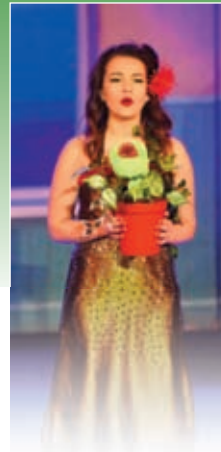


Welcome to the second edition of the **Porthcawl Post** for the school year 2016-2017



Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Spring 2017

Headteacher's Address



May I offer you a belated happy new year from all at our school. There certainly was a hectic start to the school term. The examination boards decided, in their infinite wisdom to hold external examinations on the day the students returned. We were most disappointed and frustrated with the timing, but there was nothing we could do. Teachers delivered sessions before term started and early in the morning, again we could not ask for more. As many Year 11 families will know, these students sat their Mathematics and Numeracy papers in November. The time between the examination and results was used most productively with the introduction of the LIBF examination in personal finance. The Maths Department, led by Miss Pugh, collaborated with Mrs James of Business Studies to deliver this interesting and very worthwhile course. We will complete this qualification by Easter and all will have had the chance of the extra GCSE. This whole venture is another example of the collaboration, dedication and hard work of our students and their teachers.

There has been much in the media about the results of these new Maths qualifications. I am pleased to report our provisional results are approximately 14% above the Welsh national average for each of the papers sat.

Many of us will have thoroughly enjoyed this year's production of "Little Shop of Horrors". I never fail to be amazed at the quality and sheer professionalism of our school shows. Months and months of practice and rehearsals culminate in the spectacular success we enjoyed at the Pavilion. I often comment that we could

not afford to pay the staff by the hour, due to the number of extra hours they put in. The show is the epitome of a team effort and encapsulates all that is great about our school. Tens of people made the show happen, but I must publically thanks Miss Hardwick and her team of Miss Thomas, Mr Smith and Mrs Lewis. Next year will be our 40th consecutive production and we wait for its announcement with baited breath.

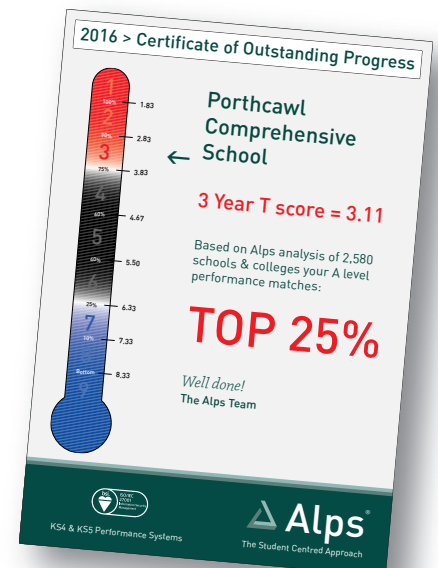
Over the past weeks we have held a whole range of transition events. These events are designed to help younger learners move from Year 6 to 7. Mrs Sloggett has organised a whole raft of events so that the current Year 6 become familiar with our school. We are especially pleased that 31 "out of catchment" children will be joining us for September 2017, this is a massive vote of confidence in our school, its success and all we stand for.

In a similar vein to transition, we have recently held our Year 12 Induction Evening. Hundreds of learners and parents flooded to our school to discuss the Sixth Form here, options and choices. We are confident we will welcome record numbers of students into Year 12 for September 2017. Should anyone have an enquiry regarding the Sixth Form for September 2017 please contact school on 774100.

Since the last edition of the "post" we have some staff news. Mrs Laura Cartwright had a baby girl, Martha Lily, born in October and Mr Weatherhead had a new baby son, John born in December – we wish them all well. We have also said goodbye to two members of the support staff. Mrs Judith Dee and Miss Carys Griffiths have retired and sought work elsewhere respectively. To replace Mrs Dee at first aid is Mrs Joanne Clatworthy and at attendance we now have Mrs

Kirsty Morgan. A very warm Porthcawl welcome to our new colleagues who have settled in very well.

I would like to end with a couple of pieces of excellent news; two of our Year 13 students have been offered places to study at Cambridge University. Lydia Pickett has been offered a place to study Medicine at St Catharine's College, while Alexandra Hunt secured one of only two places to study Veterinary Science at Pembroke College. All at our school wish both the very best for their futures. We were also delighted to receive a certificate from ALPS, showing that as a school, the pupils' overall performance at A Level, places us in the top 25% of schools in the country.



Andrew Slade Headteacher

Housekeeping

Attendance

As you know, last year the whole school attendance was a record breaking 95.3%. Disappointingly, I have to report that so far this year our attendance figures are down, particularly for Year 10 and 11 pupils. Many pupils across the school were away ill before Christmas, many more than the previous year. The attendance figure is just one of the many pieces of data used to band or grade schools. Hopefully with the Spring weather on its way, attendance will pick up again before May. All Year 11 pupils are expected to attend school full time, until their study leave begins following the Whitsun half term holiday.

Uniform

Thank you to parents, pupils and staff who have given feedback on possible changes to the Porthcawl school uniform. At the moment no changes are planned. Just a reminder that girls' skirts should not have a split and should be just above the knee and trousers should not be drain pipe style. Thank you.

Mrs V Hunt
Assistant Headteacher

Hwb Meet



As part of the school's ongoing work on E-safety Ms Christopher and Mrs Sloggett were asked to present to other schools at the local Hwb meet in Penarth on February 15th. These Hwb meetings are arranged by the Welsh Government as a means of sharing knowledge across schools in Wales. We were delighted to be asked to share our good practice and experience to date. E-safety is an issue that affects everyone and is a real focus for all in school.

Porthcawl Working Together on Anti-Bullying

The school has been working for a number of years with the Bridgend County Borough Council as a member of its steering groups on Anti-Bullying. Currently we are part of the pilot on a new system to help identify, deal with, record and monitor incidences of bullying as reported to the school.

Being bullied is a distressing experience for children, in the upset, worry and stress it may cause. But in defining bullying, it is also important to distinguish between incidents of conflict (fighting/quarrelling) and bullying. Porthcawl students attended a local conference which looked at the many and varied, national and international definitions of bullying and created an agreed statement that was approved as the county's accepted definition, for all schools both primary and secondary.

"Bullying is a series of abusive or aggressive acts which can hurt, threaten or frighten you. There are a lot of different types, including emotional, physical and verbal bullying, and can be as a result of a person's age, disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation. It is often targeted for specific reasons or it can be random. It can leave a person with low self-esteem, and leave them feeling isolated and traumatised".

We recognise that bullying may have a substantial effect on students, those who bully as well as those who have been bullied. By its nature bullying tends to take place 'underground', out of sight and earshot of teaching and other school staff. Therefore for us the most important element in identifying bullying is the creation of a positive school culture in which bullying is not tolerated and the reporting of bullying is seen as a positive and valued act by pupils.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School ensures that 'anti-bullying' issues are included in the following: -

- Information in the school handbook
- Information in pupil's homework diaries
- Work on anti-bullying is in role play and in drama lessons
- Included in the PSE curriculum
- School counsellor or SAP meetings working on self-esteem and assertiveness
- The Pastoral Team work together on problem solving and resolution of conflicts
- Curricular delivery

Bullying interventions in schools have included a wide range of approaches including the delivery of workshops and assemblies to raise awareness of bullying, to contribute to culture change and educate pupils about how their own contribution can make a difference in reducing bullying. We also intervene in bullying situations by working directly with pupils involved.

A clear challenge is to engage the support of pupils in positively sharing information with staff about bullying. Parents/carers should watch out for signs that their child is being bullied or is bullying others. They are encouraged to inform the school if they are aware of or suspect bullying is taking place. In most cases the Head of Year will ask both parties to record the events in writing, and keep parents informed of the investigation. Close monitoring takes place to ensure that the matter is resolved.

For further information, please contact the school or any of the contacts below:

www.stonewall.org.uk www.childline.org/bullying.asp www.bullying.co.uk

Just @sk Information Centre	01656 815150
ChildLine	0800 1111
Bridgend Samaritans	01656 662333
Bridgend Youth Council	01656 815150
Stonewall, the lesbian, gay and bisexual charity	08000 502020
NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000
Police non-emergency	101

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Year 7: Tal Giess and Alina Biju

Year 8: Rex Ezard and Ffion Walmsley-Williams

Year 9: Will Foskett and Scarlett Jenkins

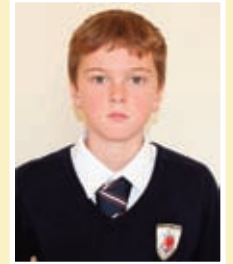
Year 10: Kyran Hayes, Max Williams, Holly Sinclair

Year 11: Ieuan Walmsley-Williams, Conor

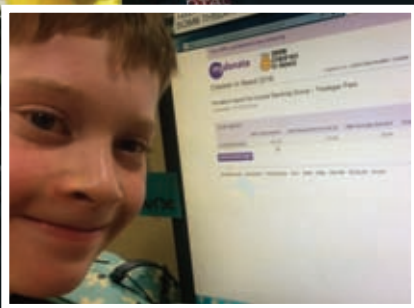
Farrell-John, Daisy Brown, James Powell

Sixth Form: Caitlin Whiteley, Lauren Ellis-Stretch

Very soon there will be a board in P-Block that will have School Council meeting dates and messages on for pupils to read.



Jake Volunteered at the Children in Need Call Centre



Jake Morgan of Year 8 volunteered at the Children in Need Call Centre on the night of 18th November 2016. Jake was a great help and ran a collection for Lester who shaved his head - raising over £20. On the night, he took calls amounting to £495 and also set up a "Just Giving" site so friends and family could donate; this raised another £270.

Dementia Friends

Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends Programme is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. It aims to transform the way the nation thinks, acts and talks about the condition. Porthcawl Comprehensive School is currently undertaking an awareness raising programme with all pupils and staff. During the course of the year, Mrs Norma Morgan had been in to talk to the school, so making us more aware and empathetic to people suffering with dementia and the issues facing them and their carers.

Dementia is caused by a number of diseases that affect the brain. The most common is Alzheimer's but other diseases can cause it too.

Different types of dementia affect the brain at different rates and in different ways, but other things like someone's personal circumstances, the people around them and the environment in which they live, will affect their experience of dementia. It is true that more people over 65 have dementia but it is not exclusively an older person's disease; younger people get dementia too.

Five things you need to know about dementia:

- Dementia is not a natural part of the ageing process.
- Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain.
- It is not just about losing your memory.
- It's possible to live well with it.
- There is more to the person than the dementia





Charities' Week



The annual Charities' Week commenced on Monday 14th November. It all kicked off with leg waxing at Monday break time. Students paid to see the simultaneously horrifying and hilarious spectacle. At lunch we saw Mrs Hammerton, Mr Stratford, Mr Thomas, Mr Holt, Miss Rosser and Mrs Strong compete in 'I'm a teacher get me out of here!' as Snake Rock and Crock Creek, for the enjoyment of the adoring crowd.

The slave auctions began on Tuesday break time and continued into Thursday as Sixth Formers were auctioned off and sold to the highest bidder, (with prices rising above £50!). Teachers and pupils competed in a test of their general knowledge during 'Are you smarter than a Year 7?' at lunchtime. The questions ranged from maths to current celebrity relationship statuses, which conclusively proved that none of the teachers were in fact smarter than a Year 7!

On Wednesday we sold cakes, doughnuts and biscuits in a bake sale, selling out in minutes! 'Mr and Mrs' followed at lunchtime where we saw Mr Holt and Mrs Hammerton, Miss Rosser and Mrs Thomas, and Mr Mackenzie and Mr Thomas battle to see which of the love birds knew each other the best.

The much anticipated 'Lip Synch Battle' took place on Thursday, leaving the whole audience speechless. Boys Jovi set the bar high with their rendition of 'Livin' on Prayer' which got the whole crowd singing! Sia aka Miss Thomas then followed with her truly captivating performance of 'Chandelier'. The Pussycat Grannies then dazzled the audience with their version of The Pussycat Dolls' 'Don't Cha'. Finally, the P-block Pick-a-Mix closed the show with their highly entertaining remix of ABBA's 'Voulez-vous' and Fifth Harmony's 'That's my girl'. A crowd scream-o-meter declared the P-block Pick-a-Mix the winners!

In the final push for charity donations we held a non-uniform and fancy dress day on Friday. This year's costumes didn't disappoint from Mario Kart to Avatar, Nuns, Air Hostesses and even Scooby Doo! At break time we had the infamous 'Sponge the Teacher', where we saw Mr Weatherhead and Mr Stratford freeze as they got drenched in ice cold water! Friday lunchtime saw 'Strictly Come Dancing' take to the stage in the Jubilee Theatre. The audience was packed as we had three spellbinding performances from six of the best dancers Porthcawl Comprehensive has to offer! Mr Holt danced alongside some of his Year 12 pupils in a mash up of some chart hits, Mrs Callister and Miss Hardwick gave an energetic performance of 'Jai Ho' and finally a very impressive hand jive from Mrs Hammerton and Mr Short!



In addition to the events of the week the Head Team also organised a quiz night in the Hi-Tide. The group 'Curse these metal hands' won after rounds of Children In Need, sport, music and general knowledge questions.

The Head Team would like to thank all of the students and teachers who got involved to help us raise nearly £4,000 for charity! This year's money will be distributed equally between Tŷ Hafan, Y Bont, KPC Youth, Guide Dogs, Help for Heroes, Peter's Progress, Young Carers, The Alzheimer's Society and £1,000 going to Children in Need! We would also like to say a big thank you to Mr Malcolm Nugent who came along to school and took so many fantastic photographs.

Isobel Overton - Head Girl



CHRISTMAS SWIM FOR PORTHCAWL STROKE CLUB

On Christmas morning, I dressed up as a snowman for the Christmas Swim. When we got on to the beach, everyone walked towards the sea slowly, and as we got closer, we started to run!

I was excited to go in the sea, as it was my first time doing the Christmas Swim. I did it for Porthcawl Stroke Club, and I raised over £300. I thought it was a good cause, as my Grandfather had a stroke and attends the group. I have never felt so cold, but it was the BEST experience of my life!

At the beginning of January, I went along to meet Keith Duggan, the Chairman of the Porthcawl Stroke Club and presented him with a cheque for £335.10.

A big thank you to all my sponsors!

Sophie Humphreys - Year 8



Interact Raise £700 For The Rainforest Foundation UK

The Interact group have been busy again with Sixth Form parties, Krispy Kreme sales, quizzes and lots more. They recently donated £700 to The Rainforest Foundation UK. The money will go towards tackling deforestation locally and globally. Locally, they help forest communities to gain land rights, challenge logging companies, manage their forests and protect the environment. Globally, they campaign to influence national and international laws to protect rainforests and their inhabitants.

In November, our school Interact group organised a social evening at the Hi-Tide, raising money for the Wales Air Ambulance. Pupils presented Catrin Hall from the WAA with a cheque for £1400 when she came into school in December. They also held a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale in aid of the RNLI and Simon Emms from the Porthcawl Lifeboat Station visited school and received a cheque for £120 on their behalf.

Interact members participated in an International Evening on 27th February at the Hi-Tide, organised by the Rotary Club, to celebrate many different cultures from around the world. Photos to follow in the next edition. They are meeting weekly to plan future events to raise more money for the British Lung Foundation. Once again, the group of dedicated Sixth Formers are really making a difference both locally and internationally, they really are a pleasure to work with. Well done!

Mrs Strong



Sweet Parcels

As usual pupils and staff in PCS demonstrated their amazing generosity in donating money and sweets to send as sweet parcels to children who live on the streets in Romania. This year the total sent from Gilgal Baptist Church Porthcawl was 713 and 270 of those came from the school. As this goes into print, no doubt the pupils will be donating cream eggs which will again be taken by lorry from Cardiff to Romania in time for their Easter. The response to these appeals is absolutely wonderful and the Support for Romania team in Cardiff are so grateful to Porthcawl Comprehensive for their continued generosity. Thank you so much!

Mrs R Evans

Clubs

Gardening Club is Growing



Over Winter we have still been growing leeks, garlic, tulips and marigolds, some of which we hope to sell to staff, students and parents in the Spring term.

Students, if you are interested in our 'Growing to sell' project, or would like to have a small patch of land to grow your own flowers and vegetables, please come along to the school allotment (behind the art rooms) after the February half term holiday – we meet on Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes.

Ms Raine

Language Club



January is the time of year when Language Club gets busy cooking! After the success of last year, we have decided to re-open the French MasterChef competition. On the menu: "La Galette des rois", a French marzipan cake traditionally eaten in January. All the entries were fantastic and it was hard to decide the winner as all the cakes were so delicious! So congratulations to Natalia Furness and Ruby Griffiths (Year 7) for winning this year's competition! The runners-up were Adela Henderson (Year 8) and David Morgan (Year 7). Well done to you too for those lovely yummy cakes! We are hoping to run another food competition soon, so come along to P28 every Monday lunchtime to find out more!

A bientôt!

Madame Morgan



Year 12 French Leçon de gastronomie

As part of the new syllabus at AS level French, four students decided to take the cultural aspect of France outside the classroom. There was no better way to do so than by invading the kitchen of Mrs Thompson and Miss Lambert to cook some delicious "crêpes"! Bon appétit!

French Department

Year 11 Hospitality Afternoon Tea



On the 9th of December, as part of our coursework, Year 11 Hospitality pupils hosted teachers and parents for afternoon tea. We served a range of different foods which we had made earlier in the day. This festive meal included lots of savoury foods such as three different flavour sandwiches, Christmas tree mini pizzas and mini quiches. We then served lemon sorbet to cleanse the palate before the sweet course which included gingerbread, profiteroles, and macaroons. The last course was scones served with jam and cream.

We all worked hard to plan ahead and we decorated the room in a festive manner and played Christmas music. We'd like to thank everyone who came as we raised £100 for MacMillan Cancer Nurses. Here are comments from some of the teachers who came to our event.

"A well-presented afternoon tea that showed a wide variety of skills, customer care was excellent. Lovely to see foods cooked from scratch. Da lawn girls."

"Excellent service, very polite and attentive, a good selection of very tasty food."

"All was amazing! Loved all the decorations and colours! Well done girls! Could you do it every week?"

"Lots of variety in the foods, please provide doggy bags to take home what we couldn't eat!"

"A welcome cup of tea with lots of refills. A good selection of savoury and sweet. Lovely table decoration – very festive. Polite service with a smile!"

Olivia Alderson - Year 11



Mr Slade, Mrs Hunt and Dr Sean Jenkins from the Swansea College of Art were on hand to present the annual Art and D&T trophies for the best work in each year group for 2015-16. It was a difficult task to decide the winners, but in Product Design, Stephen Davies, Year 11, won the award for his animated table football game. This project was chosen for a nationwide exhibition of technology projects and Steve has gone on to study A Level Product Design. The KS5 award was won by Dan Hughes for his high quality Product Design coursework. In Art the best student was Bethan Rees, KS4 and Anna Weston at KS5.

Winner in the Textiles category at KS4 was Emily Stradling and at KS5, Isobel Overton. Best engineering student was Jayden Thomas.

Sean Jenkins made a presentation showing some possible further education opportunities for our talented students. Some of the work completed by his students was "amazing". This opened the pupils' eyes to careers that they had never considered in the field of design.

There was a display of pupils' work showing the diversity of challenges that our design students take on every year. Parents were surprised at the range and quality of the work that was on display.



D&T and Art Presentation Evening



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

PRESENTATION EVENING WINNERS 2015-16

FOOD & TEXTILES

Beth Pickett 7IE
Jessica Browning 7IE
Luke Bryant 7SB
Abi Tibbs 7JW
Amy Judd 7JW
Morgan Lean 7KE
Olivia Davies 7LM
Elisha Martin 7LM
Holly Thomas 7MS
Hanah Dobbins 8MC
Rohan Johns 8MC
Ocean Poultney-Maddy 8MC
Isabelle Hone 8HG
Nia Clatworthy 8HG
Katie Liu 8OS
Annie Williams 8OS
Cameron Beale 8EW
Ioan Cliff 8GD
Carys Mainwaring 8EW
Lucia Brown 8TH
Rhys Morgan 8TH
Ewan Coles 9AS
Jessica Jones 9AS
Holly Sinclair 9JS
Holly Tibbs 9JS
Holly Clatworthy 9RB
Cerian Trookes 9RB
Zoe Holmes 9FS
Isobel Longthorn 9LE
Liam Barwick 9EH
Charlie Evans 9GM
Emily Morgan 9GM
Naomi Keirt 9GM
Ellie Granville 9CW
Hannah Strong 9CW
Lucy Beale 9SR
Samuel Stradling 9SR

PRODUCT DESIGN

Heather Coles 7SB
Harriette Williams 7SB
Joe Ezard 7SB
Romilly Danahar 7JW
Dylan Wisden 7JW
Megan Frole 7JW
Elin Jarman 7MS
Shauna Gamble 7MS
Lowri Powis 7MS
Max Slaughter 7LM
Millie Edwards 8MC
Serenbo Brown 8AE
Owen Hopperton 8MC
Millie Stables 8MC
Nia Clatworthy 8HG

Isabelle Hone 8HG
Kitty James 8OS
Aaron Rose 8HG
Maddie Wintle 8OS
Jude Dabernig 8EW
Lowri Elston 8EW
Carys Mainwaring 8EW
Rosanna Brown 8TH
Chloe Wyatt 8TH
Samantha Dunworth 9AS
Anni Martin 9AS
Cherisse Lau 9AS
Lydia Baroth 9RB
Anna Henderson 9FS
Erin Richards 9FS
Rosie Owen 9FS
Keely Barnes 9LE
Phoebe Keepins 9LE
Caitlin Rees 9LE
Elodie Guillerm 9EH
Harrison Lewis 9EH
Sam Gilbert 9GM
Naomi Keirt 9GM
Jessica Adams 9CW
Nicola Hughes 9SR
Jazmin Gamble 9SR
Max Williams 9SR

ART

Heather Coles 7SB
Dylan Wisden 7JW
Samantha Wensley 7MS
Molly Davies 7KE
Ellie Jenkins 7HD
Luke Slaughter 7LM
Mia Brown 7IE
Beth Pickett 7IE
Carys Mainwaring 8EW
Rhia Nicholson 8MC
Matthew Greenwood 8AE
Kitty James 8OS
Stella Marks 8HG
Freya Ashton 8GD
Chloe Wyatt 8TH
Abbi Audsley 9JS
Ellie Wines 9EH
Penny Sinclair 9FS
Carys Rosser-Stanford 9LE
Ellie Granville 9CW
Megan Pritlove 9RB
Georgina Andersson 9GM
Charlie Evans 9GM
Cerys Reid 9AS
Jess Jones 9AS
Sophia Keepins 9SR
Madi Jones 9SR

Y12 PRODUCT DESIGN

Daniel Hughes

Y12 TEXTILES

Isobel Overton

Y13 TEXTILES

Megan Parrott
Jess Sutton

Y12 ART

Anna Weston

Y13 ART

Jess Sutton

Y11 PRODUCT DESIGN

Stephen Davies
Danni-Elle Marsh
Katie John
Jack Davies

Y11 TEXTILES

Emily Stradling
Laura Webster
Jodie Pritchard

Y11 ENGINEERING

Jayden Thomas
Jac Maund
Rhys Reed

Y11 ART

Bethan Rees
Lauren Thomas

Y10 PRODUCT DESIGN

Maja Zeleska
Ewan Jones
James Powell

Y10 TEXTILES

Maya Squires
Lucie Bentley
Rebecca Owen
Mollie Hodgson

Y10 ENGINEERING

Luke Bertorelli
Jenny Passingham

Y10 ART

Maya Squires
Lucie Bentley



Future Chef 2016



In the absence of Mrs Thelwell Davies we decided to hold the competition in a different format. I asked the Year 10 Hospitality class to devise and cook a main course meal in an hour with a maximum cost of £5.

The pupils did really well and came up with a great range of different dishes showing lots of skills. Miss Lambert, Miss Parry Jones, Mrs Thomas and I judged the meals; we found this a difficult job as the pupils had produced very tasty food. Eventually we decided Ella Scanlan, who made 3 different burgers (with the rolls) and Amy Louise Thomas, who made her Gran's Parma Chicken, were the winners, with Finley Hemsley a very close runner up with his recipe for burgers.

Ella and Amy then progressed to the local finals at Bridgend College, this time they had to make a two course meal for less than £7. On the morning, we set off with bags of ingredients and arrived at the college, to the confusion of the receptionist! Luckily one of the Catering team arrived and took us to the kitchens. Over the next 30 mins, 5 pupils from other schools arrived and the competition began.

We teachers were sent to a common room as the pupils cooked, this was quite nerve wracking as we had no idea what was happening, although Gareth Edwards, the local co-ordinator did come and see us from time to time. Ninety minutes later the pupils brought out their dishes, they all looked relieved to be finished, but exhausted. We then had to wait for the judges, including James Sommerin, who has a Michelin star restaurant in Penarth, to make their decision. Half an hour later Gareth came out again to tell us the judges were having difficulty separating three of the pupils, and were looking closely at the criteria.

While we were waiting for the decision I was surprised to see six of our ex Catering pupils, who are now in their second year at Bridgend College, come in to have a look at the dishes. They were waiting for the pupils to finish as they needed the kitchen back for their practical session.

Unfortunately neither of our pupils won, but James told Amy she had come very close to winning.

After the event Amy and Ella said they enjoyed the day very much and the judges had been really nice and encouraging, it was also good to cook in a professional kitchen.

Mrs Thompson



Mack Jenkins of Year 7 applied to appear on BBC's 'Junior Bake Off' last year along with 2000 other applicants. After auditions and cooking challenges at the regional heats in Bristol, he made it onto the final 40 for the TV show. Mack spent a few days in the grounds of the stately home and marquee, and got to spend time with judges Nadia Hussain (winner of the Bake Off 2015) and Allegra McEvedy. Mack had great fun making the show which aired in November, and continues to embarrass his parents with his cooking skills!



Christmas Tree Festival 2016

Once again it was a delight to be asked to contribute to the annual Christmas Tree Festival held in All Saints Church, Porthcawl. All ensembles performed so well and it was lovely to see such a variety of talent within the area, especially through such a range of ages.

Miss Richards conducted the Junior Choir who performed 'Walking in the Air' which was accompanied by Mrs Lewis. For a lot of the choir members, it was their first time performing for Porthcawl School so was a little nerve wracking for them. The nerves soon subsided however and the choir delivered a great performance of the piece resulting with many compliments after the festival had finished.

The String Orchestra also performed two festive numbers and was conducted by Mrs Williams. The pieces they performed were the 'Basse Danse' from Capriol Suite by Peter Warlock and 'Sleigh Bells' by Percy Faith. Both pieces had the audience tapping and put everyone in a festive mood when the orchestra put Christmas hats and tinsel on their instruments during one of the pieces.

The commitment shown by all the pupils has been immense and concerts such as this would not be possible without them. Well done all!

Overall it was a fantastic experience for the pupils at Porthcawl School and a very festive and enjoyable evening for all who attended.

We very much look forward to next year!

Music Department

Making the Christmas Tree...

We meet once a fortnight for GEco club. Before Christmas we made decorations using loom bands to go on a Christmas tree. We decided to use loom bands because we wanted to use recycled materials. The Christmas tree looked lovely when it was finished and we added some lights. Miss Parry Jones took it to be displayed in the Church.

Shaumiyaa Sasiruban - Year 7



Navy Chefs visit Porthcawl Technology Faculty

On the 15th September, Gavin Brown, Petty Officer Catering and his colleague came to school to talk to pupils about Catering and other professions in the Navy. Year 10 were up first, they enjoyed the demonstration and tasting – the chefs made a delicious Chicken Thai Curry for them. Some pupils were interested in the fact that the Navy run excellent training schemes and will fund further training after you leave the force. Gavin has one more year until he leaves and he is then planning to retrain. The fact that most interested the pupils seemed to be that you could re-sit Maths and English GCSE! Two classes of Year 9 followed, they also enjoyed the curry and a talk on healthy eating.

Year 10 Hospitality were in next, some pupils had enjoyed the earlier talk so much they came back for a second go, the day finished with Year 12 Food Nutrition and Health and Year 11 Hospitality.

All pupils enjoyed the experience. It is 4 years since the Navy Chefs came to visit last; we hope it won't be so long again!



BTEC PERFORMING ARTS PANTO REVIEW

ALADDIN

THOUGHTS FROM THE STUDENTS!

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 Aladdin, a young boy, Aladdin (Keeley Fry) is hunted down by an evil wizard (Rebecca Adams) for the chance to rule the world but he can't do it without the lamp that holds the powerful Genie (Lauren Ellis-Stretch). On the adventure, Aladdin falls in love with the beautiful Princess Jasmine (Sarah Williams), but they are torn apart by Jasmine's wicked mother, the Empress (Tess Castanera-Webber). However, he has help along the way from his awkward yet slightly eccentric Mother, Widow Twankey (James Grandon). The project was an amazing experience and the Year 12 students are very excited to do it again next year!

"The experience was incredible and I loved every moment of it! The most important thing about panto is keeping the children happy and full of laughter, which is exactly what we managed to achieve. It was magical."

Sarah Williams (Year 13)

"Yet again I had an amazing time doing Panto and I thoroughly enjoyed working with the new BTEC members. I really felt like we all bonded and finally got to know each other. I am excited to continue working with everyone over the next two projects."

Keeley Fry (Year 13)

"I really enjoyed the Panto especially the dressing up and choosing my costume. I also enjoyed the acting and the little jokes we added to make the show better. I can't wait for next year!"

Tessa Castanera-Webber (Year 12)

"It was strange to say the least playing Widow Twankey, but I enjoyed every minute of it. I will never forget it and can't wait for what's next in store."

James Grandon (Year 12)

"This experience showed me my strengths and weakness and what I need to work on in the next project. I enjoyed going into my old primary school and seeing everyone really appreciate our performance."

Rebecca Adams (Year 12)

"Touring the Panto is such a fun and enjoyable experience for us to work as a professional performing arts company. However, for me, the highlight of the project is knowing that, for some young people, we are the closest they come to the theatre and that is such a great honour and really humbling."

Lauren Ellis-Stretch (Year 13)



Visit to Chapter Arts Centre



On the 15th November, a number of Drama pupils visited Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff to see 'A Day in the Death of Joe Egg', an A level set text. The play examines living with disability in the 1960's.

"It gave me insight into people living with disability and the challenges they face."

Carys Mainwaring Year 9

"It was good to see a different genre of theatre as opposed to Musical Theatre."

Max Williams Year 10

FILMING 'FRANCOIS' ~ George Neeson

The filming process, Summer 2016, for 'Francois' only lasted for three days, however months of auditioning, hiring, locations and script redrafts had occurred prior to this.

The first experience I had with Alex Walker (Director) and Ross Southard (Writer) was a meeting at the BBC Wales studio in Cardiff. We gathered around the table with the supporting actors and had a read through the script. The whole team really gelled together and I was confident the next couple of days were going to be enjoyable, working with some great people.

The first two days were spent filming in Porthcawl; the first in Streets Nightclub and the second in a house in Picton Avenue. I woke at 6am each day and was truly thrown in at the deep end, the team of makeup artists, sound and light design and camera men ranging from trainee to professional were all raring to go and it wasn't long before I was in my costume and standing behind the decks.

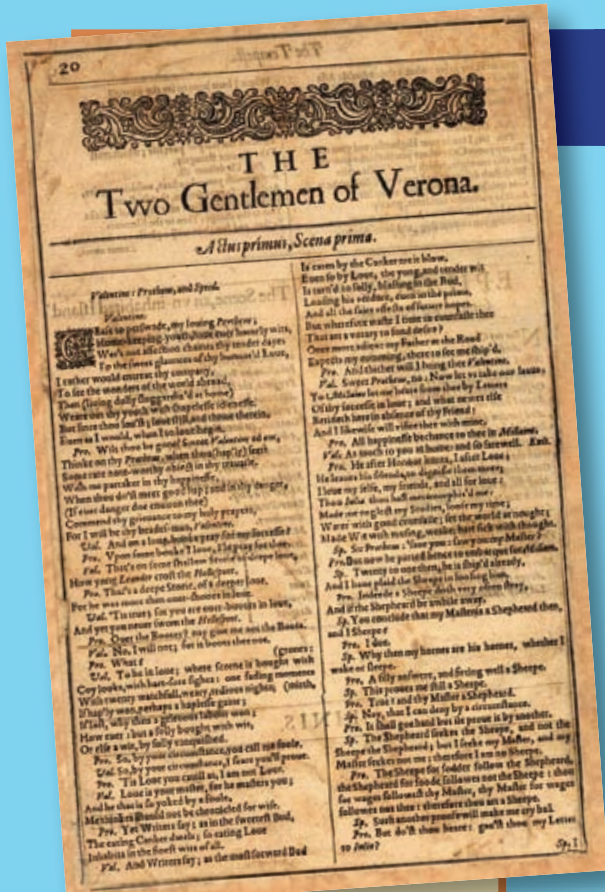
The first two days went very smoothly but the third day hit us hard, we were filming in a record shop in Cardiff but we could only film when there were no customers on the premises so as not to affect business. This meant we were limited to how much we could film and were only allowed 10 people, a camera and a microphone at any given time, which was about a quarter of our crew. Fortunately we managed and finished within our schedule and the film was wrapped and ready for editing.

Though we have all kept in contact, the next time I saw the team was at the red carpet Premiere event in the Wales Millennium Centre in November where I had been nominated as Best Actor. It was good to see the final result of the film, a story of a wannabe DJ portraying the character Lloyd who develops an alter ego 'Francois' the cool French DJ who overcomes his brother's bullying to please the crowds. Francois was televised on 29th November 2016 on BBC2 Wales.

Overall it was a very memorable few days of filming and definitely an experience I will remember. I am very grateful for the 'It's My Shout' Production Team for providing such great opportunities for people of any age to engage in the creative industries.

George Neeson ~ Year 11





Welsh National Youth Opera



I have been a member of Welsh National Youth Opera since 2012 when I was on tour with Welsh National Opera's production of 'La Boheme'. Since then I have taken part in many amazing experiences because of this. For example, I have performed on BBC Radio 4 for the Dylan Thomas Centenary and I have had the opportunity to workshop with the cast of Welsh

Last year we combined with the younger group for our annual showcase. We performed extracts from the operas, 'Cosi Fan Tutti', 'The Yeoman', 'The Guard' and 'The Marriage of Figaro'. This was very challenging but a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Earlier this year we had the opportunity to collaborate with a Cardiff University PhD student to compose music based on Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' which we will perform later in the year. Currently we are working on an opera called 'The Old Man who Loved Cheese'. We will be performing this in April and I am very excited to perform it!

National Opera performances. I have also been able to watch these performances, the last one being 'Kiss Me Kate'.

Emily James - Year 11

Two Gentlemen of Verona

A number of GCSE and A Level Drama students visited the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff to see a performance of the Shakespearean play, 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'. The play was performed by some students at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, including past pupil Joe Wiltshire-Smith. It revolved around two best friends, one already having a dedicated girl by his side. However, as the play proceeded, the two friends fell for the same woman, resulting in a mass of drama and heartbreak, before the happy ending, obviously! The actors delved straight into the complexity of the language and gave a remarkable performance. The play was rather minimalistic and had an interesting take on the original performance which kept the audience members enthralled. A fantastic play and an enjoyable experience!

Carys Rosser-Stanford
Year 10

Life after OBA

After being in Only Boys Aloud, I auditioned to be part of their Academi. This Academi runs throughout the Summer with a week's residential course, where we would take part in workshops with industry professionals such as Ruth Jones and many others. I was so happy and thankful to get a place on this amazing course. The Academi will stretch my knowledge of music and help build my confidence when performing at major events in England and Wales. I cannot wait to start the process!

James Evans-Jones (Year 12)





From the 25th to the 28th of January 2017, Porthcawl Comprehensive's

Drama and Music Departments thrilled sell-out audiences with their production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. The hard work began in September 2016 and in the five months that followed we used our determination and excitement to rehearse during lunch times, after school sessions and even weekend days to produce the spell bounding musical!

With our Musical Director from last year – Mrs Giles, away on maternity leave, our Choreographer Miss Thomas had to double up on the two roles, and what a fantastic job she did! Even with her split roles, she ensured that no quality was lost when creating the exciting dance routines and teaching us the challenging songs. Miss Hardwick, the amazing Director of the show, was enthusiastic, hardworking and a positive figure when encouraging our cast to achieve the success that we did. We can't forget our Production Manager, Mr Smith, who had the great idea of hiring in our set from a professional production of the show and really capturing the essence of the rundown area of Skid Row where the show is based. Mrs Lewis and Miss Richards were a huge help in motivating our cast and providing us with help for every element of the show, making the team work as one.

Production week came around in the blink of an eye, for nine hours each day we intensely rehearsed, with many people struggling to resist the temptation of being 'eaten' by our giant plant. Altogether our team consisted of over 60 people and each person contributed to create this massive impact that we had on our small town. We were so pleased with the recognition we received from well-known figures from Madeleine Moon to H from Steps! During the four days of our performances, PCS Music and Drama Departments rose to social media fame with hundreds of tweets, posts and likes about this black comedy musical. We were all absolutely thrilled and we felt so rewarded that our determination and hard work had paid off.

Next year is a milestone for the Porthcawl Comprehensive's School Show tradition. The school will celebrate its 40th year putting on a school musical. Stars such as Rob Brydon and Ruth Jones have been a part of these shows and we hope next year proves how great this opportunity is. We hope that this tradition carries on for another 40 years and we are still celebrating it then. We would like to thank the Performing Arts Department for all their help, the cast, crew and the band for amazing talent and for making it all worthwhile. Thank you to all the staff and Senior Management for their continued support.

Molly Brace & James Evans-Jones
Years 12 & 13



Little Shop of





Horrors



Year 11 GCSE DRAMA DEvised PRACTICAL EXAMS

November 2016

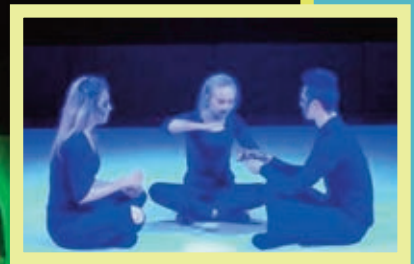
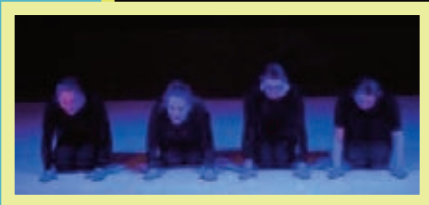
Since the middle of September, Year 11 Drama students have been working on their Devised Practical Exams, worth 40% of their GCSE. It was a great project that stretched the pupils' performance skills and theatrical skills. The theme we had to work with was 'Shadows' and each performance was presented using Physical Theatre. Physical Theatre relies mainly on movement to communicate a story!

'Challenging but rewarding.'

Jenny Passingham

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

Chloe Donovan



Year 7 Drama Club Update



Year 7 Drama Club are currently preparing for a Showcase evening where they will perform their own version of 'The Lion King' and 'The Prince of Egypt'. The date of the evening still has to be arranged but rehearsals are now underway and the pupils are rehearsing in their lunch breaks full of enthusiasm and excitement!

'The Prince of Egypt' is directed by Year 9 pupils and 'The Lion King' is directed by Year 10 pupils.

Senior Maths Challenge Results

Pupils in Years 12 and 13 sat the UKMT Maths Challenge in November and we had an exceptional result with our Best in School pupil, Mohammed Sultaan Azam achieving entry into the Kangaroo International Maths Challenge paper, sat in December.

Over 82,000 pupils from across the UK sat the challenge with the top 10% achieving a Gold certificate, the next 20% a Silver and the next 30% a Bronze certificate. Approximately 4,600 of the top students are invited to do the follow on International papers.

The following students did very well but a big well done to the rest that sat this very hard paper.

Year 13

GOLD, BEST IN YEAR / BEST IN SCHOOL AND SENIOR KANGAROO INTERNATIONAL PAPER
Mohammed Sultaan Azam

Bronze Certificates

Ben White

Joshua Brown

Cameron Rees

Year 12

BRONZE AND BEST IN YEAR

Lloyd Mortimer

Many came close to a certificate so well done to all!

SENIOR KANGAROO INTERNATIONAL PAPER

Mohammed Sultaan Azam sat this paper in December and achieved a Qualification certificate. This is an exceptional achievement the first pupil to sit this paper from the school for many years.

How would you do?

How many times does the 9 appear in the answer to 987654321×9

- A) 0 B) 1 C) 5 D) 8 E) 9

In the grid below each of the blank squares and the square marked X are to be filled by the mean of the 2 numbers in its adjacent squares. Which number should go in the square marked X?

10 X 25

- A) 15 B) 16 C) 17 D) 18 E) 19



Porthcawl Primary School pupils discover Dŵr

Pupils at Porthcawl Primary School have been finding out more about Welsh Water's £300,000 investment project to improve the bathing water quality in Porthcawl and to protect properties in the area from flooding.

Welsh Water's Education Officer Mary Watkins, went to the school to explain about the work and the important role the sewer network plays in cleaning the waste water from homes and businesses in the area before safely returning it to our rivers and seas.

To help the children really understand how the not-for-profit water company takes away and cleans the waste water from their homes, pupils took part in an interactive workshop and assembly where they learnt about the water treatment process. The pupils also learnt how they could personally help to reduce the risk of flooding and pollution from the sewer network by not putting things like cotton buds and disposable wipes down the toilet. Long term benefits will include renewed sewer pipes in the Newton Nottage area, further improving the bathing water quality in Rest Bay and increased protection from flooding.



One Year 5 pupil commented: "I loved every part of the workshop because it made me imagine what it would be like to work for Welsh Water and to lay the pipes. Welsh Water are digging up the roads, but I don't care because now I understand it's helping people and keeping them safe from pollution. Next time I am stuck in traffic I will tell my parents - it is just Welsh Water trying to help people."

Headteacher at Porthcawl Primary School Mr Andrew Wood said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities provided. They felt it helped them understand how we get clean water and how the work Welsh Water are carrying out in the area will help reduce pollution. It also promoted their understanding of how an urban environment affects water drainage."



News from Nottage Primary

On February 8th 2017 the Year 6 pupils in Nottage Primary School found themselves transported back to World War 2! Dressed as evacuees, soldiers, or land girls they experienced life as it would have been in the early 1940s.

The activities for the day included:

Code breaking

Playground games such as hopscotch, marbles and yoyos

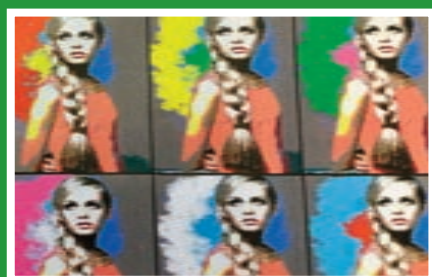
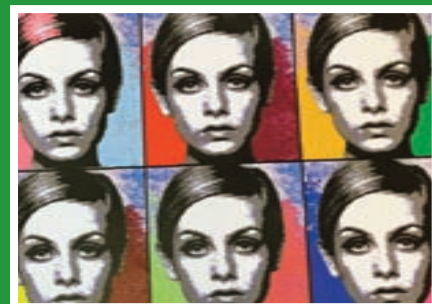
Food tasting WW2 food style including spam (a surprisingly big hit)

Drinking a cup of tea with egg free cakes! (Kindly provided by parents)

Knitting

Making a model spitfire

Also a talk and "Show and Tell", from a local historian Dean Smith and his colleague gave the children an opportunity to look at weapons and other artefacts which everyone found fascinating.



News from Newton Primary

It has been a very exciting term in Newton Primary School for the pupils in Year 6. As part of our Cornerstones topic 'Mods & Rockers', we have studied the life and times of the 1960's. We hired a specialist DJ and travelled back in time to a very enjoyable 60's themed disco.

We also looked at the importance of 'The Beatles' and other influential people who helped shape the period, in particular, Dr Martin Luther King. Pupils wrote their own 'I have a dream' speeches. The pupils looked at the different genres of art from the time and designed their own 'Pop Art' inspired by the work of Andy Warhol.

Towards the end of the Spring term topic, we focused on the American moon landing in 1969. Each group used iMovie to film a documentary to explain the significance of the event. Our pupils played the parts of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and other scientific experts during the filming.

We really enjoyed the transition events this term and the food technology morning was well received. The children loved the PCS production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' at the Pavilion during the schools transition performance. There were so many talented performers in the show and we were blown away by some of the lead vocalists. Here is what some of our Year 6 pupils had to say:

"It was an outstanding performance, I loved the man eating plant!" Seren Cole

"It was a really exciting show, it was one of the best I've seen!" Roxy Marks

"Little Shop of Horrors was an amazing show and I'd really like to see it again!" Molly Milligan

"The show was the best I've ever seen, the music and songs were brilliant!" Sam Taylor-King



News from West Park Primary

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 400 parents while developing our oracy and acting skills.

Cycle Wales spent a week 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 one of the cycling proficiency test.

Transition to the comprehensive has continued with an ICT lesson before Christmas where we learnt about coding. This term we attended a technology morning. We all enjoyed making the paper aeroplanes and testing which design was the best. However, the cheese on toast was clearly a winner. Maria explained, "We had to make paper aeroplanes and test them. We all took part in a competition to discover which plane design flew the best," and Elliot commented, "I liked making the cheese on toast, it was really tasty."

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



Carol Service

'It's the most wonderful time of the year!'

Pretty lights, festive food, and holiday cheer took over Porthcawl in December 2016. One of the highlights of the Winter season for PCS is our annual Carol service in All Saints church. It is a display of the wonderful talent that Porthcawl Comprehensive has to offer, and people leave in awe, full of excitement for the upcoming holiday.

This year was no different. On the 16th December, performing arts students and staff got their woolly hats on and made their way down to the church to set up for the magical music that would take place that night, in front of many proud parents and local residents of our town. Everyone put many hours and commitment into rehearsals for the service, and there were some very special performances from the wind band, string group, senior orchestra, junior orchestra, percussion group, and guitar group. Senior choir and junior choir also performed along with some soloists and trios. The evening was filled with festive tunes with pieces including 'Do you hear what I hear', 'Walking in the Air' and a haunting rendition of 'Steal Away' from our girls' choir. Somewhere in the middle of all of the music, there was a feel-good performance from the senior drama group, helping us understand the true meaning of Christmas. Junior drama also did a hilarious spin on the 'Great British Bake Off' with some very enthusiastic pupils.

We would like to thank all our peripatetic staff for their help in the months leading up to the concert. The show would not go ahead without their efforts. As a school we are blessed to have so many talented young students to be able to perform at events like these, and also so many



passionate teachers who put so much work into making the Carol Service such a success. As a Year 13 pupil, I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of such a great Christmas tradition over the years, and if you aren't already, I insist you become a part of it too!

At the end of the service, a collection was held for Action on Hearing Loss and in February representatives from the charity came into school and were presented with a cheque for £172 by Hannah Jenkins, Year 12.

Anna Arrieta - Year 13



Only Boys Aloud Visit

During the Autumn term, the Music Department were delighted to have a visit from Only Boys Aloud once again! 'Only Boys Aloud' is a choir for young boys in Wales, founded by Artistic Director Tim Rhys-Evans MBE. He believes in encouraging young people to find their own way and to make their own mark, using choral singing as a catalyst to effect positive change in their lives. From the National Eisteddfod, to the Final of Britain's Got Talent, topping the iTunes chart and a debut album with Sony Records, Only Boys Aloud offer many amazing opportunities.

The actual legend that is Tim and another member from Only Men Aloud came into the school to do a workshop with us. We had over 30 boys from Year 9 up in the Jubilee Theatre - all singing! A first in a long time! If only all these boys would join our school choir! Lots of fun games and vocal exercises were taught by the experts! Miss Thomas and Mrs Lewis also joined in as honorary 'OBA' members! All boys left the workshop smiling and feeling slightly more confident than when they went in.

Only Boys Aloud is an amazing opportunity, meeting on a Thursday Evening in Bridgend, it is an experience not to be missed. See Miss Thomas for more details. The choir is now open from Year 7 up!

James Evans-Jones - Year 12



MUSIC AND DRAMA TRIP TO LONDON!



Lucy gains Diploma in Musical Theatre

At the beginning of July I visited the Music Department at Cardiff University to do my Diploma exam. I had to perform four songs, sight-sing an unseen piece of music, along with four monologues, followed by a lengthy discussion with the examiner about my program and the history of musical theatre. For the exam I decided to sing 'Just You Wait' from My Fair Lady, 'Think of Me' from Phantom Of The Opera, 'Dats Love' from Carmen Jones and 'Your Daddy's Son' from Ragtime.

After a painfully long wait, at the end of October, I finally received the confirmation of my Diploma in Musical Theatre and my certificate was awarded. I was absolutely delighted! I certainly couldn't have done this without the help and encouragement of my singing teacher Patricia O'Neill. I'm now looking forward to going on and hopefully achieving my Diploma in classical singing too.

Lucy Vinen - Year 12



On the 5th and 6th of November 2016, the Music and Drama Department ran a trip to London for pupils in Years 8 - 13. We left the school on Saturday the 5th at roughly 6:45am, and began our journey to our first destination - The Harry Potter Studios!

We arrived nice and early at 9:30am, had a group photo at the entrance, and made our way into the first section of the studios. We saw the Grand Hall, the costumes and props from the films, and the majority of the set - like classrooms and platform nine and three-quarters. Then we came to the halfway point café, where we stopped to try some ButterBeer (there were mixed opinions about it!), and ate our lunch in the outdoor area. We continued the tour, which included lots of unexpected surprises, and ended with a huge (and expensive) gift shop selling wands, wizard sweets, and more!

Next, we went back to the bus which transferred us to our hotel, where we were given our room keys so we could unpack and get changed, ready for food in Bella Italia. We had a delicious main and dessert, and there was a great atmosphere. After the meal, we proceeded to walk to the theatre, where we watched Matilda: The Musical, which was incredible! By the end, we were all

very tired and headed back to the hotel to get some much-needed rest.

The next day, we woke up early for our breakfast and made our way to the Natural History Museum - which was great fun and very interesting. Sadly, though, we did not have enough time after that to go to the Science Museum, so we decided to quickly have lunch, and then go straight to the last activity of the weekend - which was a workshop at Abacus Arts studio with a bubbly actor, and we performed a scene from Matilda: The Musical. It was a wonderful experience and we learnt lots of new skills that will help us in future productions. Then came the part that we were all dreading - our journey back home. We arrived at the school at roughly 9:00pm, where we all went our separate ways - straight to bed, ready for school the next morning! Overall, it was an unforgettable trip that we thoroughly enjoyed, as we had lots of laughs along the way! If you ever get the opportunity to go on one of these trips, we recommend that you do as you will create some wonderful memories that you will never forget!

Elys Davies & Max Williams - Year 10

Talent Show at Pontins

We have been performing as a musical duo for a number of years. When we went on holiday to Pontins in Somerset last April, we won the talent competition for the Age 8-12 category, performing a song we wrote. The prize was a free holiday to take part in the National Final at Southport in November. We entered the final performing the same song.

The competition during the day took a long time, as there were 58 contestants! Each of them had won the talent heat whilst on holiday. Once everyone had performed, four acts were selected for the Grand Final that night - we were one of the lucky four! As we were walking to the venue to perform that evening, we overheard a family singing our song in one of the chalets - this made us feel great! Unfortunately, we didn't win the Grand Final, but we were really pleased to make it to the final four. There is a video of us performing the song on our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/katierhysduo/

Katie & Rhys Lloyd - Year 8 & Year 7



SPORT Hockey News



Hi, I'm Lucia and I'm a hockey goalkeeper for the Mid Glamorgan county, Whitchurch, and the school.

I'm 13 years old and I've been playing hockey for nearly a year now. I started near the middle of Year 8 as I knew I wanted to play hockey but just wanted to be a back or a defensive player.

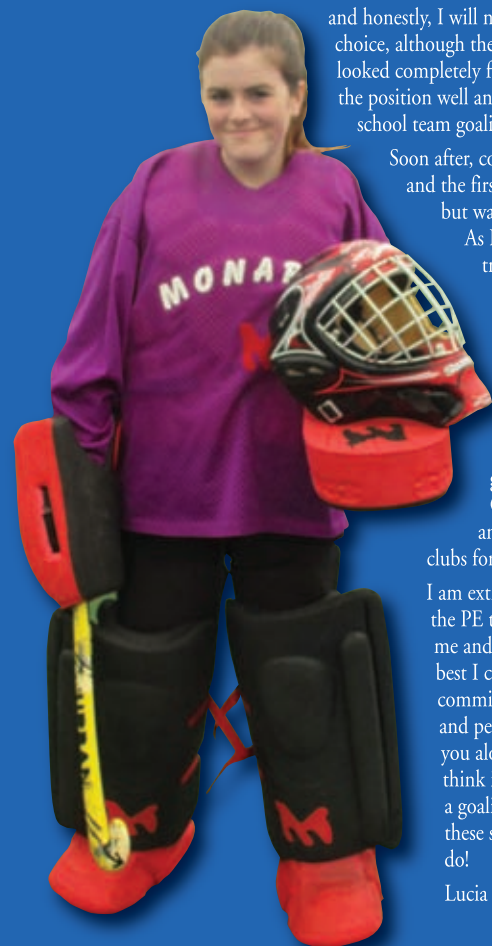
On one occasion, I went to hockey practise as usual on a Wednesday and, Miss Stuart asked me if I would try being a goalkeeper as she thought I had the skills to be successful. I agreed to try it out and honestly, I will never regret making that choice, although the kit and everything else looked completely foreign to me. I took to the position well and began playing as the school team goalie!

Soon after, county trials came along and the first trial wasn't too hard but was extremely frightening. As I continued through the trials I came to the last trial where there were tons of people and trust me this took a lot of commitment and determination!

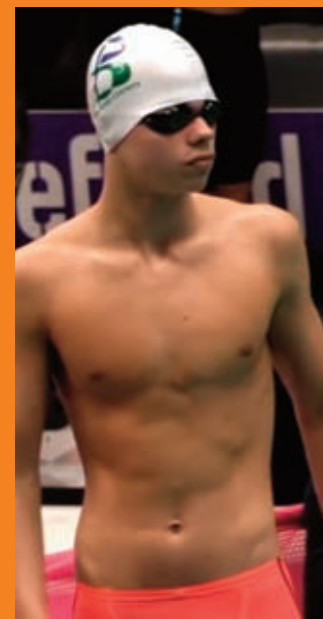
So, as you may guess I got onto the Mid Glamorgan county team and I have joined more clubs for hockey training.

I am extremely thankful to all the PE teachers for supporting me and helping me to be the best I can be. All it takes is commitment, determination and people willing to support you along the way. Don't just think it's what you need to be a goalie in hockey; you'll need these skills with anything you do!

Lucia Brown - Year 9



Ioan Evans Swimming Success



It has been an extremely busy year for Ioan Evans of Year 10 and he has enjoyed tremendous success in the pool. He has entered countless events across Great Britain and Europe, winning many gold medals along the way in different disciplines and has competed for Wales and GB. He was technically too young at 14 years old to even be in the Welsh Squad! His strict training regime in Cardiff International Pool amounts to 20hrs per week which equates to 3 mornings a week, 6.00-8.00am, 5 evenings 4-6 pm and a 2 hour long session on Saturday.

In December, he competed in the British Short Course Championships in Sheffield taking gold in 200m backstroke and breaking the Welsh Junior Short Course U16, 200m record. This is currently the fastest time ever swum in Britain by a 14 year old. He also broke the Welsh Junior Short Course U16, 1500m freestyle record - 8 seconds inside his previous PB - this was the oldest standing record on the books, set in 1994!

Because of his success, Ioan has been privileged to enter so many events and was selected to represent Welsh Youth Squad in the FFN Golden Tour in Marsaille in March. He has qualified to compete in Open Age British Championships in April and aims to qualify for the Youth Commonwealth Games in Nassu, Bahamas in July. We will keep you updated of his progress in future editions!

Rebecca Sutton Bridge FM Young Achievers Award

The Bridge FM Young Achiever Awards 2016 were held at The Best Western Heronston Hotel in November and we were delighted that Rebecca Sutton of Year 11 was the recipient of a coveted award.

The Awards celebrated the achievements of young people from across Bridgend County Borough, recognising individuals in the area who truly make a difference in all walks of life, rewarding the contribution that some young people make to our community through business, training, education, arts and music, and voluntary work. Rebecca was extremely proud to be awarded the Young Sports Person Award for her achievements in swimming in recent years.

Well done Rebecca!





The Rugby Season Continues:

Having played plenty of fixtures in the Autumn term, the focus shifts towards the 7's and girls' rugby this term. Summer touch rugby doesn't seem that far away either and plenty of boys are getting practise in at break and lunch times. We are into our 3rd year as a WRU school of rugby and HUB centre, rugby has continued to thrive and be an integral part of the extra-curricular programme offered to our pupils. Our aim is to provide quality, enjoyable rugby opportunities to boys and girls across the school. A high percentage of our players currently play for a club outside of school, be it Porthcawl, Kenfig Hill, TATA or one of the many other clubs around the Bridgend area. We are looking to help these clubs flourish by encouraging those that are ready to join a local club and make further improvements in their playing ability.

Highlights during the Autumn term were the Winter Sports, where over 200 boys played in the rugby competition and produced a high standard of play, especially in Year 10. Our younger pupils are showing the way as far as commitment goes, with a

regular 20 pupils training week in week out. Rugby in our Primary Schools is also strong and was supported with a festival at West Park School. The pupils were in the safe hands of referee Cameron Trahar and coaches Max Shears and Tom Watkins from Year 10. Our senior girls attended the regional competition in Bae Baglan and for many of them it was their first proper experience of rugby, and they loved it!

Cup success this year was limited as neither our U14 nor U16 managed to qualify for the Welsh Cup. However, the U14's got to the plate final in the Ospreys Cup and played Bae Baglan in the final on the Knoll ground, Neath. We went into the game as favourites, having beaten them earlier in the season in the group stages. Unfortunately, nothing went our way and passes didn't find their way to players in space and chances were blown time and time again, leaving Bae Baglan as Plate winners.

Mr Davies





FINAL RESULTS

1st - POWYS

2nd - MORGANNWG

3rd - DYFED

4th - GWYNEDD

In varied December weather conditions of sunshine and fog, the annual school's house competition went ahead, and was a great success. Pupils' support of their houses was once again strong and committed and it was pleasing to note that there was excellent 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.

A special mention needs to go to the student helpers on the day. Year 10 GCSE pupils and Year 12 AS level pupils helped organise fixtures, officiated games and helped keep time and scores.

Results of interest to individual Houses

DYFED

Joint 1st in the Rugby

1st in the Football

4th in the Netball

4th in the Hockey

MORGANNWG

3rd in the Rugby

3rd in the Football

2nd in the Netball

2nd in the Hockey

GWYNEDD

4th in the Rugby

4th in the Football

3rd in the Netball

3rd in the Hockey

POWYS

Joint 1st in the Rugby

2nd in the Football

1st in the Netball

1st in the Hockey





Welsh Indoor JUNIOR Championships



Almost 600 young athletes headed to the National Indoor Athletics Centre, Cardiff on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th February to compete for the title of Welsh Champion. Many congratulations to Nia Clatworthy of Year 9 who won the 1500m U15 title – for the second year running!

Eleni Jones of Year 7 also had an outstanding event and was a silver medallist in the 200m and bronze medallist in the 60m. Very well done to both girls!



X Country news

Approximately 35 girls volunteered to take part in the South Wales Regional X Country Championships in Trelai Park, Cardiff, in October. The ground was firm underfoot and the weather perfect for the event. There were numerous impressive results from both U13 and U15 competitors:

U13 Girls

A total of 365 runners competed in this race.

Abigail Davies (Year 7) - 10th

Megan Froleo (Year 8) - 42nd

Angelica Davies (Year 7) - 58th

Ellie Evans (Year 7) - 78th

U15 Girls

A total of 173 runners competed in this race.

Nia Clatworthy (Year 9) - 2nd

Meg McCloy (Year 9) - 8th

Chloe Wyatt (Year 9) - 21st

Amber Williams (Year 9) - 23rd

Hannah Davidson (Year 9) - 27th

Hannah Strong (Year 10) - 31st

Emily Ezard (Year 10) - 38th

Leonora Breheny (Year 9) - 43rd

Ella Stavely (Year 10) - 61st

Ami Fraser (Year 9) - 67th

These were really impressive results and the A team (Nia, Meg, Chloe and Amber) retained their first position in the team event for the third year running. The B team also won their team event (Hannah D, Hannah S, Emily and Leonora).

Congratulations to all those who participated, they were a credit to the school!

Miss H Davies - PE Department



Boys South Wales Regional Schools' X Country Championships

This event was held a week after the girls' competition, again in Trelai Park, Cardiff.

Some performances worthy of note:

Senior Boys

A total of 80 competitors in this race.

Ben White 8th

U13 Boys

A total of 314 competitors in this race.

Luke Wyatt (Year 7) - 15th

Elliot Bennett (Year 7) - 40th

Will Jarmen (Year 7) - 54th

In this age group the Porthcawl A team finished 8th out of 33 teams placed, whilst the B team also finished 8th out of 34 teams. Well done to all those involved. It is good to see so many of our pupils enjoying these events and wanting to be involved.

Miss H Davies - PE Department



Rest Bay Surf Lifesaving Club

Rest Bay Surf Lifesaving Club helps make people aware not only of the dangers of drowning, but also about how to stay safe at sea and how to rescue others who are in need of help. It is a chance to make some really good friends, keep fit and most importantly, to learn some key life skills that will stay with you forever.

On the weekend of the 28-29 of January, Rest Bay SLSC took part in the Junior Welsh Surf Lifesaving Still Water Championships held at the National Pool in Swansea. Finishing third in Wales, Rest Bay worked hard and were very pleased with the overall result.

During the competition we were able to take part in lots of different events. My favourite event was the Under 14's 4 x 50m medley (which we won). This event involved four swimmers (Olivia Geddes, Meg McCloy, Chloe Wyatt and Bethan Morgan, all from Porthcawl Comprehensive School). The first swimmer swims 50m freestyle without fins, touches the wall and the second competitor then swims 50m freestyle with fins. They touch the wall and the third competitor swims 50m freestyle pulling a rescue tube and, after touching the wall, passes the harness of the rescue tube to a fourth competitor. The fourth competitor then tows the third competitor (the casualty) who is holding the rescue tube, 50m to the finish. Our team won gold with a time of 2 minutes 10 seconds. The same swimmers also won silver in the Under 14's 4 x 25m manikin relay 'rescuing' a 12 stone manikin over 25 meters.

This was our first 'Junior' competition, as you have to be age 12 to take part. We were both very happy to compete in the Welsh Championships and hope to have the same result in the British Championships later this year (and in years to come). We would recommend joining your local lifeguard club to keep fit and learn skills that could one day, save a life.

By Olivia Geddes Year 8 & Bethan Morgan Year 7

Surf Lifesaving



Hi I'm Elen, and in December I received my second Welsh Cap for Surf Lifesaving, following the Celtic Cup in July. The competition took place in Portreath, Cornwall and we competed in the U19 age group against England. Conditions were challenging and England had the home advantage of knowing their beach. But nevertheless we gave them a good run for their money, but they just pipped us for the win. The day ended with a fab party put on for us by the English team and the season ended with the presentation of the Caps.

Elen McCloy - Year 10

Science Transition

Early October saw the arrival of our very enthusiastic local primary schools and a large number of out-of-catchment pupils for their first Science transition. The pupils were given the huge responsibility to find out who had kidnapped our Headteacher Mr Slade!

After reading the ransom note and making predictions about which Science teacher appeared to look the most guilty (I told you it wasn't me!), the pupils were very excited at the prospect of using the Bunsen burners and could not wait to get started. The experiments involved flame testing, producing a red cabbage indicator, chromatography and microscopy. A number of Sixth Form pupils were on hand to help with any challenges the pupils faced and also to answer any questions they had on life in PCS.

The pupils demonstrated excellent Science skills and took the investigation very seriously. I must say, there are definitely some budding forensic scientists amongst our Year 7 2017... some of the suggestions were very creative, it was very clear that we had some 'CSI' fans! Keep up the good work!

On behalf of all the staff in the Science Department, and of course Mr Slade who is very happy that the guilty teacher has been well and truly caught, we would like to say a big thank you to all those pupils that attended and supported this transition event for their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm displayed – it was an absolute pleasure meeting you all. We look forward to welcoming you all back in September!

Mrs H Strong



Technology Transition



In January, we hosted our future Year 7 pupils to Technology workshops. The pupils have cooked cheese on toast or cakes and made and flown hundreds of airplanes.

Here are a few comments from the pupils:

"I loved today the cheese on toast was better than my Mum's but not as good as my Nan's!" Cameron Fraser

"I loved it when we made cheese on toast, I like it when we learnt about how to keep safe from getting ill from food." Ellese Llewellyn

"Today I liked making the airplanes and flying them." Maisie Thomas

"I can't wait to be in Year7!" Josh

"I enjoyed making the food and being able to choose different food options." Izzy

"I like to bake - now I can cook for my family." Joshua Williams

"I enjoyed learning how to be safe with cookers and making our cheese on toast." Jasmin Roberts

"It was good that we made a description with technical words." Ffion

"I had a brilliant time at comp and would like to come again." Susan

"I really enjoyed today and the teachers and helpers (Year 10 & 12 pupils) were really nice!" Amelia

"I have had lots of fun today and the teachers are very kind, the helpers were very helpful too." Issie

"I learnt to make the best cheese on toast. It is really fun and exciting to learn about all this." Leon Hamilton

U3A Discussion Group



On Thursday 8th December, we took part in a U3A discussion on social media and technology and how it impacts millennials. The University of the 3rd Age is a movement which provides unique debates and 'lessons' which allow the older generation to constantly be using their minds in a fun and unique way. Before we went to Porthcawl Rugby Club where their sessions are held, we went for food with Malcolm Cowper, who is the coordinator and a participant of the U3A in Porthcawl. We also ate with a few other members who helped to found the Porthcawl U3A. We spoke about how it helps keep them occupied and as well as mental gain, it is a great social activity allowing them to meet new people, and new members are fondly welcome.

When we arrived at the Rugby Club, we were warmly welcomed by the members who were all excited to ask us our thoughts on the topic of social media. One lady mentioned how much she loves to watch the annual school musical and told us that *Les Misérables* was her favourite so far! As we started the discussion, they were not shy to bombard us with their interesting questions about social media and why we use it. Many of them had worries about how social media (and our reliance on it as a society) will cause us to be unable to socialise face to face in the future. We reassured them by stating that most of us use social media as a form of communication, not a replacement for physical communication. The reason they wanted pupils from Porthcawl Comprehensive to join in was because most of the members were unsure about the ever-growing

technology we use in our everyday lives and it was a topic that they didn't know much about themselves. They were keen to understand why we use it so much and we aimed to clear up any misunderstandings they had.

They thought it was fitting to invite teenagers to join in as we are part of the generation that has grown up alongside the social media platforms. It came across to us that most of the members felt that technology restricts us, but after discussing its positives and negatives, they began to realise its usefulness in modern society. In addition, we came across topics that even we couldn't fully comprehend, for example, the probability of a 'virtual reality' which one man in particular seemed to strongly believe in due to the speed of technology advances. We were shocked by how people in the group had iPhones - this proved to us how easily accessible new technology is, regardless of age.

In conclusion, we found the discussion helpful and enlightening as we began to understand our use of social media and how it is perceived to other generations. It also allowed us to help the U3A members in their understanding of modernising technology, so that they don't feel 'left behind' in society, which is important for us. We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to experience the great things this organisation does.

Thara Hopkin, Jac Flanagan, Chelsea Cooper, Sam Edwards & Chloe Green ~ Year 12

Year 12 Visit from Student Ambassador



On 6th January, Year 12 had a talk from a past student, Georgia Shallish, who is in her 3rd year at Reading University reading English Language. She is a Student Ambassador and delivered a talk to the students about life and study at university. They enjoyed it and there was plenty of lively discussion about it afterwards!

Tripos

*The view from
the London Eye
was spectacular*



History Department trip to London, December 2016

After an early start on December 10th, we arrived at Covent Garden for lunch. Whilst we were there, we were able to walk around the Christmas markets and take in the busy atmosphere. Straight after we hopped back on the bus to go to the Jack the Ripper Tour. Whilst on the tour we learnt about the gruesome tales of his killings and how it is still not known who was behind the murders more than 100 years later. After our tour we had a lovely meal in Planet Hollywood, before heading off to Drury Lane to watch Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in the Theatre Royal. The show was amazing, as we got to see the journey of five lucky golden ticket winners experience a tour of the chocolate factory. This rounded off a fun-packed day!

After breakfast the next day we headed back towards the river Thames for our visit to the London Eye. As we made our journey to the Eye, we saw sights like Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and lots of red buses! The view from the London Eye was spectacular. We saw Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and the River Thames. Before we left the amazing city we had a wonderful three hours to 'shop-until-we-dropped' on Oxford Street. Our wonderful time in London was up and we headed back to Porthcawl. A special thanks to Mr Holt for organising the trip and to Mr Short and Mrs Hammerton for helping to make this a brilliant experience!

Isabelle Hone - Year 9





Trip to the Principality Stadium



On November 24th we took a group of pupils up to the Principality Stadium for a day of tours and resilience coaching with Les Duggan. The day began with a tour of the Principality Stadium in Cardiff which was topped off by watching Leigh Halfpenny and Dan Biggar taking part in kicking practice before the Wales vs. South Africa game in the Autumn Series. After some lunch we took part in a resilience building workshop, with Les Duggan, where pupils worked in groups to share their aspirations and model what they believe makes a successful individual.

Mr Price





Pamporovo

December 2016

The week before Christmas, 74 pupils from Years 8 and 9 went on a ski trip to Pamporova in Bulgaria.

On Friday 16th December, 74 pupils from Year 8 and Year 9 began their journey to Pamporovo, Bulgaria for the much anticipated Porthcawl Comprehensive ski trip. Considering the very early start, everyone was in remarkably good spirits and full of excitement. Despite British Airways confusion with the all Thomases, Ezards and Kavanaghs on the trip (and one pupil losing their boarding pass), we finally boarded the plane at Heathrow. After a few hours of Porthcawl Comprehensive 'musical chairs' on the plane we landed in Sofia to begin our coach journey to our resort.

Everyone was up bright and early the next morning for breakfast. Mr and Mrs Stradling's talk about needing plenty of energy to ski had obviously been heeded as pupils stocked up on pancakes, sausages and bacon from the breakfast buffet. After being kitted out with our skis, boots and helmets, we headed for the slopes for our first day of lessons. While the beginners mastered snow ploughs, turning and stopping

(harder than it sounds), the advanced groups moved up the mountain to conquer blues, red and black runs. Everyone made great progress during the week under the expert guidance of our instructors and even those with the shakiest starts could all ski from the top of the mountain by the end of the week.

There was no rest in the evenings as we were kept busy with activities such as bowling, bum-bouncing, swimming, a quiz, a movie night and a disco. Highlights of the week included the daily encounters with Belfast Dave, the afternoon of sledge racing, our apres-ski routine of hot chocolate and crepes in the café and our unlikely Karaoke King in the form of Rex Ezard. We were all sad to leave at the end of a great week.

Thank you to Mr Stradling, Mrs Stradling, Miss Davies, Miss Rosser, Mr. Stratford and Miss Richards for accompanying the trip and to all the Porthcawl Comprehensive pupils for making it so enjoyable.



Target 2.0 Interest Rate Challenge

In November, Jack, Caitlin, Sulmaan and I attended Bank of England's Target 2.0 Interest Rate Challenge. The competition involved us looking at current economic conditions and the outlook for inflation and then setting the interest rate to meet the Government's inflation target of 2.0%. Before attending the competition we did research into how our government's monetary policy works and looked at current affairs that could affect the outlook of our economy.

On the day we travelled to the New House Country Hotel in Cardiff. We competed against five other schools such as Fitzalan High School and Cardiff Sixth Form Collage, so the competition was of a high standard. The day began with each team making a presentation about their findings, as well as their strategy to reach the inflation target to a panel of judges. Our presentation focused on how Brexit and the election of President Trump would affect the British economy, and our advice on how to deal with it. We set our interest rate to 2% to encourage economic growth. The presentation was followed by a series of questions, as the judges tested our knowledge of monetary policy!

The hotel kindly supplied a buffet lunch which was a welcome break before the results in the afternoon! The judges announced first and second place and unfortunately we didn't make the cut! However, Cardiff Sixth Form College will now continue on to the national final in London which was well deserved!

Isobel Overton - Head Girl

Pupil Achievements

Spring 2017

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Mackenzie Jenkins	Year 7	Final stages of BBC "Junior Bake Off"
Tom Horn	Year 10	Selected for Wales in the European Surfing Championships, Morocco December 2016
George Neeson	Year 11	Nominated for Best Actor Award in the film 'Francois'
Rebecca Sutton	Year 10	Winner of Bridge FM Young Sports Person Award
Penny Sinclair	Year 10	Represented Wales at European Karate Championships
Cerian Trookes	Year 10	Represented Glamorgan at Royal Welsh Show Winter Fair at Beef Stock Judging
Angelica Davies	Year 7	Sub Regional Championships: Gold in 200 Individual Medley, Silver in 200 Free and Bronze in the following: 100 Fly, 50 Fly and 100 Back. She was also 4th in the 400 Free
Lucia Brown	Year 9	Selected for U14 County Hockey
Lewys Audsley	Year 8	Runner up in the Welsh Junior Closed Squash Tournament December 2016
Matthew Morgan, Elliot Watkins, Kieran Tatum & Izabelle Morris	Years 9 & 10	Members of the Pyle and Kenfig Junior Golf Team who won the Welsh Junior Championships in Builth Wells in 2016, who went on to represent Wales in the Home Internationals Nations Cup in Morgado, Portugal in February 2017
Elen McCloy	Year 10	Second Welsh Cap for Surf Lifesaving December 2016
Ioan Evans	Year 10	British Junior Short Course 200m Champion – set new Junior Welsh Record. Also broke the Junior Welsh record for 1500m
Sophie Humphreys	Year 8	Raised £330 for the Stroke Club by doing the Christmas Swim
Joe Markey, Dafydd Jenkins	Year 9	U15 Bridgend District Rugby

Max Shears, Will Hapgood & Harry Cooper	Year 10	U15 Bridgend District Rugby
Nia Clatworthy	Year 9	Winner of Welsh Indoor Championships 1500m, U15
Eleni Jones	Year 7	Runner up in Welsh Indoor Championships 200m and Bronze medalist in 60m
Grace Ward Smith	Year 10	Selected to sing at Her Majesty's Theatre London with Stagecoach
Jessica Thornton	Year 11	Represented Wales at Cricket on a tour of Sri Lanka

Musical Success

Congratulations to all musicians that have sat grade exams over the past term!! Remember to update your music teacher on any success that you achieve or see Miss Thomas so that she can update her records and publish your achievement in the next Porthcawl Post!

Diolch, Miss Thomas

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade
Alexandra Hunt	Year 13	Clarinet	Selected for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales for the third year running!
Lucy Vinen	Year 12	Musical Theatre	Diploma
Rhys Lloyd	Year 7	Electric Guitar	Grade 7 Merit
Jamimah Cook	Year 11	Piano	Grade 7 Distinction
Laurence Hunt	Year 12	Piano	Grade 8 Distinction Winner of the Rotary Young Musician Competition - Bridgend
Rhianwen Keirl	Year 12	Viola	Grade 8 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