bridgend College, whilst completing History and Business Studies A Levels in school, achieved full marks for both her AS and A2 papers, gaining a coveted A\* in Year 13, as well as an A grade in both other A Levels.

Shannon is "so happy for being recognised for my endless days of revising!" and is currently studying Law at Exeter University, one of the prestigious Russell Group universities. Shannon is very much enjoying student life and her Law course, although she says her heavy workload is "not allowing much time for socialising!"



Shannon's teachers describe her as a "lovely, bright, conscientious and organised pupil." Mrs James, Business Studies, described her work ethic as "unbelievable", and said, "She is the hardest working pupil I have ever taught!"

She added "Shannon thoroughly deserves her award and all the staff at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are absolutely delighted for her."

Headteacher Andrew Slade concluded: "Shannon's Law marks are testament to her dedication and hard graft, showing that commitment reaps rewards. This is another outstanding achievement, of which we are extremely proud. I would like to wish both girls every success for the future and in their chosen careers".



language and all language learning, with her dedication being rewarded not just with her outstanding results, but with the coveted Chair in the 2014 School Eisteddfod, with her poem entitled, Pobl Ifanc Yng Nghymru.

One of Madeleine's Welsh teachers, Mrs Anne Weedon, accompanied Madeleine and her mother to the prestigious Award Ceremony:

"Congratulations to Madeleine on achieving the WJEC Award for the highest mark in A Level Welsh (Second Language) in the UK. She

## Hannah Brown - A Writer Going Places



Former pupil Hannah Brown has become a published author. Having enjoyed English Language and Literature at A Level, she decided to study English Literature at Exeter University. Whilst on the beautiful campus at Falmouth, her creative skills flourished and materialised in "Did You Know There Are Dragons In Cornwall?" (ISBN 0992 9074-0-2).

It is a delightful story about a mysterious egg found upon a beach in Cornwall and the ensuing adventures of the girl who helped hatch the baby dragon. A challenging and evocative tale, it asks questions and entertains in equal measure.

Hannah is hoping to travel, ultimately with the aim of teaching in Japan. Surely she'll acquire masses of material for the books she hopes to write in the future.

Mr A Thomas English Department



# RS VISIT TO A HINDU TEMPLE...



**A** On the 12th of December, 49 of us ventured to London with the Religious Studies Department for a day filled with learning, shopping and fun! After waking up for a (ridiculously) early start, the bus left Porthcawl when it was still dark outside. We made good time and at 11am we touched down at the temple, or Mandir as it is traditionally named. As we arrived we were greeted by its stunning exterior. A high set of pristine white steps wound up to an astounding ivory building, made of pillars and shining Bulgarian marble. The grounds were magnificent, with full and thick green foliage, scarlet flowers and a crystal blue pool of water. Truly, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir was breathtaking!

We were led into an adjoining building where we all marvelled at beautiful wood carvings that traced up to the ceiling. We had to remove our shoes as a sign of respect of the Mandir and Hindu religion. We were led into an assembly hall, where we were told that the temple had recently celebrated its 20th Anniversary. We were shown a short film telling us about Hinduism and the Mandir's history. We felt enlightened to learn that a religious leader, Pramukh Swami Maharaj, inspired over 3,000 volunteers to build the temple to express their devotion to their faith and have a divine place to worship. The temple itself is completely made of Bulgarian marble, Burmese

teak and English oak, all hand carved in intricate detail.

After our informative session, we were escorted into the temple itself, where we separated into boys and girls. Sitting in silence, we admired the beauty of the carvings and the splendour of the gorgeous murtis – statues of deities – which were made of polished gold. We were fortunate to observe a worship session

and a daily prayer, thereby experiencing first-hand the expression of the Hindu faith.

We were then led to an exhibition under the temple, where we studied ancient Hindu stories and learnt of the history of Hinduism and India itself and their cultural significance. We discovered for example, that India had the first and largest university ever documented. This was followed by a question and answer session with a member of the temple, who encouraged participation and was extremely informative with his answers to the many questions from us students. He finished with the fact that not only did the temple hold religious services but it also had leisure facilities to encourage family bonding.

After an interesting and fun time of being enlightened about the tradition and culture of Hinduism, we gave our brains a rest and went on to “shop until we dropped” in Christmassy Covent Garden; a perfect day!

Caitlin Whiteley & Phoebe Hopkins Year 11



# Cologne Christmas Markets 2014



**A**nother Christmas, another trip to the beautiful markets of Cologne! Keeping with tradition, we picked one of the worst weekends in December to travel and endured the ferry crossing from hell! Next year, we'll take the tunnel. Add a crash in Belgium into the mix and you end up with an 18 hour coach journey!

Things improved after we arrived, thanks to ice-skating, shopping, a trip to the chocolate factory, a 'little' climb up to the top of the beautiful gothic cathedral, food and more shopping. Cologne is a beautiful city even in drizzle and grey skies! I can't wait to do it again next year – but let's hope for a calm crossing, blue skies and maybe a little snow!!

MFL Department





# Year 12 Annual Trip to Orielton

At the crack of dawn on the 17th of November all the AS Geography pupils made their way to school to go to Orielton on a field trip, with visions of communal showers, terrible food and a haunted manor house (thanks to the past pupils).

When the bus finally arrived we headed on our way to Orielton. Well sort of, as it seemed neither the teachers nor the driver knew the directions to where we were going, and whenever we asked where we were, the reply was 'Pembrokeshire' (a bit vague).

After travelling down many country lanes we finally arrived at Orielton Field Centre a couple hours later, where we met up with the Deputy Head of the centre who told us the rules of survival at this place, and most importantly, where the wifi was.

After dumping our stuff in the rooms we headed down to the labs. In reality, they were freezing cold converted stables that smelled disgusting (we were later informed it was bat pee) although it was the place we got our priorities straight such as charging our phones and getting wifi. Here we also met with our tutor, Janine.

The first day we spent looking at hydrology, which meant getting on the luminous yellow waterproofs. Before we put them on though we had a break where we could eat food, drink coffee and most importantly eat the cake that they left out for us - it seemed suspicious but we ate it anyway. After our sugar and caffeine fix we went back to the labs to carry out more experiments, some of which took several attempts.

After dinner, we returned to the labs and ploughed on working into the night, (well 9 o'clock but we still missed a lot of TV).

After a long day's work we all settled down to watch 'Woman in Black' and at 10:30, Miss Evans decided it was a good time to burst into the room by slamming open the door and flicking on the lights which resulted in scaring us all to death. Then it was time for 'bed'.

At about 1 am there was a scream from one of the rooms, not because of ghosts but the appearance of a wasp - seriously? It's November- they should be dead!

At 7am the ringing of the bell woke us up to begin our second day. We went back down to the labs before heading to Saundersfoot. Here we interviewed residents of the town, some of whom turned us away and one particular fellow started telling us his life story and showing us old photos and ID! We also looked at the services available in the area. We repeated this in the town of Kilgetty before getting back on the bus and returning home after an interesting couple of days.

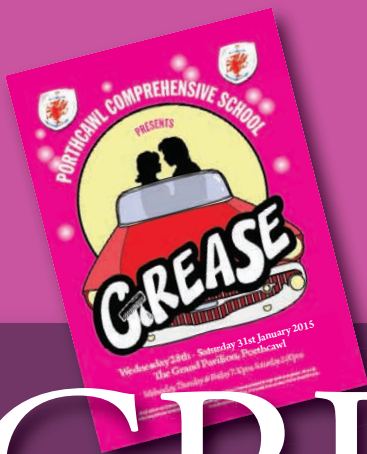
We had a great time and learned a lot, although I don't think any of the pupils will be booking a place there for a holiday again anytime soon, (defiantly not a 5 star rating)!

On behalf of the whole class I'd like to say a big thank you to all the staff at the Orielton Field Centre, Janine, Miss Evans and Miss Painter for an enjoyable and very worth -while experience.

Meg Jones Year 12







In this exclusive behind-the-scenes exposé, we reveal the dizzying heights and almighty lows of our rehearsal process

# GREASE 2015

## Tell me more, tell me more...

Porthcawl Comprehensive has long been renowned for its theatrical flair and dazzling productions, much of which is thanks to continually devoted students and a stellar Performing Arts Department. This year, we caused a ramalamadingdong when announcing that 2015's production would be the maniacally happy musical 'Grease'. Packed with feel-good fun and demanding song-n-dance routines, 'Grease' is no easy ride. Nobody is born to hand jive... baby. In this exclusive behind-the-scenes exposé, we reveal the dizzying heights and almighty lows of our rehearsal process. What's that I hear you say? 'Tell me more, tell me more...'? I shall, gladly.

The audition process is the first thing to worry about. What if I get the words wrong? What if my voice cracks? What if I fall over and suffer a fatal head wound and never live to tell the tale? These are just a few of the questions that run through an auditionee's mind. One of our Teen Angels Richard Price said of the experience, "It was the most nerve-racking experience of my life, but also a very enjoyable time, and the pay-off was fantastic." Certain songs and scenes were allocated to certain parts and, after a couple of weeks, the show had been cast. Although there are always those that are disappointed, everyone eventually learns to love their part and enjoys themselves however small or big their role may be.

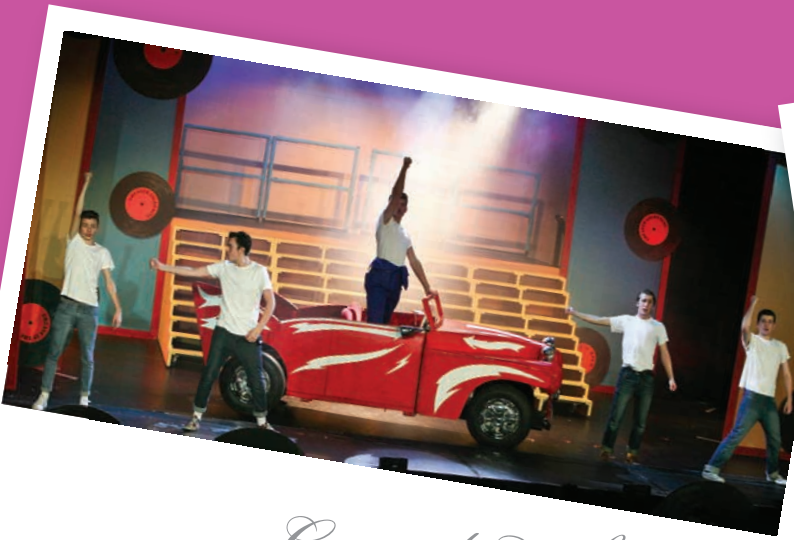


In my opinion, it is the rehearsals that prove the most labouring aspects of the show. Attempting to memorise lines, songs and dance routines – some of which look impossible – is certainly where I struggled most. At the very start of the rehearsal period, certain events meant that rehearsals were not as frequent as usual, which put all the more pressure on the company to put the effort in. However, according to Jack Davies, who played Danny, "we practically staged the whole show, minus Summer Nights, in three and a half weeks." Now, that's hopeless devotion on our part.

'...for the most part, some of the funniest and happiest memories are made both on and offstage'







*Greased Lightnin'!*



*Pink Ladies!*

The adrenaline begins to pump on production week, during which we run and polish the show at the Pavilion, altering positions and performances to suit the stage and set. It is these days that are the longest. Incessantly, the company are summer-lovin', rock-and-rollin' and hand-jivin' sometimes from half eight in the morning to half nine at night. Max Bravery, who plays Eugene, recalls "running the show three times in one day."

Of course, I realise I'm making it sound like torture. And occasionally, it is. But, for the most part, some of the funniest and happiest memories are made both on and offstage. Teachers and students alike are sometimes doubled-over from laughing so much. It is quite remarkable that this school can boast such talent.

On a personal note, I'd say that if you ever consider taking part in a school show, I would wholly encourage you to do so. It is one of the most rewarding experiences that this school offers. Believe me, when the lights go down and the velvet curtains part, and there's an audience beaming at you in hushed anticipation, you will not regret it.

Sam Pryce Year 13



‘...taking part in the show ... it is one of the most rewarding experiences that this school offers’





# BTEC Song and Dance Performance Review

**B**TEC Performing Arts is a subject that covers many different areas of performance. To be a true actor you need the skills to perform no matter what the situation, even if it's out of your comfort zone. We called our production company 'Reflections Theatre Company'. Our first units in this subject were 'Mime', 'Auditions for Actors' and 'Singing Skills for Actors and Dancing'. We then had to incorporate these skills in an Evening of Song and Dance.

The group decided to work collectively to create a mime involving all of us. Initially we started devising characters and then began to think of a situation where these characters might come together. Our end result was a mimed piece about twenty minutes long which was set in a clothing factory and explored the rivalry between all the female workers as they fight for the attention of the only male employee!

For our 'Auditions for Actors' unit we each had to perform an individual monologue. We had to choose between either a period monologue

or a contemporary one and then 'Audition' in front of our teacher. We then decided on which monologue to perform in the Song and Dance Evening.

For our Music unit we chose songs ranging from musical theatre numbers to popular pop songs and performed them throughout the evening.

Overall the evening was challenging but incredibly rewarding and our performance skills were definitely extended and enhanced as a result of the project. The Reflections Theatre Company would like to give a personal thank you to Mr Smith, Ms Mayo and Mrs Atherton for all the support and encouragement throughout rehearsal process. We would also like to thank everyone who came to watch and support us at the evening.

So a big thanks to you from Katie Mainwaring, Sam Spriggs, Erin Brown, Danielle Littleford, Kayleigh Hodgson and Stephanie Harper.

## BTEC Panto Review



## Jack and the Beanstalk

**O**nce again the annual BTEC Christmas Panto toured all of the feeder primary schools in a hectic yet thoroughly enjoyable week in December, and what a great success! This year it was Jack and the Beanstalk, a well-known tale about a boy Jack (Stephanie Harper) who sells his beloved cow for some meagre beans or so it would seem!! Added to the mix was the dancing Dame (Sam Spriggs) the evil Flesh Creep (Erin Brown) and the King of Kings (Katie Mainwaring) who entertained audiences with their light-hearted acting skills and comic moments. The tale also saw how "the course of true love never does run smooth" when the beautiful princess' (Danielle Littleford) love for Jack is compromised. Throughout the story the children were also presented with some good advice from the Fairy (played by Kayleigh Hodgson).

This project has been amazing and very productive and we are looking forward to doing it again next year.

### THOUGHTS FROM THE STUDENTS!

*"It pushed us to do things that we may not have done in other projects."*

*"The show was probably the most imaginative of projects we have done to date. We got to dress up, in ridiculous, over the top costumes and act silly!! It was so much fun!!"*

*"It was an amazing experience working with such young children and the feedback we received was very good."*

*"To see the reactions on the children's faces was such a rewarding experience."*







## YEAR 11 DEVISED PRACTICAL EXAMS



*'The experience has not only improved my performing ability but my skills to devise a piece of drama.'*

Annabelle Morgan

*'It has been difficult but rewarding!'*

Elin Morris

For 72 hours, Year 11 Drama students undertook their most strenuous, challenging, yet fulfilling performance of their Drama GCSE to date! Groups were given the choice between two performance styles – Physical Theatre or Brechtian Theatre; both equally challenging yet very different. Physical Theatre relies mainly on movement to communicate a story whereas Brechtian Theatre is more politically and socially motivated.

After a number of weeks in rehearsal the scripts were written, scenes were blocked, lighting cues were programmed and the audience were waiting. Pieces ranged from dramas to comedies and to histories with plots featuring murders, prisoners, fame and substance abuse. Personal creativities flourished!! Considering the only guidance on plot came from our subject title of 'Shadows' there was so much variety between all of the pieces!

Lauren Ellis-Stretch & Phoebe Lewis Year 11



## Welsh National Youth Opera

I joined the Welsh National Youth Opera 10 -14 a few years ago after I went on tour as part of the Children's Chorus for La Bohème. I met a really good group of friends when we toured with the company going to places like Birmingham and Oxford. We went on tour with Annabel Arden's new production of La Bohème and we had very good reviews in newspapers such as the Telegraph.

About 50 of us meet every Saturday during term time in Cardiff to learn various drama skills, singing techniques, rehearsal etiquette and really have fun singing. Each week the group is directed by Music Director Dan Perkins. We have written our own opera and performed it together with the world premiere of a new setting of 'Fern Hill' by Julian Philips in a special edition of "Meet My Choir", this was recorded and broadcast on Radio 3 from Laugharne in May last year.

We get a lot of opportunities to perform in special locations such as theatres, in the Welsh Millennium Centre, Cardiff Castle, St David's Hall at Christmas and Laugharne at the Dylan Thomas Festival. Learning some of the pieces can be hard work, we have done quite a lot with song cycles from choral composers such as Benjamin Britten.

Emily James Year 9



## Senior Maths Challenge

November 2014

Year 12 and 13 Maths students turned out well for the Senior Maths Challenge this year with good success. Many narrowly missed a Certificate but 5 were successful in gaining one. Over 81,000 pupils from across the UK returned scripts with the top 10% receiving a Gold Certificate, the next 20% receiving a Silver Certificate and the next 30% a Bronze. The Senior Maths Challenge is run by the UK Mathematics Trust and is aimed at students in Years 12 and 13. The trust is a registered charity whose aim is to further the education of young people in Maths. Further information and extension activities for all ages can be found at the Trust's website; [www.ukmt.org.uk](http://www.ukmt.org.uk).

### Certificate Winners

Year 13

Dan Donnelly - Bronze Certificate, Best in Year and Best in School

Other Bronze Certificate Winners

Jack Bridger, Rhys Mortimer, Rebecca Chick

Year 12

Richard Lugg - Bronze Certificate Winner and Best in Year

How would you get on with some of the questions from this year's challenge?

December 31st 1997 was a Wednesday. How many Wednesdays were there in 1997?

- |       |      |
|-------|------|
| A 12  | B 51 |
| C 52  | D 53 |
| E 365 |      |

According to recent research, global sea levels could rise 36.8cm by the year 2100 as a result of melting ice. Roughly how many mm is that per year?

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| A 10  | B 4   |
| C 1   | D 0.4 |
| E 0.1 |       |

*Answers on the back cover.*





# Premiership Trip Man City v Crystal Palace

## Match Report

David Silva scored twice as Manchester City beat Crystal Palace 3-0 to move level on points with Barclays Premier League leaders Chelsea.

The Spain midfielder struck twice in the second half on his 200th appearance for the club at the Etihad Stadium, as the champions stretched their winning run to eight matches in all competitions.

City had been toothless in the first half, with James Milner employed in an unfamiliar advance role in the absence of all of the club's recognised strikers due to injury.

They raised their game after the break, though, and Silva delivered the end product they had previously been lacking with two goals in the space of 12 minutes, before Yaya Toure marked his 150th BPL appearance with his 46th top-flight goal to cap another impressive display.

Victory for Manuel Pellegrini's men – their sixth in succession in the top flight ensured they joined Chelsea on 39 points, with the latter facing a trip to Stoke City the following Monday. Neil Warnock's team had now won just one of their last 11 matches.

Pellegrini made six changes to the side that won at Leicester City the previous weekend, with Milner among the players to come in, while Fraizer Campbell replaced the injured Marouane Chamakh in the Palace starting line-up and Jason Puncheon was preferred to Wilfried Zaha.

Warnock said his Palace side had nothing to fear at the Etihad Stadium and they made a positive start as City struggled to get going.



Yannick Bolasie proved a real threat early on and Joe Hart did well to palm away the winger's cross as the onrushing McArthur was poised to finish from close range.

Mile Jedinak might have headed home an inviting corner, before Campbell spurned a great chance to open the scoring when Bolasie headed the ball on and the former Manchester United striker failed to hit the target with an acrobatic overhead kick.

City started to get into their stride with some slick passing and movement, but Silva was unable to make Julian Speroni work after Samir Nasri had burst into the penalty area and cut the ball back to the Spain midfielder.

Bolasie shot into the side-netting 10 minutes before the break as City continued to look vulnerable at the back, before Pablo Zabaleta came agonisingly close to putting the home side in front when Toure picked him out with a sublime pass and the marauding defender scooped the ball over Speroni, only to send his dinked effort wide.

It was a frustrating first half for the champions, but they were in front four minutes after the break courtesy of a strike from Silva.

Zabaleta was the architect, with the right-back again surging forward and unselfishly cutting the ball back for Silva, whose shot hit Scott Dann and looped over the unfortunate Speroni and into the net.

Palace were struggling to live with City's passing and movement and Silva doubled their lead 61 minutes in, sweeping the ball in first time after Aleksandar Kolarov had picked him out with a fine cross.

The visitors had the ball in the back of the net after 66 minutes, but McArthur was adjudged to be offside after he headed in a fine cross from the impressive Bolasie.

Toure added to Palace's misery with nine minutes remaining when he belted a powerful left-footed shot past Speroni after receiving a fine pass from Milner following a swift break, as City marched on in ominous fashion.

### Man City manager Manuel Pellegrini:

*"It was a very good win. A very good performance. I enjoyed the way the team worked the whole week, to work in a different way without strikers. Palace are a team who know how to defend. It was a great job to score three goals. They are also dangerous on the counter. We had two clear chances in the first half; the way we had chances is by moving the ball."*

*David Silva is a top player with lots of quality. We are not just Sergio Aguero, we work hard every day. We have strikers out and Vincent Kompany is injured. I did think December is a key month to be in the fight for the title, and if you want to be involved you must be very near the top of the table. I hope we continue playing like this."*

### Crystal Palace manager Neil Warnock:

*"I was pleased with the way we played and certainly frustrated them at times. We created opportunities at times in the game as well. We must take the positives but I'm disappointed for the players because they put so much in and we go away with so little."*

One week later Neil Warnock was sacked by Crystal Palace.

Mr A Pucella Football Pundit







## Year 9 – Ahead of the Game

# Robotics – Workshop (ICT/Computing Dept)

We had to leave earlier than planned due to the kick off time being changed. One young man who shall not be named forgot to tell his Mum about the changes and was still in bed when he had a phone call! After a slight delay we were off. A quality bus was provided. Within two minutes of leaving, an enthusiastic bunch of boys started singing and chanting with a lot of friendly banter between Year 7 and Year 8. Examples of songs/chants being sung were:-

- Mr John's Barmy Army
- Who are you?
- Year 10 - Give us a song! (Surprisingly not taken up by Rhys Reid and Callum Morgan)
- Year 8 - You will sing when you are told!
- We will sing when we want to!
- Man City chant
- Yaya Toure

After an hour the songs/chants had to be silenced as it was far too early! Instead we had a period of quiet, followed by some DVDs. After the services we had the legendary football quiz. The quiz joint winners were Joshua Baroth and Harrison Lewis both of 8EH. The joint runners up were Sunil Vummiti and Harrison Pring both of 8GM.

An early start had its advantages as we were fortunate with the traffic. The Etihad Stadium and grounds were very impressive, with a live band, club shop and many food outlets all within the Man City grounds.

Overall a very enjoyable day was had by all.



### Pupil Quotes:

*"The day went well. The Etihad Stadium was amazing. The match was good especially because I was actually watching Man City! Overall, a really fantastic day!"*  
Jay Gunningham 7RC

*"I really enjoyed the game as it featured an amazing team (Man City). Also, the trip was very well organised and the sites were spectacular. Overall the day was phenomenal."*  
Alex Glover 7OS

*"It was a very good day. It was nice to see all the players."*  
Ioan Delbridge 7AE

*"It was an amazing day out. It was good to see all the great players. It was fun singing along to the chants on the bus. The day was topped off with a 3-0 win for Man City. It was an amazing day and an amazing experience."*  
Ioan Clift 7RC

*"I think overall the trip was excellent. We had really good seats in the stadium and we had a quality bus."*  
Cameron Beale 7HT

On December 1st a group of Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a 'Robotics' workshop with Technocamps. Technocamps is an inspiring outreach programme led by Swansea University in partnership with the Universities of Aberystwyth, Bangor and the newly formed University of South Wales.



Pupils used the LEGO Mindstorms NX robots. They are programmable robotics kits which can be used to create many different robots to complete a variety of tasks. During these workshops, pupils had to build their own LEGO Mindstorms robots, and then programme them to complete a series of challenge tasks.

The session provided an overview of robotics hardware and programming constructs, as well as introducing a free iPad application called Cargobot to help students learn about sequential instructions.

### Challenge 1 – Programme their robot to move the length of the table

The first challenge task was to get the robot to move the length of the table. The standard was set high by the first group 'Bebah'. No other team could get close. With 3 teams left to go, it looked as if team 'Bebah' had it in the bag. But then, team 'HJER' came along and went ahead by a few millimetres. With one team remaining, it looked as if 'HJER' had clinched victory but all was about to change again! Hello team 'Mycrofts Umbrella' – the last team of the day. Their robot went all the way to the edge of the table and was victorious. The robot was programmed by Bethany McKenzie and Eleanor Wilsher.

### Challenge 2 – Programme their robot to follow a race track

Strong contenders from Challenge 1 seemed to crash and burn with this task. 'HJER' must have thought it was a disco contest as their robot seemed to have a 'funny moment' before disappearing from the track. Team 'Bob' set the standard but did drift off course towards the end. In a more controlled manner was team 'Legotech' who demonstrated how to control the robot correctly. Well done to Abigail Smith, Alys Ridsdale, Phoebe Roach and Grace Meredith.

### Quotes

*"I enjoyed building the robot!"*  
Hannah Schofield

*"I enjoyed every part of the Technocamps workshop!"* Michael Nightingale

Prizes were awarded to people who were identified as pupils who worked particularly well throughout the whole session, particularly with perseverance and contributions. Well done to the following who received a 'slap band' Technocamps USB pen drive: Eleanor Wilsher, Cameron Mainwaring, Michael Nightingale, Rhiannon Tuckett-Jones and Ieuan Williams.

Mr A Pucella ICT/Computing Department







Beginners Group



Intermediate Group



Advanced Group

# Zell-Am-See, Austria



To make the most out of our Christmas holidays, 32 Sixth Form pupils went on a skiing trip to Zell-Am-See in Austria. The few amongst us who had never been before, had absolutely no idea what to expect; packing all we could possibly fit into our suitcases (with an absurd number of thermals), we headed off on Boxing Day. On paper 26 hours on a coach doesn't seem like that much, but with just 4 DVDs and only so many games of Mafia we could play – the time went by slowly...

Surprisingly, we all made it in one piece. Arriving at the lodge, we all immediately felt underdressed, as we ran through the snow to get into the warm! Some of us (read: me) were kind enough to carry others suitcases for them, but most just grabbed all their possessions and sprinted inside. Lugging our suitcases up the stairs, we fell through the doors to our rooms and pretty much collapsed on the beds. Conversation over dinner was non-existent, and some of us were eating with one eye open. Exhausted, we all went to bed early, except for some of the boys, who had caught their second wind and were determined to make the most of their holiday!

Woken up at the unearthly time of 7:15 (7:15!!) by Mr John, we were out and on the slopes by 9:30. While the Advanced and Intermediate Groups were busy (by their own accounts) zooming down slopes and rescuing lost people, the Beginners were walking around in circles with our skis on. The Advanced and Intermediate Groups were making it down Reds and Blues with no falls at all (except for poor Matthew Allen...), whereas, the Beginners were going down 5 metre slopes -

and still managing to fall. After lunch, the Beginners tried their first Blue slope. After about an hour, the decision was made to walk down the slope instead – I don't think I need to explain why. While the Advanced and Intermediate Groups went to bed with a big smile on their faces, I think it's fair to say quite a few Beginners were worried they had made a terrible decision.

Up on the slopes again the next day, the Beginners had a welcome surprise; they had been 'promoted' to Kinder Parc (Or Kiddie's Park in English). Complete with foam cut-outs of Flounder the Fish (of Little Mermaid fame) and a conveyor belt to the top of the 5 metre high slope, the Beginners felt much more in their element. While Austrian toddlers were racing past us (apparently it's just a natural gift over there, as we were regularly outclassed by children) we were crawling down the slight decline, 'snowploughing' all the way. Ridiculous as it was, it paid off. The Beginners made it down their first slope just before lunch to (possibly sarcastic) applause from the Advanced Group below us. Our fears gone, suddenly we couldn't go steep enough or fast enough!





# Winter

## Wonderland

On the third and fourth days the beginners finally started to get... decent at skiing. Making it down slopes of increasing difficulty, we were getting more and more arrogant – until one of us (who won't be named) managed to wipe out half the team and our instructor. While the Beginners were trying to commit manslaughter on the Blues, the Advanced Group went off piste with their instructor. Going to a restaurant off the beaten slope, they got to really experience some proper Austrian cuisine; and then rub it in our faces (not literally). We spent our nights watching Go Pro footage of the day's events, and hearing horror stories of skiing - like how Dylan managed to wipe out a little toddler, or how Tom's skis detached in the air after a very high jump.

On the final day of skiing, the instructors set up a slalom for us to complete. Having the same course for every skier was a recipe for disaster, but some of the times recorded were blisteringly fast! Admittedly there were a lot of tumbles, but everyone recovered well enough. Except for Jack Power, who was too busy punching the snow in a rage to get back on his skis. After lots of photos and goodbyes, we descended down the slopes for the last time. The Advanced, some of the Intermediate and Matt Ellis of the Beginners skied their way down to the town like true pros. The rest of us were happy just to slug along in the gondolas.

With our cases packed we hopped back into the coach, ready for the journey home. We all had a fantastic time skiing, and with no broken bones I'd call it a success! All of us immediately started thinking of when we could do it again, raring to go down those slopes again. A massive thank you to all of the teachers - Mr Stradling, Miss Davies, Mrs Callister - and instructors who made it possible, and especially to Mr John for organising it all. It was definitely an amazing time, one we were all very happy to be a part of.

Nick Slade Year 13

'Moose' of the week: Alex Davies, James Long, Matthew Allen, Rhys Barrett, Jake Furness.

On 4th December, both Full Course Welsh Year 10 classes took a trip to Cardiff's Winter Wonderland.

Everyone arrived in really high spirits ready to take our tentative steps on to the ice. After queuing and having the rules shouted at us by an extremely enthusiastic helper, we grabbed our skates and prepared to face the ice.

Torvill and Dean many of us were not; more like Bambi on ice as we slipped and slithered trying to keep our balance and pride! Fortunately, there were no major injuries and, after an hour, we left the rink quite sore but unscathed.

There was plenty of choice of food. Both Ms Davies' were seen enjoying some very calorific cheesy nachos!

A few of us more intrepid pupils decided to face our fears; pay £5 and go on the scariest, tallest ride in Winter Wonderland, namely, the notorious Sky Swing. It was certainly worth the fear as the view on such a clear, crisp night was stunning. We could see for miles!

Before we left, most of us went as many times as we could on the Funhouse. It really was back to our childhoods!! We arrived back at school around 10.30pm, worn out but having enjoyed a fun evening.

We can't wait for next December!!

Layla Millar and Charlotte Clarke Year 10



## Slalom Results

### Beginners:

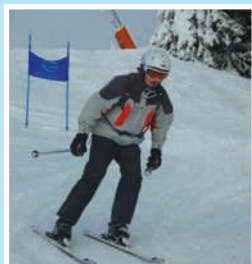
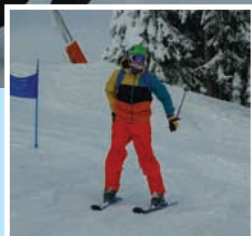
- 1) Matt Ellis,
- 2) Tesney Lewis,
- 3) Nathaniel King

### Intermediate:

- 1) Mollie Rees,
- 2) Aaron Martin,
- 3) Caleb Burnett

### Advanced:

- 1) Lewis Evans,
- 2) Joshua Bell,
- 3) Thomas Phillips







# School Carol Service

Once again, All Saints Church provided the venue for Porthcawl Comprehensive School's Annual Carol Service. On the 18th December, pupils, teachers, parents and friends gathered to enjoy an evening of hymns, readings, carols, orchestral pieces and drama items.

As is tradition, the Girls' Choir began the evening's proceedings by performing 'Silent Night' as the processional carol. As ever, this was very moving and vocally strong.

Canon P Masson welcomed everyone to the service and introduced the congregational carol 'Hark the Herald' which was superbly accompanied by our Wind Band.

Our Wind Band then went on to perform 'The Little Drummer Boy' and 'Joyful all ye Nations' under the direction of Mrs Karen Hnyda. This was definitely one of the highlights of the evening and the performance was exceptional. We are so fortunate to have so many talented pupils at PCS!

This year, we had one of largest Senior Choirs of the past few years. It was lovely to see so many of our senior pupils perform and participate. They sang two contrasting songs. Firstly, the lively and energetic 'Jesus Child' by John Rutter, then a poignant performance of the traditional carol 'In the Bleak Mid Winter'. Mitchell Davies and Phoebe Lewis sang beautiful solos and the choir finished the piece a cappella.

Mr Jefferies, our guitar peripatetic teacher, supported the Guitar Ensemble with a funky version of 'Silent Night', very different from the girls' processional version! Pupils from Year 9 through to Year 11 were involved and it was lovely to see some new additions to the groups. Unfortunately it was the last carol service at PCS for one of our key guitarists – Trystan Winn-Davies as he leaves us to move to London. Trystan is a great guitarist who will be truly missed - Good luck for the future Trystan!

Once again, the Junior Drama item had the congregation laughing! Ethan Griffiths, Evan Davies, Rohan Johns, Stella Marks, William Foskett, Rhys Jones, Carys Rosser-Stanford, Olivia Pownall and Alex Glover were all involved and it is lovely to see such new talent coming through the school. A massive thank you to Mrs Davies and Mr Smith for their support with this!

Miss Hardwick choreographed a beautiful routine for the Senior Drama item. With the support and help from Year 12 girls who take BTEC Performing Arts, they danced a stylised piece to the beautiful song 'Light of the World'. It was a very emotive item in the service and beautifully performed!

Junior Choir were fortunate enough to have two pieces written for them by composer Mrs Lynne Burr. The choir premiered songs called 'Hush A

Bye' and 'At Last it's Christmas Day', both of which were greatly received by the congregation. Thank you to Mrs Burr for giving pupils at PCS this opportunity. Well done to our soloist performers also!

String Ensemble gave another wonderful performance! This year they performed a lovely arrangement of pieces from the film 'The Polar Express' and "Pieds-en-l'air".

Both Junior and Senior Orchestra performed to their usual superb standard! It was amazing to see 11 (!) Grade 8 musicians performing in Senior Orchestra!! We are losing so many talented musicians as they move onto university and we wish them luck in their future career paths. However, it is encouraging to see the talent of the future flourish on these occasions. A special thank you must go to Mrs Hnyda and Mrs Williams for their exceptional support.

A huge 'thank you' once again, to all our wonderful peripatetic staff for their help and support with the Music in this service all year. Thank you also to the many other staff members who were involved or supported this school event.

The Music Department





# 2014 Christmas Fayre



On the 2nd of December, the Year 12 Welsh Baccalaureate class held their Annual Christmas Fayre. We began the organisation of the Fayre back in September, as part of the enterprise component of the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

We started off by electing each other to fill certain roles, based on people's individual strengths. We then decided as a group which 2 local charities we would donate the money to, as we were all very conscious that we would like the money raised to be used locally.

The first of the charities we decided on was Latch, a charity that supports children with cancer and their families, established in Cardiff in Llandough Hospital. The second was Grace's Gift, a charity who aim to raise awareness of maternal health and foetal wellbeing, which was established by a Porthcawl family. Both these charities are fantastic causes that we all felt passionately about. As a class, we set ourselves a target of £500, as this would allow us to donate a large amount of money to each of our chosen charities. In order to do this, we organised various cakes sales as an additional way of boosting our profit.

In the weeks before the Fayre, we visited Year 7 form classes and invited them to run their own stalls, as well as running a competition between

them to see which form could make the most money. Each form presented a stall run by members of their form, and the money they made contributed hugely to our overall total. We also had several outside stalls involved in the Fayre.

For many the highlight was Santa's Grotto along with his reindeer! Many children queued to have their photos taken with the reindeer, and to receive a little gift from Santa.

We managed to make a grand total of £630 which means we will be donating £315 to each of our chosen charities. We'd like to thank everybody for their support on the evening.

Robert Young Year 12 Welsh Baccalaureate





## What the pupils thought...

"Inspirational for my current research for Y12 Textiles. Learned a lot and spent too much money!" Emily Drew 6CL

"I found the university graduates' stands really interesting and informative." India Davison 6LB

"Third year of going and it gets better every time. It really inspired my AS Level project and there were amazing clothes." Sophie Crole 6HC

"Loved the experience and such an exciting atmosphere! So many inspirational designs I saw that I could put into my textiles design work." Layla Sedgwick 11LM

"Really enjoyed this day out, loved the designs on the catwalk." Cerys O'Sullivan 10AC

"An amazing shopping experience with a fantastic catwalk show that was better than our expectations." Nia Powell 11JW, Charlotte Owen 11JW and Lauren Thomas 11HP

"As good as the shopping was, the fashion show was by far the best! It was absolutely amazing and a completely unique experience." Emily Stradling 10EC

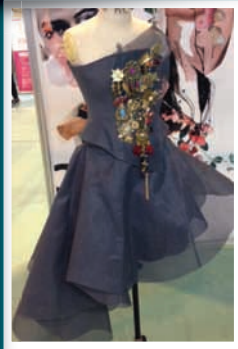
"Amazing day! I recommend it to anyone." Naomi Dykes 6LT

"Really good trip, great day would love to go again." Shannon Sumner 10AW and Jodie Poacher 10RP

"Really motivating day - got some inspiration for our GCSE garment designs." Georgia Comley 11LM and Kate Rossini 11NM

"Fun day out with amazing people and lots of shopping!" Bethany Beck 10AE and Jess Townsend 10HB

"Lots of fun and some good bargains!" Jess Sutton 6CD



# The Clothes Show *Live*

Once more we set off to the NEC Birmingham for our visit to The Clothes Show Live. This year we had 48 pupils and 2 members of staff.

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, which was hosted by Jamie Laing from MIC fame (Made in Chelsea). 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!





# BASKETBALL

## U16 CARDIFF CITY FOUNDATION TOURNAMENT WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2015



### GIRLS

On Wednesday January 28th the U16 Girls' Basketball Team played in the final of the Cardiff City Foundation Tournament in the House of Sport. The girls entered the final as the top placed team with a qualifying round that saw them come through in first place and with a very high point difference. In the group stages the girls took on Stanwell, Bryn Celynnog and Pen y Dre and played fast and strong in all three games. Bryn Celynnog proved the girls toughest game as they faced two Basketball Wales players. Year 11 players Chloe Jenkins and Sarah Williams had good defensive games against Pen y Dre and Lucy Edwards dominated at the offensive end of the floor. After a busy morning the girls got a well deserved rest as they skipped the quarter finals and went straight through to the semi finals in 1st place position. Here they played Bryn Celynnog once again and this time, even the Year 7 and 8 girls stepped up to the mark and Porthcawl pulled away with a convincing win. The final was the girls' biggest challenge as they faced Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini, the only other undefeated team in the tournament. Cwm Rhymini put the first points on the board but the girls kept their heads up and really started to make Cwm Rhymini work hard. Emily Stradling led the way with the scoring and managed to draw a large number of fouls to pull the Porthcawl girls ahead 12 points to 4. The lead remained comfortable until the dying minutes of the game when Cwm Rhymini had a number of easy points in the paint due to a tired Porthcawl defence and brought the score back level at 17-17. Luckily a cheap foul in the last few seconds brought the Porthcawl girls back on top for when the buzzer sounded! For a group with lots of young players, Porthcawl had done extremely well and were very happy to come away with two girls in the All Star Five. Well done Lucy Edwards and Emily Stradling!



### BOYS

On the same day, the U16 Boys' Basketball team also played in the final of the Cardiff City Foundation Tournament at the same venue. Having come through their qualifying round in 2nd place, the boys were out to make a point in their first game against Mary Immaculate who they had previously lost to. They took the once confident team by surprise and came away with a convincing win. This was their first game in the tournament's group stages and only more wins were to follow as they faced the other teams in their group, Bryn Celynnog and Treorchy. Against Treorchy all Porthcawl players really stepped up with Rob Davis and Caleb Denyer scoring a high number of points and Morgan Carter showing what an athlete he is with a rather memorable dunk. Next came the quarter finals and with such an impressive group stage Porthcawl were the team everyone wanted to beat. Cwm Rhymini proved weak competition for the Porthcawl boys but their semi final against Cardiff High told a completely different story. The game stayed close throughout but Porthcawl came out on top in the end leaving all of the supporters and coaches very relieved! The boys were completely pumped for the final especially having seen the girls win theirs and it was time to bring back the fight they had had at the start of the tournament. Impressive assists from Ben Merchant and strong finishes from Gabe Williams-Rumble and Morgan Carter secured a surprisingly easy win for the Porthcawl boys. At the end of the day the team not only came away with the trophy but Ben Merchant and Morgan Carter were awarded a place in the All Star Five.

Ethan Waters and Emily Stradling Year 10

### Team Lists

#### Girls:

1. Lucy Edwards
2. Alecia Wilson-Morgan
3. Chloe Jenkins
4. Aimee Vincent
5. Sarah Williams
6. Emily Stradling
7. Nicola Hughes
8. Amber Levey
9. Amy Bradbury
10. Hannah Davidson
11. Maddie Wintle

#### Boys:

1. Caleb Denyer
  2. Danny Coleman
  3. Connor Jones
  4. Ben Cannon
  5. Rob Davis
  6. Elai Platts
  7. Gabriel Williams-Rumble
  8. Morgan Carter
  9. Jacob Evans
  10. Ethan Waters
  11. Joe Stradling
  12. Ben Merchant
- Extras - Oliver Martin and Owen Davies





# Rugby

## WRU SCHOOL / CLUB HUB OFFICER

One term into having a WRU officer in school and being a WRU School of Rugby, rugby is thriving in Porthcawl Comprehensive School. In the Autumn Term 34 rugby fixtures were played by a total of 133 players from Year 7 to 13. Of these players, 107 of them are also regularly playing on the weekend for local clubs at Porthcawl, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend Sports and Bridgend Athletic. Some notable improvements on the last few seasons are the games that the Senior XV were able to fulfil by playing in the Ospreys Schools League this season.

Thursday nights have become a breeding ground for new and upcoming talent as the Year 7 and 8 squads train. With numbers of 30+ each week, the future is bright for local rugby. These players have benefited from coaching from at least 2 PE staff and Year 11 pupil Euan Manley, who as part of his GCSE Physical Education course, has taken the youngsters 'under his wing'.

The Year 11 team worked hard to get out of their Ospreys Schools group and face the challenge of the knock out stages of the Welsh Cup. They are playing in their new kit that they purchased thanks to the local sponsorship from The Fountain Restaurant, Natural Solutions, Shoe 22 and Nottage Joinery.

Some Year 12 and 13 pupils are currently following the WRU Rugby TAG and Leaders Award in school and will hopefully be working in the community and local primary schools once completed.

The girls of Porthcawl Comprehensive have experienced some TAG rugby in lessons but now have the opportunity to train towards playing in a competitive touch or possibly a contact game. This is an exciting new challenge and opportunity for girls and we are looking for new members to join in on a Wednesday night after school.

In addition to our own school news, at the end of November, Jake Furness and Christian Long both from Year 13, were chosen to play for Crawshay's Welsh RFC Youth XV against Christ College Brecon. This was a tremendous achievement – well done boys!

Mr G Davies  
WRU School/Club Hub  
Officer



## YEAR 11 RUGBY KIT SPONSORSHIP

As a successful and motivated school rugby team, our Year 11 squad were looking forward to the challenge of playing in the U16 Welsh Cup this year. We decided that if we could work with the PE Department and find some sponsorship then we could purchase a new playing kit for this exciting season ahead of us and really look the part. We worked hard over the Summer holidays to find some sponsorship and sourced a kit from school uniform provider Euro Schools. The sponsorship greatly reduced the cost of the kit and all players in the rugby squad received shorts, socks and a new jersey. Thanks go to the generosity of Mr and Mrs Fry of Nottage Joinery and Shoe 22, to Natural Solutions and The Fountain Restaurant who made this possible. We feel proud to wear the new kit with its blue and red hoops, school badge and sponsors names.



Up until now we had been wearing the old senior kit, which we are sure Mr John used to wear during his time in school! The new kit has brought us luck so far as we progressed through the regional stage of the cup and into the last 32 teams in Wales.

Euan Manley, Joe Fry and Leon Evans Year 11

## Cross Country News

### 38th Welsh Schools Inter Schools Cross Country Championships

The Year 7 girls continue to keep Porthcawl in the forefront of x country championships. After competing in Brecon in November the following girls had yet another successful result:

Nia Clatworthy 5th, Meg McCloy 38th, Amber Williams 39th

The entry for this event was huge with over 130 entrants from both Year 7 and Year 8. The girls did exceptionally well to achieve the above results, particularly as many of the girls they competed against were a year older.

### South Wales Region X Country Selection Success

Congratulations to Ocean Poultney-Maddy, Nia Clatworthy and Meg McCloy (Year7) who were selected for the South Wales Region U13 team to compete in the Welsh Regional Championships in Builth Wells in December. Only 15 girls in total were selected to represent South Wales in this event. Well done girls!

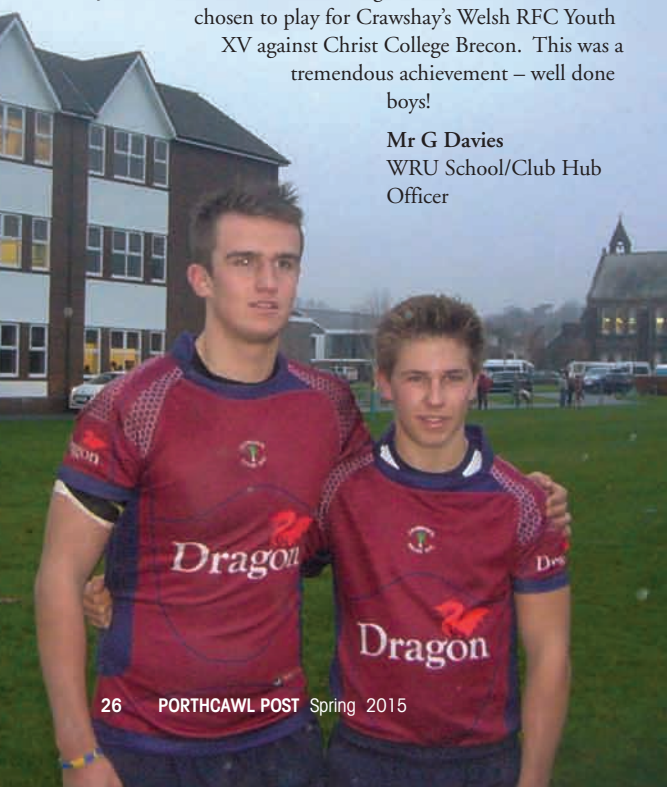
Congratulations also to the following pupils who were selected to represent Glamorgan Valleys in the National Cross Country Championships in Brecon in February.

YEAR 7- Nia Clatworthy, Amber Williams, Meg McCloy, Ami Fraser & Ocean Poultney Maddy

YEAR 9 - Emily Phillips

YEAR 12 - Robert Davis & Felicity Williamson-Sarll

Miss H.Davies PE Department







# WINTER GAMES 2014

An unseasonably mild December allowed the annual School's House Competition to go ahead as planned. Pupils' support of their houses was once again strong and committed and it was pleasing to note that there was good support shown to the house system.

As in previous years, the old adage 'You have to be in it to win it' was borne out as the houses that were most strongly represented generally tended to go on and win.

However, everyone who took part should be very pleased with their efforts and 'wins' for once were evenly shared. This meant that the overall result was in genuine doubt right up until the final whistle.

Every single pupil who took part needs to be commended for how organised and committed they were to their house and their team mates ... WELL DONE YOU ARE A CREDIT!



## FINAL RESULTS

- 1st DYFED
- 2nd GWYNEDD
- 3rd MORGANNWG
- 4th POWYS

## Results of Interest to Individual Houses

### DYFED

- 1st Year 7 Netball
- 1st Year 9, 10 & Seniors Hockey
- 1st Year 10 Rugby

### GWYNEDD

- 1st Year 8, 9 & 10 Netball
- 1st Year 7 Hockey
- 1st Year 7 & 8 Football
- 1st Year 7 Rugby

### MORGANNWG

- 1st Year 8 Hockey
- 1st Year 9 & 10 Football
- 1st Year 9 Rugby

### POWYS

- 1st Seniors Netball
- 1st Seniors Football
- 1st Year 8 Rugby

## BADMINTON



Well done to Caitlin Rees of Year 8 who is taking the Badminton world by storm! In recent months, she has achieved the following:-

**Badminton England 2014 Cornwall**  
U13 Girls' Singles - Gold Medal

**Badminton England 2014 Oxford**  
U13 Girls' Singles - Silver Medal

**Badminton Wales 2014 Junior Open**  
U13 Girls' Singles - Gold Medal

**South & West Glamorgan Badminton Association 2014**  
U15 Girls' Singles - Gold Medal  
U17 Girls' Singles - Gold Medal  
U17 Girls' Doubles - Gold Medal

**Badminton England 2014 Devon Open**  
U13 Girls' Singles - Gold Medal;  
U13 Girls' Doubles - Silver Medal

## Gymnastics Gold

Congratulations to Paige Sheen (Year 8) who won the Welsh Championships Pairs Acrobatics Competition.

Miss H.Davies  
PE Department



# Pupil Achievements

Many congratulations go to the following:-

**Jack Bridger, Felicity Williamson-Sarll, Nathaniel King and Matthew Dang**  
**Years 12-13**

Members of the Porthcawl Comprehensive School Team who won the Bridgend Heat of the Young Consumer Competition

**Madeleine Williamson-Sarll**  
**Last Year's Year 13**

Achieved the top mark in Wales in Welsh A Level written paper Summer 2014

**Shannon Rock**  
**Last Year's Year 13**

Achieved the top mark in Wales in Law A Level written paper Summer 2014

**Paige Sheen**  
**Year 8**

Gymnastics - Winner of the Welsh Championships Pairs Acrobatics Competition

**Christian Long and Jake Furness**  
**Year 13**

Rugby - Selected to represent Crawshay's Welsh RFC Youth XV

**Caitlin Rees**  
**Year 8**

Badminton – Numerous Gold and Silver Medals throughout the season in Badminton England and Badminton Wales competitions

**Elis Powell**  
**Year 7**

Achieved Black Belt in Shotokan Karate

**Rebecca Sutton**  
**Year 9**

Selected for Welsh Youth Swimming Team (She is the youngest ever member to be selected)

**Alistair Noden**  
**Year 13**

Member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales

**Alexandra Hunt**  
**Year 11**

Member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales

**Imogen Kent**  
**Year 13**

Member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales  
Piano Grade 8 - Merit

**Katie Williams**  
**Year 11**

New Member of the Four Counties' Orchestra

**Layla Millar**  
**Year 10**

New Member of the Four Counties' Orchestra

**Katie Davis**  
**Year 11**

New Member of the Four Counties' Orchestra

**Thomas Phillips**  
**Year 13**

Reserve Member of the National Youth Wind Band of Wales  
Tenor Saxophone - Grade 8 - Distinction

**Ethan Waters**  
**Year 10**

Selected for U15 Wales Basketball

**Jamie Harrowing**  
**Year 8**

In WNO production of Hansel and Gretel Spring 2015  
Oboe Grade 3 - Distinction

**Rhianwen Keirl**  
**Year 10**

Selected for National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain – performed in the Royal Festival Hall, London in December 2014

**Lowri Howell**  
**Year 11**

Flute Grade 7 - Distinction

**Isaak Cronje**  
**Year 7**

Clarinet Grade 4 - Merit

**Adam Williams**  
**Year 8**

Clarinet Grade 4 - Pass

**Elen McCloy**  
**Year 9**

Flute Grade 3 - Merit

**Stella Marks**  
**Year 7**

Flute Grade 3 - Pass

## PARENTS/GUARDIANS

We rely on you for our information! Has your child achieved success or recognition relating to an extra-curricular activity? If so, please email [pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk](mailto:pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk)

Design : HahaGraphics 01568 668069

Answers from Maths Challenge on page 17 - Question 1. D Question 2. B

