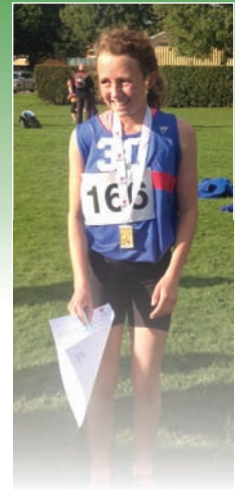
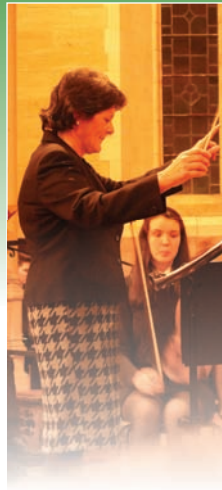


Welcome to the second edition of the **Porthcawl Post** for the school year 2015-2016



# Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Spring 2016

## Headteacher's Address



I must begin this piece with a reflection on the school show. Our production of "We Will Rock You" played to capacity houses with a rousing standing ovation each night. As a school, we are hugely proud of our talented cast.

Talent is one thing, but it needs to be combined with effort and this certainly happened again this year. The dedication of our staff and the commitment of the cast continue to produce the excellence for which we are known. Former pupil, Mrs Rhiannon Giles was the Musical Director for her first show with us and she delivered a fantastic musical performance.

Under the direction of Miss Kelly Hardwick the usual team of Mr Joe Smith (Production Manager) and Mrs Rhian Atherton (Choreographer) delivered once again for our school. I feel the school combines and collaborates to continue to maintain our tradition of excellence in the field of Performing Arts. "We Will Rock You" was our 38th consecutive show to be held at the Grand Pavilion and was a great experience for all involved.

Following a recent retirement we have made a series of appointments to our administrative team, the posts are:

- Mrs Angela Roberts Office Manager
- Mrs Britt Henderson Examinations Officer
- Mrs Clair Stephens Examinations Secretary
- Mrs Emma Babbage Data Officer
- Miss Carys Griffiths Attendance Clerk
- Miss Elaine Burke Cover Supervisor / Admin Assistant

Miss Shani Baker and Miss Leah Slowinski have left our English Department to work closer to their homes in Cardiff and Swansea. Following these departures, we are delighted to announce the appointments of Ms Julie James and Miss Leah Gormley to our English Department. Both teachers are looking forward to the challenge of Porthcawl when they start in September. As many know, we now deliver the full course RE to all learners at Key Stage IV. With this change, we have appointed and look forward to Ms Verity Jones joining us in September.

At this time of year, we do many of our improvement projects to enhance the environment for the children. The School Council asked for improvements to the toilets so those in A and D Block have been refurbished. Many areas of the school will be painted with new safety flooring added. We have a high quality learning environment and to their credit the pupils treat it with respect. Another addition some of you may have spotted is the new minibus. We have been able to replace the two older busses with one new 17 seater bus which will enable us to continue our

programme of extra-curricular activities, fieldwork and sporting fixtures.

We ask you to sign in at Parents' Evenings so we can monitor support of these events. I can report that generally attendance at Parents' Evenings has improved. We had an impressive 83% attendance at the recent Year 9 evening, and a venerable 91% at the Year 12 evening.

Student Support is now well embedded in our school. Mrs Sarah Morgan assisted by Mrs Andrea Stimpson have developed a new service at school. The aim of this is to support the most vulnerable learners in school. There are many learners in our school who face barriers to reaching their full potential. The strategic aim of Student Support is to remove barriers to success so all our learners flourish fully. Reducing the impact of poverty and closing the educational attainment gap are Welsh Government priorities; Student Support is a large part of our response.

As a school, we believe firmly in the comprehensive ethos where every child is valued equally. Given this philosophy, we try our utmost to ensure each child reaches their potential whatever that may be. Student Support is tasked with this fundamental goal and works creatively and imaginatively towards this end. The measure of a society is how it provides for our most vulnerable and we at Porthcawl pride ourselves on our effort here. Further on in this edition of the "Post", there is a fuller article that highlights the outstanding work in this area.

Andrew Slade Headteacher

# Housekeeping

I am delighted to report that our Autumn term attendance figure for the whole school (Years 7 - 13) was 95.3%, above target. The figure that is reported to the Welsh Government is for Years 7 - 11 and for the Autumn term this was a very encouraging 95.9%, again above target. The first assessment marker has shown very promising examination results for our pupils this Summer. However, the attendance figure dipped a little in January with a number of holidays, illness and a minority of Year 11 pupils absent from school the day before their GCSE examinations.

## Year 11 Attendance Prior to Examinations

I would like to emphasise how important it is for pupils to attend lessons in the run up to their examinations. This summer, Year 11 will be issued with an extensive revision timetable. This will include support in the holidays and every day up until the Whitsun half term (up to and including Friday 27th May 2016). It is essential that Year 11 pupils are in school full time until Whitsun. They should be in school, making the most of the excellent revision opportunities. Following the Whitsun half term, Year 11 will have less revision in school and will be spending more time studying at home.

## Punctuality

Punctuality in Porthcawl is excellent. We have just updated our 'Punctuality and Lateness' policy and outlined below are the main procedures. The full policy can be viewed on the school website.

SIMS will keep a record of all late arrivals of pupils. A check will be made via discrepancy slips to identify those who are late and have not signed in correctly.

Once a pupil has 2 lates recorded in one week, a detention is given coupled with a letter to the parent (Letter A). The letter will be generated via the SIMS system and copied to the Head of Year for reference.

Once a pupil has 5 lates recorded, a detention is given coupled with a letter to the parent (Letter B). The letter will be generated via the SIMS system and copied to the Head of Year for reference.

The Head of Year will organise and oversee the serving of the detentions and will record it in the pupils' pastoral file.

The original number of lates is kept as a record and 3 or more detentions will trigger a pupil/parent interview with the Head of Year. This is brought about using Letter C. The Head of Year now liaises with the Education Welfare Officer and makes a decision about support/sanctions as appropriate.

The Pastoral Support Officers and the Education Welfare Officer may be involved in this process at any stage, via phone calls, letters and visits.

May I also remind parents that they should not drive onto to the school site during the school day, before the start or at the end of the day. Thank you.

Mrs V Hunt

# Porthcawl Comprehensive School Governors

## Clerk to the Governors:

Miss Simone Delaney: schoolgovernancesolutions@gmail.com

End Date

Mrs A Thomas - Chair of Governors (Community) 20/10/2018

Ms A Morgan Vice Chair of Governors (LEA) 12/11/2016

## LEA

Mrs G Carlson 09/07/2016

Dr A Palmer 12/11/2016

Mr J Harrington 13/07/2019

Cllr S Aspey 23/11/2019

## Community

Mr M T Keohane 25/11/2016

Mrs Y Evans 19/10/2019

Rev T Kolongo 19/10/2019

Mrs C Brown 17/11/2018

## Parent

Mrs V Hunt 07/03/2016

Mr P Williamson 24/10/2017

Mr N Ashton 05/10/2016

Mrs C Shears 05/10/2016

Mrs G Williams 09/10/2016

Mrs A Dabernig 23/09/2018

## Support Staff

Mrs N Evans 08/02/2019

## Teacher

Miss H Redmond 08/03/2019

Mrs M Callister 17/05/2019

## Headteacher

Mr A Slade 31/08/2016

# High Praise Indeed...



The High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan Youth Awards scheme gives financial rewards to young people making outstanding achievements within the county.

To promote the award, the current High Sheriff, Mrs Jayne James of Pyle, Mid Glamorgan visited the school and spoke in assembly. She is a former news journalist and television broadcaster with BBC Wales for more than 27 years, recently retired from broadcasting and now spends her time running a Womenswear Boutique, along with fundraising for various charities. She is Vice-chair of the Women in Wales Committee which raises money for Save the Children. Part of her year in office will be spent on raising the profile of the modern-day High Sheriff and in doing so, promoting the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan Youth Awards scheme.

As a school we are delighted to have nominated Ieuan Daily from Year 10 for this award, which recognises young people who have contributed towards supporting their neighbourhood, an individual, a family member or an organisation.

Ieuan has recently demonstrated such qualities as maturity and compassion, following an accident in which a cousin was badly injured. Ieuan has supported family members by taking on chores and responsibilities. He is also trying to raise funds to support his cousin's rehabilitation.

Well done Ieuan!

# Leaping around for Lepra



Lepra is a UK registered international charity focusing on people who find themselves trapped by disease, poverty and prejudice and they help them to improve their health, lives and livelihoods.

They work with individuals and communities affected by some of the world's oldest and most neglected diseases, including leprosy and lymphatic filariasis; working on the ground in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique they treat, educate and rehabilitate, and through this give a voice to people living on the margins of society.

At Porthcawl Comprehensive School we think it's important that children are aware of the world around them. A local fundraiser came into our school to deliver an educational presentation to educate children about the damaging effects of some of the world's oldest and most neglected diseases, such as leprosy.

Lepra then returned to host a "workout challenge" and our Year 7 pupils got involved and the sessions taught them valuable life skills such as literacy and numeracy, organisation, creativity and healthy living. Money was raised whilst fun was had.



## INTERACT

Just like every other year, Christmas Jumper Day 2015 was a huge success! We raised an amazing £585 in total for charities such as Save the Children. In with the total is the money raised from the Sixth Form Christmas Quiz which was also a lot of fun! Thanks to everyone who gave!

The Interact Team

# Sweet Parcels and Easter Eggs for Romania



This year the Head Team was offered the opportunity to organise the collection of sweet parcels for the Romanian children which was previously organised by Mrs Evans. The task at hand was to wrap sweet parcels containing a varied selection of confectionery including: Toffee Crisps, Smarties, Mars Bars, Fruit Pastels, Starbursts, and Milkyways.

Members of the Head Team went into individual year groups to ask for their support for such a good cause. The year groups seemingly jumped at the prospect with all year groups donating an array of the required sweets and many of those who did not donate sweets gave money instead.

The sweets and money were collected from the respective form classes from each of the years and the Head Team as well as others wrapped the presents,

raising a total of £410. The total number of parcels sent was 375, which is a new record! Mrs Evans came to observe the good work done by all and was very pleased to see the school, as a collective, get behind such a worthwhile cause.

At the moment we are in the middle of collecting Easter eggs for the street children of Romania, and hopefully we will beat last year's amazing total of over 3000 eggs leaving from Porthcawl. Like the sweet parcels, these eggs will be loaded on to lorries in Cardiff and physically driven to Romania by a team of kind volunteers who will give them out on the streets to the children. It is not too late to bring eggs into school but you had better be quick as they hope to get there in time for Easter!

Jack Beale & Connor Abbott Head Team

# CHARITY WEEK Events



**Monday 9th November saw the start of Charity Week. At break-time, over 200 Krispy Kreme doughnuts were sold, yum!**

Then came the first lunchtime event; 'The Great British Bake-Off'. In this event teachers (Mr Holt, Mr Hutchinson, Mrs James, Miss Williams, Miss Carpanini and Miss Harris) completed in timed rounds to decorate cakes whilst being impeded by various handicaps such as blindfolds, dizziness and spontaneous compulsory dancing. It was a close contest but eventually Paul Hollywood (Mr Thomas) judged that Miss Williams would be the champion of this year's 'Bake Off'.

On Tuesday the slave auctions at break time began, it was also the day of 'Are you smarter than a Year 7?' In this battle of brains, hosted humorously by Rhys 'Noel' Owens, teachers took on their Year 7 pupils in a cross curriculum test of the Year 7 syllabus. With the crowd rooting for the Year 7 contestants, one by one they took to the podium to face their teacher. All the teachers were defeated and forced to admit they were conclusively not as smart as the Year 7s!

The slave auctions continued on the Wednesday along with 'Guess How Many Balloons Were In The Car?' which was indeed challenging! Womanless Miss World was up next at lunchtime. Contestants were told to keep it PG in this racy display of male elegance. Matt Edwards, Rhys Owen, Connor Abbott, Rob Davis and Max Bravery all took to the stage as their female alter egos, clad in female dresses, adorned by feathers and sequins.

Mr McKenzie enjoyed the show more than most and alongside Mrs Christopher, the two judged that Rhys Owen had won....but in a controversial turn of events, the crowd contested that Rob Davis was in fact the winner.

On the Thursday, slave auctions continued at break time along with penalty shoot-out that had Mr McKenzie, Mr Weatherhead, Mr Holt and Mr Booth acting the part of Cristiano Ronaldo. Then



at lunchtime, 'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here' took place with Camp Bruce; Mr Holt, Mr Pucella and Mr Short fiercely battling Camp Sheila; Mrs Christopher, Mrs Hammerton and Mrs Harris.

Through the three revolting trials of smelling, touching and eating, we found that Camp Bruce in fact took the jungle crown this year. To retrieve their prize they made their way over to Kiosk Keith (Rhys Owen) where they were awarded cookies and a face full of cream!

The final events of the week, on the Friday, included the infamous 'Sponge the Teacher' at break time that saw Mrs Hammerton, Mr Davies, Mr Card, Mrs James and Mr Booth drowning in more than tears of despair. Then at lunchtime, the one we'd all been waiting for 'The Lip Sync Battle'. The first teacher fighting for the title and hoping to kick the show off in style was Mr Holt, shaking it off to Taylor Swift's 'Shake-it Off', wearing a suitably funky tutu. Next to the stage were Mr Short and Mrs Llewellyn, looking to be the 'Islands in the Stream' and catch the judges with their western re-enactment of the famous duet.

Next up was Mrs Atherton and Mrs Giles' enchanting performance of 'Let It Go'. The excellent practical effects in this piece made a sight to behold.



Setting the bar high for resemblance Mr Card, Mr Davies, Mr Booth and Mr Stradling had the crowd captivated with their stealth performance of Bohemian Rhapsody. Joined later by Mr Stratford who laid the famous guitar solo onto the awe stricken crowd. Ending on a high; Mrs Thomas, Mrs Sloggett, Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Stimpson transformed themselves into the sassy Spice Girls for their audacious performance of 'Wannabe' which was so stunning it won them this close contest and even prompted an encore!

Thanks to all the teachers and pupils who took part and donated to the charities, making these events possible!

**Ben Cannon**  
Head Team





Many thanks to Mr Malcolim Nugent for the fantastic photographs

# What happens to the money?

As you all know, during November we hold 'Charity Week' and we raise money for local and national charities. The money raised between Monday and Thursday is donated to local charities that help people in our community and the money raised on Friday is given to Children in Need. To decide what local charities we would donate to this year, we asked the Sixth Form to vote for the charities they felt should receive money. These were:

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

CYSTIC FIBROSIS

LATCH

TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

THE KENYA PROJECT

All the above charities received £500 to help them continue the fantastic work they carry out. Children in Need were given £1,000 and due to so much being raised, we also decided to donate £500 to Action on Hearing Loss.

A huge thank you to all that donated during the week as £4,500 was raised and we couldn't have done it without your help and contributions.

## The Head Team



# Children In Need

## Money Raised: where does some of it go?

Our son Luca was a happy, healthy little boy until just before his third birthday. We noticed several changes that didn't seem quite right. After almost a year of hospital appointments and admissions, along with a cardio-respiratory arrest and intensive care stays, Luca was diagnosed with ROHHAD Syndrome. Luca was the 35th child worldwide to be diagnosed with this rare condition which affects all of his bodily systems. The third child to be diagnosed in the UK, there was no support group that we could turn to for help and no clinician to advise us on Luca's short or long-term prognosis. He needed 24 hour trained care and supervision.

We were left with nowhere to turn. Luca was accepted for respite and for nursery care at Y Bont. Y Bont, based on Ewenny Road, provides a day nursery for children with disabilities and complex medical needs. It costs over £300,000 a year to run Y Bont and it was a massive relief to have support and understanding from the staff there. Y Bont was a lifeline. They accepted Luca and worked with him and us. Luca has attended afterschool club and holiday play schemes and it is with great sadness



that Luca, at almost 9 years old has become too old to attend.

One member of staff, Paula Daniel is Y Bont's Children's Outreach Worker. Her post is funded by BBC Children in Need. As a school, the 6th Form Head Team organise many events which are fully supported and we raise thousands of pounds for Children In

Need. This is just one of many worthy causes that your fund raising helps contribute to.

Y Bont were recently showcased as one of the charities on the BBC Children In Need programme. As a family we were fortunate enough to be invited to the studios in London to say a special thank you to Paula and all the staff at Y Bont for the help and support they have provided over the years. Luca was also over the moon to meet Tess Daly and Dermot O'Leary.

Y Bont has seen us through the laughter and tears and we will be forever thankful for their care and support.

Mr A Pucella

# Where do I go from here?

Looking for an apprenticeship? Aged 16 - 24 and looking for experience? Leaving school and looking for your first job?

Students of Year 11 and the 6th Form recently had a visit from "Go Rookie" an online apprenticeship matching service.

## What is an Apprenticeship?

It is a job with training. Being an apprentice means that you have a job that includes gaining recognized qualifications and essential skills whilst you are working and earning a wage.

There are three types of Apprenticeships:

- Foundation Apprenticeship
- Apprenticeship
- Higher Apprenticeship

In the past apprenticeships were generally in trades like construction and engineering but now they are in any type of work.

Candidates can apply through:

- The Apprenticeship Matching Service for example on the Careers Wales website <http://www.careerswales.com/en/jobs-and-training/job-seeking/vacancy-search/what-is-an-apprenticeship/>

Or a provider such as Go Rookie: <http://www.gorookie.co.uk/>

Candidates are guided to submit an application.

- The employer's own system  
Some employers want to use their own recruitment process. If this is the case candidates will be linked to their instructions. This may be an online application or they may send out a paper application form.

If students require any further information, they can get advice from their Form Tutor, Head of Year or make an appointment with our Careers Advisor.



## Year 9 Technology Day

The Year 9 Design and Technology Day in November was a great success. It was run with the help of STEM Cymru (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) to promote interest in careers in these areas. Pupils had to build a wind turbine from a kit of parts, making decisions about the best gear ratio and the size shape and angle of the turbine blades. After around two hours of manufacturing, teams could test the output of their turbines using a fan to provide the wind and a voltmeter to measure output voltage. By varying the blade angle it was possible to maximise the output.

Each team was able to register their best output voltage and the best in each class were demonstrated in front of the rest of Year 9. The best team from X band was then put up against the best from Y band to find the overall winner.

The second place team was Cherrisse Lau, Anni Martin and Amy Bradbury, and the winners by a whisker were Jess Davies, Eddyliya Osborne and Ellie Granville.

## IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

My name is Georgina Evans and I am a past pupil of Porthcawl Comprehensive School, and currently a 4th year medical student at Cardiff University School of Medicine. On October 20th I visited PCS to talk about getting in to Medical School. Having left 6 years ago, I was really excited to be back, and honoured to be asked by Mrs Williams.

I met a group of Year 12 students with an interest in potentially pursuing a career in medicine. There was a really great turnout, and I was thrilled by how many pupils are considering the profession at this early stage in their A Level studies!

We spent about an hour talking through the gritty details of a medical degree, university choices, and

building your CV, as well as writing the dreaded 'Personal Statement'. Everyone was really enthusiastic, and I was amazed by the range of musical and sporting activities that the pupils carry out, as well as the amount of work experience and voluntary work that they have already gained!

I really enjoyed my visit, and wish everyone the best of luck with their applications - I'm sure that they will all be very successful in whatever careers they pursue. I'm very happy to help and should anyone have any further queries, Mrs Williams has my contact details.

Georgina Evans





**Safer Internet Day 2016** | Tuesday 9 February  
 Play your part for a better internet  
[www.saferinternetday.org.uk](http://www.saferinternetday.org.uk)



The South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) is a not for profit, charitable trust dedicated to the advancement of education through information and communication technologies. They provide professionals, parents and children with advice, resources and support to use internet technologies safely to enhance learning and maximise potential. [www.swgfl.org.uk](http://www.swgfl.org.uk)

## Safer Internet

The school aims to educate all pupils about how to get the best out of the internet. Keeping safe online was the focus for a number of assemblies and events that took place around Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9th February.

As a parent/carer it is not always easy to keep up to date on the latest digital or social media development. Monitoring what our children access and use is very challenging.

In order to support parents/carers with this we would recommend looking at the following links:

### Guide for Parents and Carers

<http://dwn5wtkv5mp2x.cloudfront.net/ufiles/Supporting-young-people-online1.pdf>

### Conversation Starters for Parents

<http://dwn5wtkv5mp2x.cloudfront.net/ufiles/Parents-Conversation-Starters-SID16.pdf>

Or Visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)



The Internet Watch Foundation is the UK's hotline for reporting illegal content found on the internet. It deals specifically with child abuse and criminally obscene images hosted in the UK and internationally. [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)



## Information & Online Resources

You can access a range of resources from across the UK, Europe and wider afield at [www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents)

This organisation has also worked together with Islington Council to create leaflets for foster carers and adoptive parents. The leaflets, which are free to download and easy to print, include top tips and conversation starters to help foster carers and adoptive parents get to grips with internet safety.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk/fostering-adoption](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/fostering-adoption)



Childnet International is a non-profit organisation working in partnership with others around the world to help make the internet a great and safe

place for children. The Childnet website hosts online resources for young people, parents, carers and teachers. The Parents and Carers area also contains key advice, information on reporting and detailed information on a range of e-safety topics in the Hot Topics section. [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com).

Children love using technology and are learning to navigate websites, online games and consoles, and touch screen technology like iPads and smartphones from a younger and younger age. This advice contains top tips for parents and carers for keeping young children safe online. [www.childnet.com/resources/keeping-young-children-safe-online](http://www.childnet.com/resources/keeping-young-children-safe-online)

A free guide created by Childnet providing information and advice for parents and carers on supporting young people online is available in 12 additional languages including Arabic, Hindi, Polish, Spanish, Urdu and Welsh. [www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online](http://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online)

## E-SAFETY

**You are on social media, are you not? Facebook? Snapchat? Instagram?**



A large percentage of students in Porthcawl Comprehensive School have social media. Most of these pupils don't have any protection in the form of privacy settings.

So many problems arise in real life from social media; profiles can come up in job interviews, gossip from other pupils in this school etc. Remember that what you say or do online will stay there **forever**. Try googling yourself and see what comes up. Your school? Your address? Your birthday? You will be surprised!!

When you're online, **BEFORE** you post something...ask yourself, *would you want your parents / guardians to see what you are going to post?*

Courtney Lea Year 9



# Online Resources for Parents & Carers:

## A Parents' Guide to Technology

The UK Safer Internet Centre has created this guide to answer commonly asked questions and introduce some of the most popular devices used by children, highlighting the safety tools available and empowering parents with the knowledge they need to support their children to use these technologies safely and responsibly.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech)

## Internet Parental Controls

The four big internet providers - BT, Sky, Talk Talk and Virgin Media - provide their customers with free parental controls that can be activated at any time. Video tutorials on how to download and use these controls are available on the UK Safer Internet Centre website.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls)

## Safety Tools on Social Networks and Other Online Services:

Information and advice on the safety tools, age requirements and terms and conditions for a variety of online services popular with young people.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools)

## Online Gaming

Childnet's guide contains helpful advice and information on supporting children and young people playing games online.

[www.childnet.com/online-gaming](http://www.childnet.com/online-gaming)

## Young People and Social Networking Sites

Aims to help parents understand the positive and creative ways young people are using social networking spaces (e.g. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). It also points out the potential risks of using these sites and ways to minimise these risks.

[www.childnet.com/sns](http://www.childnet.com/sns)

## Social Network Checklists

Free guides produced by the UK Safer Internet Centre that contain detailed instructions and information on privacy and account settings on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists)



## Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)

This is a police agency tackling child abuse on the internet. This website includes a unique facility that enables parents and young people to make reports of actual or attempted abuse online.

[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

CEOP's website contains information for children and parents, as well as a link for children to report abuse online.

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

## True Vision

Online content which incites hatred on the grounds of race, religion and sexual orientation can be reported to True Vision; a UK website set up to tackle all forms of hate crime, including those on the grounds of disability and transgender identity.

[www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)

## NSPCC

If you have concerns about the safety of a child then contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

## Childline

Children can talk to someone for advice and support at any time by contacting ChildLine on 0800 1111 or chatting to a counsellor online at [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



## The Posada visits Porthcawl

The tradition of the Posada originated in Mexico during the 16th Century, when the invading Spanish introduced many of their Catholic traditions. It traditionally involved the dressing up of two members of the community as Mary and Joseph, who then visited numerous houses in the village to pray at nativity scenes as a reminder of the real meaning of Christmas.

While this does still happen today, it has become more common for Church communities to purchase figures of the heavily pregnant Mary riding on a donkey with Joseph by her side. These are then taken from house to house during the season of Advent. Those who welcome the figures into their homes make a special place for them and usually light candles as a welcome. When the Posada is being passed on, prayers are said in order to welcome 'The Holy Family'.

Whilst this is more commonly a Roman Catholic tradition, it is also carried out by many Anglican churches, and on 15th December the Posada was carefully driven from Aberdare to Porthcawl Comprehensive School. The Holy Family spent the morning in D9 learning about Aquinas' theory of Natural Law and Rastafarianism before travelling to 'A' block, where they helped Mrs Griffiths to welcome visitors to the school. A number of visitors commented on the Posada, and it served its purpose in reminding many people of the reason for our Christmas celebrations, which is often forgotten in the hustle and bustle of the busy season.

After a busy day the Posada travelled back to Aberdare where it made its way to more houses, schools and community events to help spread the Christmas message.

Mrs Cartwright



# Student Support

**Wow ... what a great start to the new academic year for the Student Support Team. Mrs MORGAN and Mrs STIMPSON have settled in well into their new roles and there is no doubt that the base has proved to be an asset to Porthcawl Comprehensive School.**

Welsh Government priorities in terms of engaging with all families and supporting vulnerable learners have led the school to investing greatly in this resource. The aim is to remove any barriers to learning - whether that is issues with attendance, equipment or self confidence to name just a few. So what can Student Support offer the pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School? It provides a secure and safe environment, someone to talk to, advice, guidance, learning support, counselling and a place to celebrate a pupil's own identity.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School wants to create an outstanding climate for learning. To do so, it is important that our pupils feel happy, supported and cared for in order to achieve to the best of their ability. The Student Support Team provides the support and guidance that pupils need from Year 6 right the way through to Year 13. The Student Support team work closely with the Heads of Year to ensure support is provided to pupils effectively and promptly when issues arise. It is dedicated to ensuring our pupils have a range of support services which can be accessed throughout the year.

The first term saw a number of pupils taking part in workshops, with outside training providers, which had a positive impact for all those involved. So successful were the sessions that

there are more planned throughout the year. Student Support have made very positive links with The Bridgend West Integrated Hub, The Wellbeing Team, Education Welfare Services, Barnardo's, Community links, CAMHS, Children Services as well as parents and carers. Student Support will continue their strong links with local primary schools to ensure a successful transition for our pupils of 2016!!

**So don't just take our word for it... here's some feedback from pupils;**

*"... Student Support made a very positive impact on me...listening without judging... friendly and welcoming...comforting me in difficult times ..."*

*"... if Student Support wasn't here I wouldn't have as much control over my anger ..."*

*"Student Support is one of the best things about the school...help me manage my stress...offer a calm environment to help me concentrate ..."*

*"... always there for me and others when you need someone to talk to ..."*

**And parents/carers;**

*"What a fantastic project, long may it run as children suffering with anxiety benefit greatly"*

*"Helping Hands days were vital in appeasing her worries. She is confident that Student Support and Mrs Sloggett are there to help her. Thank you!"*

*"... the transition support has been wonderful and a huge benefit to my child ..."*

## Senior Maths Challenge Results

Well done once again to the following pupils who took time out one lunchtime to have a go at the very demanding Senior Maths Challenge. Over 82,000 pupils from across the UK entered with the top 10% receiving Gold certificates, the next 20% Silver and the next 30% receiving Bronze certificates. Mohammed Azam received the honour for the Best in Year 12 and Best in School and gained a Silver certificate. Richard Lugg received the award for Best in Year 13 and he and Ben Cannon both gained a Bronze certificate. Well done everyone!

Miss E Pugh Head of Maths

**How would you have done?**

The integer (whole number)  $n$  is the mean of 3 numbers 17, 23 and  $2n$ . What is the sum of the digits of  $n$ ?

**A 4 B 5 C 6 D 7 E 8** (Answer on the back cover)



# Year 7 Skills Day

We held a Skills Day for our Year 7 pupils on 16th October. The aim of the day was to encourage resilience amongst our pupils and to promote a “never give up” attitude amongst our learners when faced with possible challenges in the future.





## SEREN NETWORK LAUNCH

On the 25th of January, a group of 36 Year 12 students attended the launch of the Seren Network for Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Powys at Llandarcy Academy of Sport. The Network is an initiative by the Welsh Government aimed at supporting Wales' brightest students in their applications to the UK's leading universities.

Students were selected on the basis of their excellent GCSE results, and Porthcawl's cohort of 36 was by far the largest attending – a testament to the outstanding achievement of our pupils.

We were addressed by the Minister for Education, Huw Lewis, and the pupils then selected two workshops from a range on offer, some subject-based and some offering advice on successful UCAS applications.

One of our pupils, Callum Evans, volunteered to be interviewed about his ambitions and about the Seren Network and his interview now appears on the Network's social media pages.

We look forward to the next stage where the Seren Hub provides opportunities for challenging subject-based workshops, meeting like-minded students from other schools, advice on university applications and links with leading universities.

Porthcawl Comprehensive already has an exceptionally high number of students who receive offers from Oxford, Cambridge and the other "Russell Group" universities: of last year's 132 UCAS applicants, 31% took up these places, the average state school percentage being around 15%.

**Mrs Rhian Williams**  
Head of Year 13



## Christmas Carol Service 2015



Here at PCS, we are so proud of the long standing tradition of the annual Christmas Carol Service. Once again it was a wonderful festive evening, with a mixture of conventional and contemporary items.

We were fortunate again this year to hear the traditional sounds of the Brass Ensemble led by Mr Gray, playing Christmas carols preceding the service. Slightly breaking tradition, a small mixed vocal ensemble opened the service with the processional from 'Frozen'. This was a tricky yet beautiful piece accompanied by both Lowri Howell and Millie Fry on flute for that extra bit of magic!

Our Wind Band then went on to perform 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' and 'The Special Sounds of Christmas' under the direction of Mrs Karen Hnyda. It was a special evening for Mrs Hnyda as it was her last Carol Service after over 30 years of service to the pupils of PCS. We wish her all the very best as she embarks on her new adventure to sunny Australia, but we are sure that she will be back to see us soon! Mrs Hnyda also conducted Junior Orchestra for the final time with 'Holiday Pops Sing-Along', a fantastic medley of our best loved Christmas tunes.



Junior Orchestra has gone from strength to strength this year, and the level of instrumental talent is so impressive amongst our lower school pupils. What an incredible sound they made!

Mr Jefferies, our guitar

peripatetic teacher, supported the guitar ensemble with a funky Christmas Medley. Pupils from Year 9 through to Year 12 were involved and it was lovely to see some new additions to the group.

Senior Choir wowed the audience with their stunning performance of 'A Christmas Song', even reducing Mrs Atherton to tears! Mrs Giles was so pleased with all the hard work that the choir had put in to learning the complicated harmonies, and was so proud of their moving performance.

Junior Choir led by Mrs Atherton, sang the classic 'Happy Xmas – War is Over', accompanied by Mitchell Davies (Year 11) on drums. We are so proud of the commitment that these pupils have shown, and many audience members commented on the beautiful sound that filled All Saint's Church when they sang! Well done Junior Choir!

This year, we wanted to combine our Junior and Senior Choirs to also sing two pieces together and showcase the wealth of vocal talent throughout the school. The choirs gave an emotive performance of 'Bethlehem', a stunning song from the musical 'Martin Guerre', and finished with 'Do They Know It's Christmas' accompanied by Beci Senior (Year 8) on drums. Thanks to Mr Griffiths for helping to create the perfect drum accompaniments to give the performances a huge impact in the church!

There was not just the wealth of vocal talent to show off from the pupils this year, but an outstanding performance from a very healthy Staff Choir! They produced a faultless jazz inspired performance of 'White Christmas' accompanied by Alexandra Hunt (Year 12).

Thank you to the readers, and the staff who put so much time and effort in to prepare extracts and performances, including the comical Junior Drama based on 'Doctor Who'. Thank you to Max Williams, Alex Glover, Evan Davies, Carys Mainwaring, Holly Thomas and Ethan Griffiths for an entertaining performance and to Mrs Davies and Mr Smith for their clever casting once again this year!

The Senior Drama 'Nativity' coordinated by Miss Hardwick, told the traditional Christmas story through music, movement and comedy. It was mentioned by many (including Mrs Thomas) to be one of the highlights of the evening! Well done



to all musicians and performers involved, it was a truly unique addition to the service.

String Group and Senior Orchestra, led by Mrs Williams gave wonderful performances yet again this year, despite losing many key musicians last year! This year String Group performed a Christmas medley 'The Glory of Christmas', and Senior Orchestra captivated the audience with a lovely arrangement of 'Silent Night' called 'All is Calm'.

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.

A special mention must go to our talented soloists who performed throughout the service. Anna Arrieta gave a sensational performance of 'Half the World Away' from the John Lewis Christmas Advert accompanied by Rhys Owen.

Also, soloists within the choral and drama items included Keeley Harries, Lydia Pickett, James Evans Jones, Annalise Traylor, Carys Mainwaring, Ewan Aitchison-Hough, and Jamie Harrowing. Da iawn!

The Music Department



## Busy, busy busy!



Last Christmas, we gave you our heart, and soul through the form of hymns, pop songs and yule-tide carols sung by our choir in the form of three, count 'em three, Christmas concerts! To kick off our Christmas 'tour', myself and a few other members of the school sang and played a few songs at the Grand Pavilion! After this, a fair few ladies of the senior girls' ensemble performed 'The Christmas Song' with the Performing Arts students giving a festive rendition of 'Winter Wonderland' for the wonderful Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church on the 3rd December. Soloists included Lucy Vinen, Layla Millar, Jack Davies, Anna Arrieta and Lydia Pickett. Lastly, (but not least-ly) we performed a lovely repertoire of Christmas songs at the Hi-Tide on the 10th December for the U3A, at which we sang, ate refreshments and spread some well-deserved Christmas joy!

All of these opportunities strengthened our links with the community and gave us some tremendous Christmas memories for years to come. Our days were truly made merry and bright.

Rhys Owen Year 13



Hannah Parry and Chloe Watts with James Sommerin



# FUTURECHEF REGIONAL HEATS

In November Cerys Watts and I represented Porthcawl Comprehensive School in the Future Chef Competition regional heats at Bridgend College. We had one and a half hours to produce two courses, to a restaurant standard with a budget of £7.50 for two people.

I made a pasta dish and a sable biscuit dessert. I especially enjoyed rolling out the pasta as it was challenging and a new experience. It was also really fun working in a real kitchen environment. The standard of cooking was amazing! The dishes were very varied and looked extremely tasty. Although I did not win, I enjoyed the experience and learnt many new culinary skills, and would fully recommend it to anyone next year!

Hannah Parry Year 11



# Pop UP Restaurant

## Menu

### Main meal:

Beef burgers in a homemade bread roll, served with seasoned wedges and coleslaw

### Vegetarian main meal:

Chick pea burger in a homemade bread roll, served with seasoned wedges and coleslaw

### Dessert:

Blackberry and apple crumble served with vanilla ice cream

At the end of the Christmas term the Food Technology teachers announced in assembly that they would be running the 'Pop up' Technology Restaurant. Approx 15 Year 9 pupils were selected to take part and prepare and serve a three course meal for parents and teachers.

During the lunchtime 2 weeks previous, we had begun to prepare our menu. We made beef burgers and the bread rolls they would go in and froze them in readiness for the 8th December. We also learnt how to make ice cream using ice cream makers to churn it.

On the day of the event we stayed after school and started to prepare the dining room. We folded the napkins for the glasses and arranged the knives and forks to give the G Block quad a festive feel. We were assigned roles; waiters to serve our guests and chefs to plate the food. The waiters looked very smart with a white apron and shirt and black trousers.

Service ran well, the chefs in the kitchen cooking and plating the food and the waitresses delivering the food and topping up the drinks. Miss Owens and Mr Slade especially enjoyed the ice cream, the best they had ever tasted!

At the end of service we all posed for a photograph and everyone gave us a massive round of applause to show their thanks for all our hard work. They all commented on how delicious the food was and what fantastic service the waiters gave.

A big thank you to the Food Technology teachers who gave us this fantastic opportunity, to cook for our school!



# Trip to Woodyz Pizza Bar



On the 9th November, my catering class visited Woodyz Pizza Bar on Station Hill, Porthcawl to see how a real catering establishment works.



We were able to make our own pizza, kneading and stretching the dough, choosing our own toppings and baking it in their wood fire pizza oven. We were able to taste a range of pizzas, sweet and savoury, garlic breads and dips.

Mr Nicholls, the owner of the establishment demonstrated a range of ways to decorate savoury and sweet dishes; he garnished pizza with basil and ripped bread to dip in oil and vinegar. He demonstrated how to fan a strawberry and used icing sugar to decorate the plate.

On behalf of Mrs Thelwell-Davies' and Mrs Thompsons' classes I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Nicholls and Woodyz for allowing us to spend time with you, we learnt a lot!



Lois John  
Year 11 Catering





# Sixth Form Theatre Trip **A Doll's House** Sherman Theatre Cardiff

In early October Year 12 and 13 Drama pupils went to see a period Drama 'A Doll's House' by Henrik Ibsen at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff. Despite being quite a lengthy piece with two intervals, pupils thoroughly enjoyed the production.

Everyone was entertained and engaged by the high quality performances which brought this dated text alive. By the end, opinions of Ibsen's work had changed; the pupils were inspired and thus have chosen to perform extracts from the play for their forthcoming practical exams.

**"I never thought I'd enjoy watching a period play, but I was so engaged"**

Anna Arrieta (Year 12)

**"The staging was really unique, unlike anything I've seen before"**

Maddie Dawson (Year 12)

**"It really exceeded my expectations and I thought it was a very interesting, engaging performance"**

Elin Morris (Year 12)

**"Couldn't take my eyes off the stage"**

Dan Knowles (Year 12)

**"Engaging story – quite the emotional rollercoaster"**

Todd Murray (Year 13)

## BTEC Song and Dance Review

BTEC Performing Arts is a subject that covers many different areas of performance. To be a true actor you need 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' and our first unit was... 'Performing with Masks', 'Singing Skills for Actors and Dancers' and 'Contemporary Dance Performance'. We then had to incorporate these skills in an Evening of Song and Dance.

The group decided to work collectively to create two mask pieces involving the whole group. Initially we started devising characters and then began to think of a situation where these characters might come together. Our end result was a masked piece about 20 minutes long which was set in an aerobics class and a cake bake off where there was a competition to see who would come first in a group task!

For our 'Contemporary Dance Performance' unit we all as a group danced to the very moving song 'A Thousand Years' by Christina Perry, choreographed by Mrs Atherton and Miss Hardwick with

professional help from our very own Stephanie Harper. With our professional dance routine finally finished we then put this into our Song and Dance Evening. For our music unit 'Singing Skills for Actors and Dancers', 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. 'Reflections Theatre Company' would like to give a personal thank you to Mr Smith and Miss Hardwick of the Drama Department and Mrs Atherton and Mrs Giles of the Music Department for all the support and encouragement throughout the rehearsal process. We would also like to thank everyone who came to watch and support the evening.

So a big thanks to you from Erin Brown, Keeley Fry, Stephanie Harper, Lauren Ellis-Stretch, Kayleigh Hodgson and Sarah Williams.



"The Shows were amazing. So much work was put in from everyone; it was very busy but so rewarding."

Max Bravery



Porthcawl  
Comprehensive  
School

# ROCK & YOU

THE MUSICAL BY QUEEN AND Ben Elton

Auditions were held, the cast was chosen, and rehearsals began. Excitement was rushing through the department, 'travelling at the speed of light'. We dived 'headlong' into rehearsals, starting off with the main dances choreographed by Mrs Atherton who definitely taught us how to do the 'fandango'. Miss Hardwick was 'somebody to love' with her excellent direction and commitment to the show, along with Mr Smith who created 'a kind of magic' on stage with his imaginative set and determination. Of course, we couldn't forget Mrs Giles, who may have felt slightly 'under pressure' as it was her first show with the school. However she was a 'champion' when it came to the musical direction of the show, and she did a fantastic job!

Production week came round fast, and at this point we were all ready to 'play the game'. There were tears, many diva fits, and even a visit from the paramedics! (Shoutout to Dan Knowles for getting his hand jammed in the door, bet it wanted to 'break free'. Ha. Ha.) But other than that, the week before the show was filled with 'a crazy little thing called love' for the iconic music created by Queen.

We were all so grateful to be given the opportunity to be able to perform on such an amazing stage, and continue the tradition of annual musicals performed by Porthcawl Comprehensive (Wow, 38 years!) Over 80 children were involved, part of either the cast or crew, and special mention to Lezia Davies and also all of the teachers for making the costumes, which made the show really come to life. Tickets sales flew through the roof, with sell-outs almost every single night, leaving the entire cast with an amazing buzz after the shows. Overall the experience was incredible, and many of the compliments that we received just proved that we rocked the stage. Another school show success. Until next year!



Anna Arrieta, Rhiannon Griffiths & Annabelle Morgan



**"We're so lucky to be able to have this opportunity, most schools don't. It's so fun!"**

James Evans-Jones



**"I would recommend everyone who loves to perform, to be in the show. It's an incredible experience."**

Elin Morris

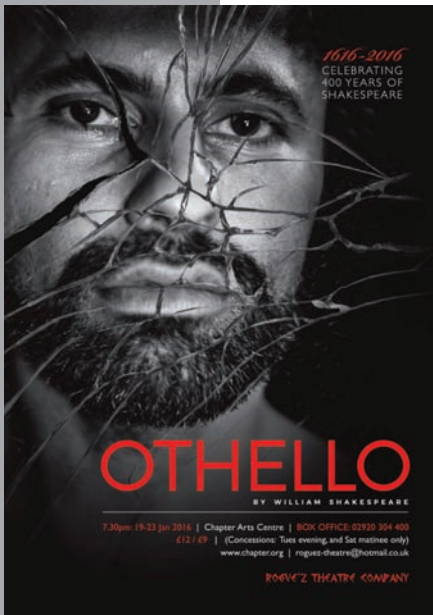


**"What a show to end on!"**

Rob Davis



*Photographs by Malcolm Nagent*



## Sixth Form Drama Theatre Trip Chapter Arts Cardiff

'Othello'. A narrative interweaved with betrayal and jealousy. Yet all Porthcawl Comprehensive School students could feel was excitement at the prospect of seeing Miss Rees (Drama Student Teacher) grace the stage as one of Shakespeare's most tragic heroines! Her performance was engaging, truthful and portrayed with a dynamic combination of strength and weakness (A\* Miss!) To speak truthfully, only in Miss Rees' scenes did we all stay awake... including Miss Hardwick. Shakespeare is long, people! However, we'll blame our restfulness on an exhausting production week for the school show. We would also like to pay our thanks to Miss Rees for all her support and assistance in the producing of 'We Will Rock You'.

Othello the Moor, a noble black warrior in the Venetian army, has secretly married a beautiful white woman called Desdemona, the daughter of a prominent senator, Brabantio. When he finds out, he is outraged, and promptly disowns her. Othello's ensign, Iago, harbours a secret jealousy and resentment towards the Moor, partly because another soldier, lieutenant Cassio, has been promoted ahead of him, and also because he suspects that Othello has had an affair with his wife. Intent on revenge, Iago hatches a devious plan to plant suspicions in Othello's mind that Desdemona has been unfaithful to him with Cassio.

He orchestrates a street fight, for which Cassio is wrongly blamed, and is then dismissed, from his

post by Othello. Desdemona takes up Cassio's case with her husband, which only further inflames his suspicions that the pair are lovers. In the meantime, Iago manages to procure a treasured handkerchief from Desdemona that was given to her by Othello. He plants it on Cassio so that Othello sees it, and then concludes that it is proof of their affair. Maddened by jealousy, he orders Iago to murder Cassio, and then he strangles Desdemona. Immediately afterwards her innocence is revealed, and Iago's treachery exposed. In a fit of grief and remorse Othello kills himself. Iago is taken into custody by the Venetian authorities.

### STUDENTS RESPONSE:

**'It was an amazing experience to be able to see Miss practice what she preaches!'**

Stephanie Harper Year 13 Performing Arts

**'I understood and enjoyed it a lot more than I expected to.'**

Annabelle Morgan Year 12

**'I found the second act greatly entertaining!'**

Josh Manley Year 13

**'When art thee seeing the next play, fam?'**

Keeley Fry Year 12 Performing Arts



## Lighting Workshop for A Level Drama Pupils

On the 12th of October, Josh and I attended a workshop at Zero 88 Solutions in Newport – this was an educational lighting advancement course in which we gained hands on experience and tuition with the latest equipment used by professional theatrical production houses.

This increased our knowledge of the equipment we currently have in the drama studio such as the lighting board's special functionalities, as well as being a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Elai Platts & Josh Manley



BTEC PERFORMING ARTS PANTO REVIEW

# CINDERELLA

Once 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 Cinderella, a well-known tale about a girl Cinderella (played by Kayleigh Hodgson) who is under her stepsisters' (played by Keeley Fry and Lauren Stretch) orders. She is best friends with the kind and gentle Buttons (played by Erin Brown).

With the help from Cinderella's Fairy Godmother, (played by Sarah Williams) she would get to the ball in a flash! Just with a little bit of magic Cinderella's heart melted as the invitation to the ball came through the door! With Prince Charming's good looks (also played by Sarah Williams) and the Baron's blessing (played by Stephanie Harper), Cinderella's dreams came to life!

This project has been amazing and very productive and we are very excited to do it again next year!

## Thoughts From The Students!

**"It was a great experience and even though it will be my last, I will always remember the thrill on the children's faces!"**

Erin Brown (Year 13)

**"I enjoyed being the protagonist and I enjoyed the touring experience around the local primary schools."**

Kayleigh Hodgson (Year 13)

**"I like the lead up to the tour, all of the hard work and effort pays off when you see the smiles of enjoyment on the children's faces"**

Stephanie Harper (Year 13)

**"I enjoyed multi-rolling because it was a challenge for me to show the difference between my two characters, I fully enjoyed the experience**

**and I can't wait to do it again next year"**

Sarah Williams (Year 12)

**"Doing my first performance as a BTEC Performing Arts student really showed me what I'm good at and what I'm capable of doing!"**

Keeley Fry (Year 12)





## Year 11 GCSE DRAMA DEvised PRACTICAL EXAMS November 2015

Since the middle of September, 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.

It really is a challenging unit and pupils spend hours rehearsing in lessons, after school and at weekends to ensure all the work is of the required length and

of a good standard. This year pieces ranged from dramas to comedies and to histories with plots featuring the miners' strike, the exploitation of women, the attacks of 9/11 and the troubles in Northern Ireland over the last decade.

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!

**'Challenging but rewarding.'**

Venetia Castaldi

**'Much more challenging rehearsal process than when working on set text pieces but definitely worth all the hard work and effort.'**

James Evans-Jones

**'It was a very hard exam but my group were really pleased with what we produced.'**

Charlotte Evans-Jones

**'I got to use a lot more techniques and it really stretched my acting skills.'**

Mai-Blossom Brown

## Clothes Show Visit 2016

We had a great day, saw an amazing fashion show and saw lots of interesting clothes – from student made to designer label.

Here are a few comments from some of the pupils.

**"We had an amazing time; the day was great and the show even better!"**

Isabel Longthorn

**"We had a good day, the food was lovely and the show was amazing!"**

Rosie Stringer

**"The atmosphere was brilliant and you could tell everyone was having a good time. The catwalk show was really fun; some of the outfits were so bizarre. Thanks for a great trip!"**

Phoebe Keepins

**"After the 3 hour drive, we were all bursting to get out and enjoy the trip. When we got there, there was a big, big hall full of hair, make up and fashion stalls. The catwalk show was amazing, I'm already looking forward to going next year."**

Izabelle Morris



# Duke of Edinburgh

## Sophie Rees' Group

Duke of Edinburgh – What an experience! Battling through the elements, cooking around a campfire and sleeping in a field filled with sheep poo, were just some of the challenges we had to face on our treacherous trail across the Brecon Beacons.

To prepare us for the challenges that lay ahead, we began learning and practicing our navigation and compass skills every Monday after school, for several months. We carefully devised our routes for the practice and final expeditions that were to take place in June and July. To help us transition from theory to practical, we went on a practice walk in Llangeinor where we endured our first taster of what we had let ourselves in for. Despite being tough at first, the challenge was so rewarding and we eagerly anticipated our next walk. Several months later and having perfected our map skills, we experienced a terrifying overnight stay in St. Briavels haunted castle, followed by a day's walk in the Forest of Dean. Although the walk was full of fun and very helpful, it didn't compare to our 3 day practice expedition in June where we were prepared for our final expedition. The leap from a 1 day walk with the comfort of an indoor stay, to a 3 day walk with awful camping conditions was a lot harder than any of us expected. This was just the beginning, as we knew the real deal was fast-approaching us...

Tears flowed from the off-set and so did tensions. Many were lost along the way as hunger and heavy bags took their toll. Nevertheless, the hardship was worth it. Looking back we all view it as an experience that will stay with us forever. Having the chance to learn vital life skills with a wonderful group of people was an opportunity not to be missed. Laughter, breath-taking views and bacon sandwiches made D of E enjoyable and full of fun. I'm sure none of us will ever forget our map reading skills and compass bearings, taught to us by the one and only Mr Priest. Without him we wouldn't have had the chance to embark on such a rewarding and grounding experience.

Thanks to all the staff involved in helping achieve this valuable qualification. Overall I think it has been a rewarding experience and would certainly recommend it to others.



## Shermy Baiju's Group

Many incidents took place during our Duke of Edinburgh's Award qualifying expedition: getting lost, the group arguments and the make shift toilet we made in our tent are just a few! Although this journey over 3 days was demanding and strenuous it gave us many good memories we will treasure, such as realising we lost a map and had to walk half a mile back to find it. Even though our cuisine wasn't exactly Jamie Oliver standard, we survived!

After a bright and sunny start in the morning of Day 1 with spirits high, the weather gradually got harsher and it became our worst enemy from Day 2 onwards. Our first campsite was a shock. Cows and sheep had been left free to roam so we spend 20 minutes clearing faeces from the ground so we could pitch our tents.

The second campsite was paradise in comparison with hot showers and clean toilets. But on the bright side, on our last day we had to stop and double back as staff deemed the conditions dangerous as river levels had risen and it was not safe. A memorable experience and certainly one that won't be forgotten in a very long time.



# HISTORY TRIP TO NEW YORK & WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 2015

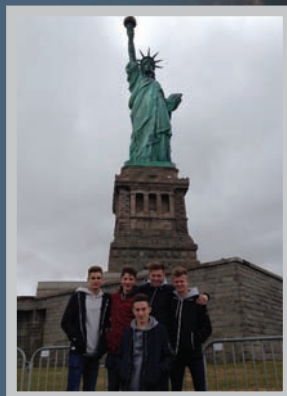


On the 24th October, we arrived in Washington. During our stay in Washington we got to visit various different historical sites of interest. For example, during our tour we saw the Supreme Court, Library of Congress, National Archives, and Embassy Row. We were also taken on an illuminated night tour of the memorials, taking in the sights of the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, as well as the White House. We also had our evening meals at the Hard Rock Café and Harriet's Restaurant, which were both outstanding.

On the 26th October, we travelled to New York, making a quick stop in Philadelphia on the way. Here we saw the "Rocky Steps", and no doubt everyone ran to the top! When we arrived in New York we took the subway and made our way to the Barclays Centre for the New York Islanders vs Flames ice hockey match. Taking the subway was certainly an experience... some didn't like it but most loved it! During our stay in New York we saw places like the World Trade Centre site, Wall Street and Central Park amongst many more. We also got to go to the Rockefeller Centre for ice skating and went to the top of the Empire State Building. Both of these were an amazing experience. We arrived back in Porthcawl on 30th October.

This was an unforgettable trip for us all!

Year 11 Pupils





## LLANCAIACH FAWR

On 6th November Mrs Cartwright and Miss Williams took the A Level RE class on a somewhat spooky and spectral guided tour of Llancaiach Fawr Manor, with the hope that we would encounter an ethereal entity that either was not human, or wasn't human anymore.

The Manor itself was built in c1550 for Dafydd Richard, having been designed to be easily defended during the turbulent reigns of Tudor kings and queens and is one of the finest examples of a semi-fortified manor in Wales today. However, today the manor is used for historical tours and supernatural encounters, which we shortly found out after our tour guide had introduced us to his pride and joy; his equipment. Thousands of pounds worth of equipment was just sat right in front of our faces and to begin with, none of us knew what they even were or what they did. After detailed explanations, demonstrations and even trying them ourselves, we slowly moved closely towards encountering a spirit, orb, or even a ghost.



Having learnt about life after death in class and different theories or ideas about what exactly happens once we 'slip away', this particular trip surely provided an educational experience as well as one that was both entertaining and rather hilarious (especially when Mrs Cartwright was completely terrified). Llancaiach Fawr is definitely a very historical building that has seen a lot through its lifetime, which is one reason why it is such an entertaining and enlightening trip to go on, especially when the tour guides and other employees are dressed up in traditional Welsh attire, which adds to its eerie nature.

As a sceptic myself, I found it hard to get involved at first, as quite frankly I believed that it was nonsensical, but it did in fact make me think whether I was being too stubborn or uptight about my views on the supernatural and whether or not ghosts do in fact exist. Maybe I am wrong and there are loved and lost ones' souls walking about the Earth, but I still remain a sceptic, despite how much I thoroughly enjoyed the trip to the manor.

Tom Dorr  
Year 13

## YOUNG CONSUMERS VISIT RIP-OFF BRITAIN STUDIOS



The Young Consumer 2015 winners were invited to take part in a live episode of Rip-Off Britain on 23rd October 2016. Felicity Williamson-Sarll, Matthew Dang and Jack Bridger interviewed well under pressure and the pupils were excited and nervous at the same time.



The show was filmed at the BBC London studios and the Rip-Off Britain production team set up a live quiz against



a Trading Standards employee, Mrs James and Felicity's mum. The pupils performed very well in the quiz and beat the adults, no surprise there! Leon Livermore (Trading Standards) was once again impressed with the knowledge within the team. Thank you to the pupils, Jack Bridger and Felicity's mum for taking part.

## VISIT TO SUNRISE INTERIORS

Year 10 Textiles class visited Sunrise Interiors and met Caroline Newton. Caroline explained to us how she became a designer, she worked for as a fashion designer before changing to interiors.



Sunrise mostly do interiors for show homes, they are given a brief from the client and then usually have 2 months to create a whole house interior. They start with making design boards for colour schemes and furniture and then add in accessories to match each room. Once the design has been approved they order everything and oversee the houses being decorated.

It was a very interesting visit and part of our BTEC Textiles course.

Maya Squires Year 10





# DON'T STAND BY!

“Don't Stand By!” is the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day, which has been marked on 27th January every year since 2001. This date was chosen as it marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, and it is therefore a time to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, those others killed at the hands of the Nazis, and those who have lost their lives in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Darfur and Bosnia.

The Holocaust Educational Trust was established in 1988, with the aim of educating young people about the events of the Holocaust and what we can do to prevent the same thing happening again in the future. For a number of years, thanks to the work of Ms Gould, our school has developed links with the Trust, which provides a limited number of Sixth Form pupils to participate in a series of seminars as well as a one day visit to Auschwitz in Poland. Upon their return, these pupils have a responsibility to pass on their knowledge and experience and become 'Ambassadors' of the trust, helping their peers to understand the atrocities of the Holocaust, and encouraging them to stand up against any form of prejudice and discrimination they may see.

In keeping with this year's memorial theme, it was decided that a whole school event should be held to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. This resulted in Mrs Cartwright, Miss Williams and Mr Short working closely with last year's Ambassadors, Year 13 pupils, Linzi Watson, Rhys Owen, Joseph Conniff-Jenkins and Anoushka Pill-Williams, to

plan an event that would be suitable for all year groups. Our Ambassadors worked hard to produce assemblies for all year groups to inform them of the theme and encourage them to think about what they could do to ensure they 'Don't Stand By' when they see people being treated poorly. All pupils then had the opportunity to reflect upon the information they were given on Holocaust Memorial Day, and during registration every pupil was given a luggage tag; a reminder of the loss of possessions of those taken during the Holocaust as well as the loss of lives. Upon this tag, pupils were encouraged to write their own pledge, promising not to stand by when they saw bullying, or the unfair treatment of others. Many members of staff chose to make their own pledges too! These tags have been collected and will now be hung upon a wooden Star of David, made by Mr Isaac, Ms Crook and her Year 13 students, which will be displayed in A block as a constant reminder of our pledge.

Holocaust Memorial Day provided pupils and staff with the opportunity to reflect upon the events of the past whilst recognising the impact they have on our lives today. It helped us to realise that ignorance, misunderstanding and intolerance of others because of their race, gender, religion or social status, can lead to acts of discrimination which can quickly escalate. This is why it is important that we “Don't Stand By” and all play our part in eradicating prejudice and discrimination from our modern world.

Mrs Cartwright





# PORTHCAWL: VOICES FROM THE GRAVES OF WWI



On Monday 7th December we were lucky to be visited by Professor Chris Williams from Cardiff University. He came to our school to talk to History Club members who are investigating the role that Porthcawl played during World War One.

Alongside Mr Short and Mr Shutt, Professor Williams talked about how Welsh people were encouraged to join the war and fight for their country.

He also talked about how The First World War broke out and why. For example, the British

government encouraged men to fight for Wales because it would be an “honour” to fight for their King and country.

Professor Williams also recommended websites and historical sources that History Club members could use to help them with their understanding of the war. Overall, Professor Williams was a very kind and intelligent man who helped me and the rest of History Club’s knowledge of the war.

Cerys Mckenzie-Smith 7HD  
History Club Member



## EUROPEAN CLUB NEWS

Bonjour! It has been a busy term at the club filled with games, quizzes and food tasting. We are very lucky to have new recruits: two lovely Year 12 French students, Katie Williams and Jessica Bennett, who enjoy teaching a bit of French to our members. They will soon be starting to teach some Italian too. Grazie!

Earlier this year, we gave the club members the challenge of cooking a traditional French cake “La galette des rois” (Kings’ Cake) in order to celebrate the arrival of the Three Kings who went to see baby Jesus. It is a very important tradition in France which happens every year on the 5th of January. We all had a big piece of these yummy cakes!!

Come and join us! New members are also welcomed! We meet every Monday lunchtime 1.50pm in Mrs Morgan’s classroom (P28).

Au revoir! Auf Wiedersehen! Arrivederci! :-)



## FOOD BANK

As part of our A2 Sociology we have been researching into social inequality issues such as extreme poverty and the increasing dependence on food banks.

We were shocked to discover that over 900,000 families used a food bank in the year 2013, and of that number over 300,000 of those were households with children.

This inspired us to undertake a food collection from staff and our peers. We were thrilled to

receive so many donations and struggled to take it all to the local food bank. Once there it was a real eye opener to meet the hard working staff who try, in often difficult circumstances, to provide as much support as possible to people and families in moments of crisis.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their donations and support and hope to make this collection a yearly event.

Helen Anderson and Daniel Coleman Year 13



## Athletics: Welsh Junior Champions!

On January 16th & 17th around 600 athletes took to the track and field at the fantastic facilities in NIAC, Cardiff to compete for the title of Welsh Champion. With so many youngsters battling for a medal it was set to be an exciting weekend - and it didn't disappoint.

Two Porthcawl Comprehensive School pupils (both from Bridgend AC) did remarkably well, finishing the weekend as Welsh Junior Champions. Evan Jones (7MS) won gold in the 200m and silver in the HG60m in the U13 age group. In her first year at U15, Nia Clatworthy (8HG) also won gold in the 1500m, by a margin of almost 2 seconds.

All of us at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are extremely proud of our Welsh Junior Champions - keep up the training!

## Wales U18 Women take Bronze in **FIBA EUROPEAN** Championships



I was there! And so too were Lucy Edwards and Emily Stradling representing Wales in a history making Bronze Medal Match at the 2015 U18 Women FIBA European Championships. It was the most amazing sporting experience of my life and I've had some pretty special sporting moments through the years! What made it special was the team ethic and never say die attitude which exuded throughout this amazing group of young people and coaches.

The closing seconds were like nothing else these young ladies would have experienced before. Even the experienced old campaigners who'd medalled before were reduced to tears. They knew that something special had just happened, winning two games in a tournament had never been achieved before. The girls had only gone and made history as well!

The response from the supporting family and friends had been typically raucous all game but there was a spell in the last quarter when even the most ardent were reduced to quivering wrecks when it looked as if Wales had let a healthy lead slip and the Andorrans drew level. Wales appeared to be on the ropes, but just like in the best sporting movies, the

team dug deep into their reserves of energy and experience and closed the game out in nerve shredding fashion.

The final whistle is now a blur and the celebrations already a distant memory but I hope the significance of what was achieved in Gibraltar last summer is not lost on Basketball Wales and Sport Wales. There can be no better platform to promote the game in Wales than a successful team.

Well done ladies, particularly to our PCS girls Lucy and Emily and to the coaching staff for providing the most amazing sporting experience of my life.

**Mr Stradling**  
PE Department



## Netball Achievements

The following girls have been identified by Welsh Netball and selected to attend a local authority HUB. This identification programme allows younger players to be involved with the Player Skills Curriculum and will undoubtedly help further their performance.

- Carmen Lynch (Year 7)
- Rachel Appleton (Year 8)
- Mary Jane Kutkaitis (Year 9)

Amy Bradbury and Isabel Appleton (Year 9) have both been selected for the County U14 Netball squad. Congratulations to all above mentioned pupils.

**Miss H Davies**  
PE Department



## PCS Gymnastics Update

On Tuesday 2nd February 2016, six Porthcawl Comprehensive School gymnasts travelled to Merthyr Tydfil to compete in the Mid Glamorgan Tumble and Vault Schools Competition. Paige Sheen and Asia Farnworth were in the U14's category and Nia Eales, Skylar Evans, Steff Chilcott and Bethan Goulding were O14's.

Steff came away with a bronze individual medal, Paige a silver and Nia finished with a gold. The O14's Bethan, Steff, Skylar and Nia became Mid Glamorgan Team Champions. The Welsh Schools Competition comes up later in the year and as far as we know Steff, Paige and Nia will be competing, with the possibility that the others could join them when the full team selection is announced.

Nia Eales  
Year 10

### Latest News...

Following their success at the Mid Glamorgan Tumble and Vault competition recently, Paige Sheen and Asia Farnworth (U14'S) and Nia Eales and Stepheny Chilcott (O14'S) will now represent Mid Glamorgan in the Welsh Finals. We wish them all every success!

Miss H Davies  
PE Department



# WORLD KICKBOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

As promised in the last edition, here are the results from the International Combat Organisation World Championships held in Stuttgart, Germany 24.10.15. Our pupils did brilliantly and came home with an abundance of medals!

#### Josh Lewis (Year 9)

< 50 KG	13-15 year olds	Silver
< 60 KG	13-15 year olds	Silver

#### Thomas Salberg (Year 10)

< 70 KG	13-15 year olds	Gold
>70 KG	13-15 year olds	Gold

#### Rebekah Morrissey (Year 9)

< 55 KG	13-15 year olds	Gold
< 66 KG	16-18 year olds	Gold



## Gymnastics

Our gymnasts had a very successful weekend at the start of November when they competed at the National Sports Centre, Sophia Gardens in the Welsh Challenge Cup.

Nia Eales of Year 10 competed in the Welsh National Challenge Cup and was Champion at both the Beam and Floor, and runner up on the Vault and Bars. At the same time, Paige Sheen was competing in the Welsh Regional Challenge Cup and finished Champion on the Beam, second on Bars and third in the Vault.

Well done girls!



# WINTER GAMES 2015

## RUGBY FROM AUTUMN TO SPRING

Rugby at PCS has continued to thrive as we held up our status of being a WRU School of Rugby. In the Autumn term alone, 40 rugby fixtures were played in addition to the 6 rugby festivals attended by a total of 173 players from Years 7 - 13. Of these players almost 150 of them are also regularly playing at the weekend for local clubs such as Porthcawl, Kenfig Hill, Pyle, Bridgend Sports and Bridgend Athletic.

Highlights for me have included seeing the great numbers we have had at training especially on a Tuesday night with the Years 7 and 8. Another has been attending an 'Introduction to Rugby' festival with a Year 7/8 team, and 17 players who rarely play any rugby getting fully involved and enjoying the game. Our Senior XV finished 3rd in the Ospreys East League and reached the Ospreys Plate Final, playing against Cymtawe in Llandarcy Academy of Sport. Unfortunately we were beaten but definitely outshone our opponents with our singing and support from our Junior Choir. Renditions of Calon Lan, Bread of Heaven and our National Anthem could be heard from the side-lines. The Year 9 team worked hard to get out of their Ospreys Schools group and faced the challenge of the knock out stages, (last 32), of the Welsh Cup. They played very tough opposition in the first round, Whitchurch High, a school famous for producing rugby stars like Wales' captain Sam Warburton. Again we were not to taste success but gave a very good account of ourselves, losing out to a team that have only lost once since Year 7.

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 it is completed. Year 10 pupils will also be trained up this year as part of their Welsh Bacc. qualification to allow them to complete their community challenge.



The Spring term has seen the focus move to 7's Rugby and Girls' Rugby.

The Year 8 boys will this year be attending Rosslyn Park 7's, the biggest rugby tournament in the world. Also in March, we play in the Urdd National 7's Tournament with an U13 and U15 team. Any girls who fancy a new challenge are welcome to join our rugby sessions which are being held on a Wednesday after school in preparation for playing in the upcoming festivals.

Mr Davies



In what felt like monsoon December, the annual school's house competition went ahead as planned but in even more wet and windy conditions than in previous years! 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.

Results of interest to individual HOUSES

### DYFED

1st	Rugby
4th	Football
3rd	Netball
1st	Hockey

### GWYNEDD

3rd	Rugby
3rd	Football
Joint 1st	Netball
4th	Hockey

### MORGANNWG

4th	Rugby
2nd	Football
4th	Netball
2nd	Hockey

### POWYS

2nd	Rugby
1st	Football
Joint 1st	Netball
3rd	Hockey



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





# X Country Success



Several pupils entered the South Wales Regional X Country Championships in October 2015, held at Trelai Park. We have had several successes at this event in the past and this year was to be no exception.

The U13 Girls really excelled with Nia Clatworthy winning the overall individual title, whilst the A Team, Nia Clatworthy, Meg McCloy, Hannah Davidson and Chloe Wyatt also brought home a gold medal for their outstanding efforts. The B Team, Ami Fraser, Megan Froyley, Amber Williams and Ellie

Graham, also did a superb job and came second, clinching the silver medal!

Also worthy of note was Emily Ezard's personal performance in the U15 category and Felicity Williamson-Sarll, who came 13th in the Senior category. Very well done to all who participated, great results and you were a credit to the school.

Congratulations again to Nia Clatworthy who was selected to run in the Welsh Inter Regional X Country Championships. This took place in Builth Wells during December 2015. Despite a fall, Nia managed to pull off an impressive win, 7 seconds ahead of her nearest opponent, and is now the U13 Girls Welsh X Country Champion. Well done Nia, an amazing achievement!

The following pupils were selected to represent Glamorgan Valleys in the Welsh Schools X Country Championships in Brecon on Wednesday February 10th – many congratulations to you all.

**Elliot Bennett** - Year 7

**Megan Froyley** - Year 7

**Nia Clatworthy** - Year 8

**Meg McCloy** - Year 8

**Anni Martin** - Year 9

**Felicity Williamson-Sarll** - Year 13

Nia Clatworthy finished 5th in spite of running against not just Year 8 pupils, but Year 9 too! On the strength of this she was selected to represent Wales for the international in Scotland on March 19th. Good luck Nia!

Miss H Davies  
PE Department

## SLSA Junior Welsh Stillwater Championships

Many congratulations to Chloe Wyatt, Meg McCloy, Ocean Poultney Maddy (Year 8) and Emily Ezard (Year 9) who competed in the SLSA Junior Welsh Stillwater Championships on 30th - 31st January 2016, at Cardiff International Pool as an U14 team and achieved gold medals in two relay events! Ocean Poultney Maddy also achieved individual gold in a manikin tow event.

Fantastic effort! Well done girls!



## SWIMMING: LAUREN COLLEY

Congratulations to Year 7 pupil, Lauren Colley, who recently competed in the Swim Wales National Short Course Championships held in Swansea National Pool from Friday 18th – Sunday 20th December 2015.

Lauren competed in a total of 16 individual events (including 4 finals) and was the youngest female swimmer at this competition.

She gave 100% effort throughout the entire event and came away with 3 Championship medals - silver in the 200m Butterfly, bronze in the 100m Butterfly and bronze in the 400m IM. She gained new personal best times in all of her events and at the end of year she is currently ranked 1st in Wales for the 200m Butterfly, 2nd in Wales for the 400m IM, 50m Fly and also 100m Fly for her age. She is also currently ranked 4th in the UK for 100m Fly, 5th in the UK for 200m Fly, 7th in the UK for 50m Fly and 10th in the UK for the 400m IM for her age group.

Lauren is 11 years old but due to her birthdate she has to regularly swim against older girls and this constantly pushes her to exceed expectations. She also trains with Rebecca Sutton who is a wonderful role model for Lauren to aspire to. After a very busy end of year, Lauren enjoyed a much needed break over Christmas and is now back in training ready for Easter and Summer National Competitions.

Good luck, Lauren!

# News from the Primaries

## NEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been another busy term at Newton Primary School. The children have been studying different periods in art including surrealism, impressionism, pop art and art from other cultures. The topic started with a visit to the art galleries in the National Museum in Cardiff. Here the children studied the various sculptures before using different materials to create their own; their sculptures were inspired by the work of Degas. They also visited the galleries to gather ideas for their own work. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed a visit from a local graphic novelist; he showed the children how to draw a variety of superheroes, including Spiderman and Batman. The children then created their own superhero and produced a comic strip introducing the character to a younger audience.

Over the weeks the children produced a range of artwork including sculptures either using ideas from the work of the artists studied or their own interpretation of their paintings. Alongside this they worked in small groups to produce a business plan for setting up Newton Primary's Art Gallery. Mrs John chose the group that was 'hired' and their plan was used to create their own gallery at the end of term to which parents and carers were invited.

Year 5 and 6 were invited to the dress rehearsal of "We Will Rock You". The following comments show just how much they all enjoyed the performance!

**'Great story line, amazing songs, brilliant singing and dancing!'**

**'An inspiring performance, I'd love to take part!'**

**'It was very funny, amazing!'**

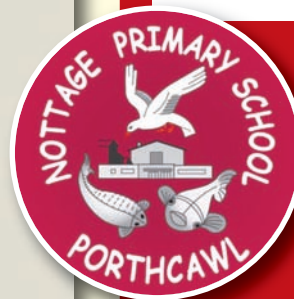
**'Unique story line, loved all the songs. It was absolutely tremendous.'**

Year 5 and 6 would like to congratulate all those involved.

Miss Kenwood



## NOTTAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Happy New Year to all! The Spring term has started very well and the children have quickly settled back to their routines after the relaxing Christmas break!

Our school value for January was 'Quality' and we really appreciate the time our regular visitors, Mrs Pauline Lewis, Father Craig and Steve Lock devote to school in leading assemblies in the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. We also had the NSPCC and the Sea Cadets visit school to speak to the children.

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

For the first month of the term, Year 4 classes have been put through their paces, or should I say strokes, in an intensive course of swimming lessons. Hopefully many of the children will learn an invaluable skill that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Year 5 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed their sneak preview of the Comprehensive's production of the acclaimed musical 'We Will Rock You'.

School numbers continue to increase and the current number on role is the highest for several years.

Unfortunately dog fouling is once again becoming a problem along the thoroughfares outside school so please be careful when walking nearby.

# PORTHCAWL PRIMARY SCHOOL

There have been articles appearing in the Welsh media about school to school working to support change and raising the standards achieved by schools. Porthcawl Primary is part of a school to school group working in South East Wales known as 'SIG 25.'



This group has a focus on working together to develop resources to support numerical reasoning which is part of national testing. Eight members of staff meet to observe each other's lessons, support children in their learning and to develop classroom materials in support of one another and their respective schools. Pictured are some of the 25 teachers involved in the project from five different local authorities.

In December 2015, Porthcawl Primary School was delighted to publish the second volume of pupils writing in 'We Are Writers.' This book featured stories written by pupils and this year's theme was Amazing Animals. All the pupils from nursery to Year 6 have made an outstanding contribution to make their stories the best they can be.

The book contains a huge range of animals from insects to humpback whales! We published the book and then sold it at our book fair. Well done to Chantal Martinez for coming up with the brilliant front cover for our book. This year our book has doubled in size due to the amount of detail we have put in our stories!

Following our success in last year's STEM Formula 1 in Schools project, pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 are again taking part. The South Wales Finals will be held at the Swansea Waterfront Museum in March. Last year, we won the category of Best Team Image as well as having the sixth fastest car.



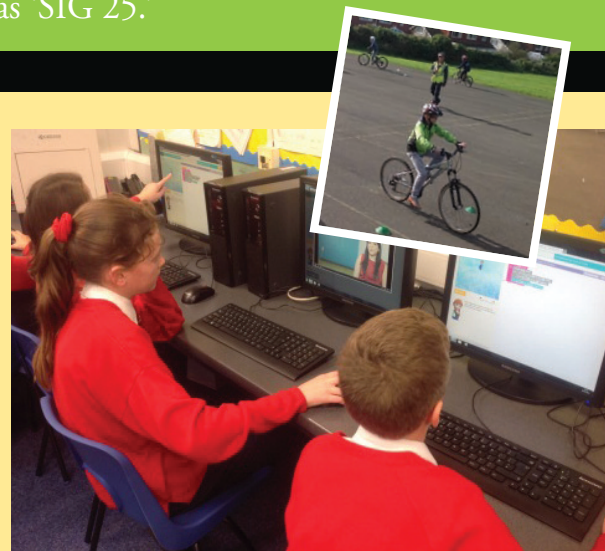
This year we are aiming to put on an even better performance! The members of the team are Tegan McGlynn (Team Principal), Zane Aldridge McClean, Grace Baker, Chantal Martinez, Erin Watkin and Ffion Pryce. We have been visited by John Warren who is an engineer and a CAD (Computer Aided Design) expert.

He helped us design our car and showed us how to use the software. Our team name is Porthcawl Power which incorporates a lightning bolt logo. Fingers crossed that our car will travel as fast as our logo!

Tegan McGlynn and Matthew Powell

Year 6

Andrew Wood  
Head Teacher



## WEST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL



The Autumn term ended on a high at West Park with our wonderful Christmas concert, performed in the Grand Pavilion. It provided us with a unique opportunity to perform on stage to nearly 600 parents while developing our oracy and acting skills.

As part of 'Road Awareness Week', four local police officers came into school to discuss how to stay safe on the roads and pavements. They also allowed us to dress up using their equipment and sound the sirens on the police cars – great fun. Our teachers dressed up too!

Cycle Wales spent two weeks with Year 6, showing us how to ride safely on the roads. They explained how to turn correctly at junctions and how to signal to inform drivers of our intentions. We all had the opportunity to complete Level 1 and 2 of the Cycling Proficiency Test.

To support our RE lessons this term, Mrs Lewis has started 'Walking through the Bible', sharing the stories from the Bible. We thoroughly enjoy participating in the lessons and will perform an assembly based on these lessons to the rest of the school.

Transition to the comprehensive has continued with fabulous Welsh and ICT lessons before Christmas and DT lessons in January. Noah said, "I really enjoyed the Welsh transition because they made it fun," and James said, "It was really fun to do programming and I want to learn more now." We all enjoyed using the laser cutter and the CAD programme in DT. However, the cheese on toast was clearly a winner. Archie explained, "We had a great morning because we could be creative with the ingredients and made something really tasty."

Mr Tunnadine and the Year 6 pupils



# Transition



## Year 6 Technology Transition

Year 6 pupils from the local primary schools came to the Design Technology Department for the morning. In Product Design they used 2D design to design and the laser cutter to create their own personalised key fob. With Food Technology they were introduced to food hygiene and looked at nutrients before making their own cheese on toast with a twist.

The out of catchment children came to the Design Technology Department a week later, working in pairs they made a range of cakes for their parents. At the end of the morning their parents came over to G block to taste their creations! They were delicious!



### What the Year 6 pupils thought about their Technology Transition trip to PCS...



#### West Park

"I enjoyed making the cheese on toast and making the magnets!"

"I enjoyed the DT and Food Tech, it was the best thing ever!"

"I enjoyed making the magnets because we haven't used the different machines before. I also enjoyed the cooking."

#### Newton

"I really enjoyed this transition day and can't wait for proper lessons next year!"

"Having the chance to take part in this experience was outstanding. I would like to do it all over again!"

#### Cornelly

"I was pleased with the toast and magnet I made today, I learnt something new about hygiene."

#### Porthcawl

"I enjoyed the taste of the rich cheese!"

#### Nottage

"I had a fabulous day at Porthcawl Comprehensive. I had good fun with the DT department!"



# WELSH TRANSITION



Over three very busy mornings in November, the Welsh Department welcomed our future Year 7 pupils. As well as our traditional catchment schools, a large number travelled from further afield to participate in the activities and fun. The transition mornings are a firm feature in the department's calendar and it is always exciting to meet our future and existing Welsh speakers.

Despite some hesitance at the thought of folk dancing, by the end of the session everyone had found their groove and entered into the spirit of the dances – particularly the boys!!

Other activities included learning about the history of the famous Welsh love spoon – the earliest form of texting according to some – followed by card making incorporating a love spoon with secret symbols.

A very popular item has always been a Welsh calendar on which pupils note, in Welsh of course, details of important events in the coming year. These are often given as gifts and pupils can display their knowledge of the language and teach family members a word or two.

We hope that everyone enjoyed their experience with us and we look forward to welcoming them as PCS pupils in September.





# YEAR 6 ICT TRANSITION

During the 17th - 19th November many pupils from our local feeder schools and out of catchment primaries were involved in an ICT transition project. The session was split in two parts. The first session was based on the 'Hour of Code' project. This was a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. The theme was based on the 'Frozen' film and all pupils enjoyed the challenge.

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

programming language learning environment enabling beginners to quickly get results without having to write lines of code. It is intended to motivate for further learning through playfully experimenting and creating projects, such as interactive animations, games, etc.

Scratch can be downloaded for free from <http://scratch.mit.edu/> Year 6 were introduced to basic projects such as creating a Breakdancer dance on a stage, animating the letters in their name etc. Year 6 quickly adapted to the program and many developed their own solutions to the tasks set.



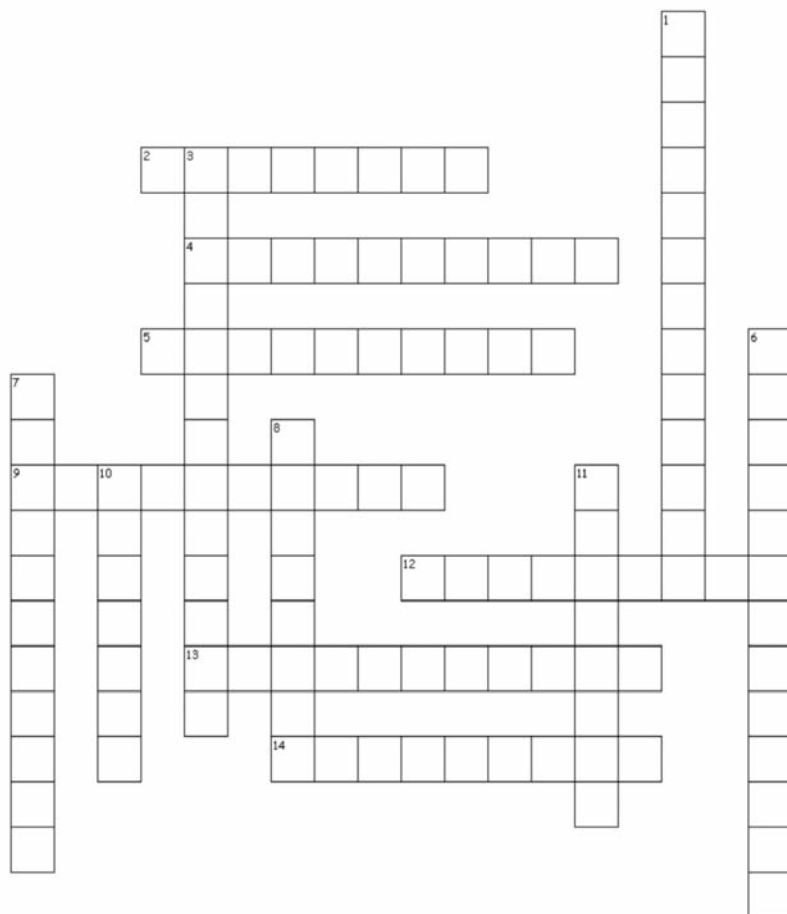
# PORTHCAWL PUZZLER

## Across

2. Where did the Posada travel from to visit Porthcawl?
4. What is the Head Team busy collecting for Romanian street children?
5. Where did the Year 11 pupils visit in Philadelphia on their way to New York during their history trip to the USA in October?
9. Which group won the lip synch battle with their audacious performance?
12. Which studios did our Young Consumers visit to take part in the Rip-Off Britain programme?
13. At which stadium were the Welsh Junior Champions victorious in January?
14. Where were the World Kickboxing Championships held in October?

## Down

1. Who was Llancaiach Fawr built for?
3. Where did the Duke of Edinburgh students do their hike?
6. What is the logo used by Porthcawl Primary School's Formula 1 team?
7. What 7's rugby tournament will the Year 8 boys be attending this season?
8. What Professor came to school to talk to History Club members about the WW1?
10. What language are they soon to start teaching in European Club?
11. What type of pizza oven do they have in Woodyz Pizza Bar?



Please hand in completed puzzles to Reception. The winning entry will be picked from a hat and receive a prize. Congratulations to the winners from the Autumn Edition, Rhys Leary and Jazmine Lewis.

# Pupil Achievements

Spring 2016

Many congratulations go to the following:-

**Paige Sheen** - Year 9

Gymnastics - Welsh Regional Challenge Cup, Welsh Champion on Beam (O14) (Silver Bars, Bronze Vault), Represented Penybont Gymnastics Club in a competition in Florida - February

**Nia Eales** - Year 10

Gymnastics - Welsh National Challenge Cup, Champion on Beam and Floor (Silver Vault and Bars)

**Bethan Golding, Skylar Evans, Nia Eales, Stepheny Chilcott** - Year 10

Gymnastics - Mid Glamorgan Team Champions (O14)

**Scott Thornton** - Year 13

Member of the Glamorgan Cricket Academy - toured Abu Dhabi during December

**Cameron Morris** - Year 13

Glamorgan Schools Golf Team  
Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club Junior Champion 2015

**Rachel Appleton & Mary-Jane Kufkaltis** - Year 8

**Carmen Lynch** - Year 7

Selected for Bridgend U13 HUB Netball Squad

**Nia Clatworthy** - Year 8

Athletics - Welsh Junior Champion U15 1500m, U13 Girls Welsh Cross Country Champion - selected to represent Wales in Scotland March 2016

**Lauren Colley** - Year 7

Swimming - ranked first in Wales at 200m Butterfly for her age group

**Lewis Price** - Year 7

Selected for Wales at Basketball U12

**Lucy Edwards** - Year 12

Selected for Wales at Basketball U18

**Evan Jones** - Year 7

Athletics - Welsh Junior Champion U13 200m, Silver in 60m

**Olivia Geddes** - Year 7

Welsh Surf Lifesaving Still Water Championships, Silver medal 50m Flippers

**Amy Bradbury & Isabel Appleton** - Year 9

Selected for County U14 Netball Squad

**Caitlin Toy** - Year 11

Tang Soo Do Second Dan achieved September 2015, Bristol Mixed Martial Arts Tournament - overall highest score for U18 and awarded Junior Female Grand Champion (Gold Forms and Weapons, Silver Sparring)

**Chloe Wyatt, Meg McCloy, Ocean Poultney Maddy**

Year 8 and **Emily Ezard** Year 9

SLSA Junior Welsh Stillwater Championships - U14 Team achieved 2 Gold medals in Relay events

**Ocean Poultney Maddy** also achieved Gold in a Manikin Tow event

**Ocean Poultney Maddy** - Year 8

2015 Welsh Triathlon Champion - 14 and under  
2015 South Wales Triathlon Series Winner - 14 and under

**Alice Webber** - Year 11

Baden Powell Award - Girl Guides

**Isaak Cronje** - Year 8

Selected for Mid Glamorgan U13 Cricket Squad 2016

## MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

**Katie Hill** - Year 11 selected for the National Youth Brass Band of Wales

**Lowri Howell, Lauren Pugh, Layla Millar, Alexandra Hunt, Rhianwen Keiri, Naomi Keiri** all selected for Four Counties Youth Orchestra

**Alexandra Hunt** - Year 12

Selected for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales

Name	Instrument	Grade
<b>Katie Lloyd</b> Year 7	Singing	Grade 1 Merit
<b>Pippa Harrowing</b> Year 7	Flute	Grade 3 Merit
<b>Isaak Cronje</b> Year 8	Clarinet	Grade 5 Distinction
<b>Millie Fry</b> Year 10	Flute	Grade 5 Distinction
<b>Lowri Howell</b> Year 12	Flute	Grade 8 Distinction
<b>Lydia Pickett</b> Year 12	Cello	Grade 8 Distinction
<b>Annalise Kavanagh</b> Year 8	Piano	Grade 5 Distinction
<b>Krista Kavanagh</b> Year 8	Piano	Grade 5 Merit
<b>Olivia Geddes</b> Year 7	Violin	Grade 3 Distinction

## 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 Nicola Evans at

[pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk](mailto:pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk)

Answer to the Maths Challenge on page 10 - A