

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



Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Autumn 2014

Headmaster's Address

Success Breeds Success



"Success breeds success", never has this been more appropriate for all at our school.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School has just been celebrating our best ever series of A level (A2) results.

The current Year 13 pass rate at A* to E was an incredible 100% while the A2 A* to C pass rate was an impressive 85.41%. Almost 35% of the whole entry percentage was at the A*/A grade. This is especially astonishing given the fact that 316 A level papers were sat.

A very impressive 17 students achieved 3 A grades or better at A2 level, with some achieving four A levels.

This excellent series of results enabled Porthcawl students to secure places at some of the best universities in the country and I am grateful to the staff and students for their hard work and dedication.

Not to be out done, our last year's Year 11 delivered a very good set of results. A very pleasing feature was the large number of papers sat, resulting in such grades. I am especially delighted by the students with Additional Learning Needs; a true reflection of an inclusive school.

Pupils in the year group sat 2350 examinations and achieved a total of 344 top grade passes at A* or A.

An impressive number of 24 students achieved 8 or more GCSEs at the top grades of A and A*. Of this

SUBJECT/YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ENGLISH	76%	79%	85%	87%	92%
MATHS	68%	86%	83%	88%	85%
SCIENCE	75%	93%	93%	98%	100%

number, many students achieved ten, eleven and twelve GCSEs with some achieving 11 A*/A grades and many more gaining similarly impressive results.

The number of pupils gaining five or more GCSE awards at Grade A* - C remained well above the 70% ceiling with the school recording 75%, well above the national average.

Of the total number of examinations entered, 99.7% resulted in A* - G grades with all pupils leaving school with a qualification. This reflects achievement across the board. No leaver left our school without a recognised qualification.

The third and final set of results were the end of Key Stage 3 National Curriculum results, here, again excellence was the keyword.

This table summarises the L5+ performance for the last five years, it shows the % of the group who achieved L5+.

These remarkable figures place us very favourably in our "Family" of schools.

The term has flown by, Summer is long past and after celebrating our best ever A level results, all at PCS have settled quickly back into the usual routines. We are always delighted to welcome new students, and this year received almost 30 additional learners into Year 7. With a further 25 pupils joining Year 12, it is a clear vote of confidence in our school.

The Annual Golf Day was held at The Grove Golf Club. Over 20 teams participated, (including several pupil teams), and the Friends of the School raised in excess of £1500. The event was won by Clay Shaw Thomas for the second year running, so well done to them and thanks to you all for your continued support.

Attention is now turned to the Annual School Show and I am delighted to announce that this year the

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Success Breeds Success

pupils will be performing Grease in the Pavilion at the end of January, and rehearsals are already well underway. We look forward to this spectacle every year, and I am certain that our production of Grease will again live up to all expectations! Tickets will be available from the Pavilion in early December, so book your seats early to avoid disappointment.

We are delighted that under the direction of Mr Gregg Davies, (PE Department), Porthcawl Comprehensive School has recently been awarded the status of becoming a "WRU School of Rugby". This achievement was celebrated in a special assembly when WRU Development Officer Tom Cole visited with some current Ospreys players. This award has elevated the status of rugby within the school, as greater commitment has been made to coaching and the running of teams during the season. We are already reaping the rewards with excellent results on the field and increased player participation throughout the school.

I try to write positive pieces for the Newsletter, but I need to offer a few very sombre comments. Our school will face a number of unprecedented challenges in the next year or so. The number of children in the town is falling, and will impact upon Year 7, this will affect funding. There are a number of financial constraints to challenge us, the nursery top slice, increased employer costs and the general reduction to grant funding. The combined effect will be reduced resources at a time when we are challenged to maintain and even improve standards for our learners. As the year unfolds, I will provide more details as they become available.

Having welcomed new students, I conclude by welcoming new staff. The following have joined our teaching staff; Mrs Sugunendran and Miss Fair,(Chemistry), Dr Hunt, (Biology), Miss Curtis (RE), and Miss Evans, (Humanities). I am sure these teachers will settle into our school and I am confident they will make an excellent contribution.

A number of experienced members of staff have indicated they will retire during and at the end of this school year. At the moment details are being finalised, and I will write more once I have a fuller picture for all.

Please remember to take a look at our school website which is kept up to date with all our latest information on

www.porthcawlschool.co.uk.

Housekeeping - Attendance

We are delighted that our headline attendance figure increased last year from 93.4% to 94.6%.

However, we are mindful that we have more to do to improve attendance still further. As a result, various new initiatives have already been implemented this year eg; all pupils will have an individual attendance target and this together with punctuality will be monitored on a monthly basis by Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Senior Management. This term also sees the implementation by BCBC of the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). Our attendance policy has been modified as a result and new information has been placed on the school website and has been sent home with the pupils in Years 7 - 11.

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Andrew Slade Headteacher
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Activities Day Kayaking (July 2014)



Everyone enjoyed a fun packed day at Cardiff International White Water as part of the school's Activities Day. Once we were kitted out, the group was split into two and were started off on the bell boats racing each other down the River Taff. Following various games and activities we then tried out the canoes and kayaks. The sun was shining and it was a really good day out. I am sure Mr McKenzie's favourite song is 'Oops! .. I did it again' by Britney Spears as once again he continued to entertain everyone by falling off his kayak, which has now become an annual event.

Mr Pucella



Lauren Cooper's Fundraising for CLAPA



After organising a successful coffee morning in 2013, Lauren decided to organise a Charity Concert to raise further much needed funds for CLAPA, (Cleft Lip & Palate Association). Lauren was delighted to beat her last year's total amount of over £600, and in 2014 managed to DOUBLE it to £1228!

Her concert was "An Evening of Song" supported by Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir's Senior and Junior Choirs – Crescendo and Da Capo. A range of songs were sung and many individuals sang solos or group pieces, along with several fantastic instrumental pieces.

Lauren compered the successful evening, and two members of South Wales CLAPA branch, (Sarah and Lorayne), kindly attended her event to speak on behalf of CLAPA and to thank Lauren for all her hard work.

Lauren actually went on to be nominated for a Superstar Fundraiser Award by CLAPA and was selected as a runner up at their annual Conference held in London during October.

WELL DONE LAUREN - WHAT A DIFFERENCE YOU HAVE MADE!

Child Protection

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

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

Should any pupil have any worries in relation to their own wellbeing or that of others then they should speak to Mrs Sloggett or Ms Gould as soon as possible. If they are unable to find either member of staff then they should speak to their

Head of Year or Form Tutor.

Where a professional has a concern about a child or a referral has been made to them, they will, in general, seek to discuss these with the family and, where possible, seek their agreement to making a referral to social services.

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

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

Helplines

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline 0808 800500 or www.nspcc.org.uk

CHILDLINE 0800 1111 or www.childline.org.uk

Children's Commission for Wales 01792 765600 or post@child.comwales.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre 0808 802 0008 or www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Samaritans 01656 662333 or www.samaritans.org

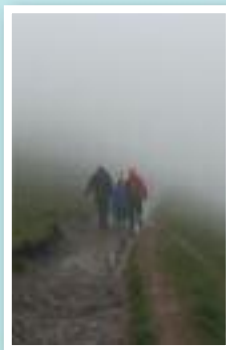
Welsh 3 Peaks Challenge – Ty Hafan

Back in June I took part in the GE Aviation Wales Welsh 3 peaks Challenge 2014!

It was a huge achievement to complete the challenge, which was a total distance of 20.35 miles and 9,397 ft. (2,864m). Starting at Snowdon at 4am with torches was a strange feeling but after completing Snowdon, we continued to Cadiar Idris and finally Pen Y Fan.

I would like to thank everyone for your kind donations. We raised £250 with our staff cake sale and in total I raised £1285.70 for T Hafan.

Mr Pucella



Porthcawl Strikes out against Bullying

Porthcawl Comprehensive School's School Council is committed to eradicating bullying and helping all pupils feel happy and safe in school and the local community. That is why they supported the "Big Walk" against Bullying that took place on 5th July across the county. Working in partnership with Bridgend Says End Bullying pupils at the school have run workshops and audited the views of pupils to develop an Anti-Bullying Campaign. At the moment, the School Council is seeking funding to develop an Anti-Bullying DVD and a contact card, so that all pupils know where to find support. This walk further emphasised the School Council's commitment and 12 pupils and staff walked with other young people from across different schools and organisations to highlight the campaign. Mary Hughes, a worker at BSEB is extremely impressed with the proactive work that is being undertaken at the school.

Nadine Thomas - Assistant Headteacher

Bridgend Says End Bullying

On the 3rd July a group of pupils, representing Porthcawl Comprehensive School Council, were at the start line of the 15 mile Bridgend Says End Bullying Valley to Coast Walk in awareness of bullying.

They began the painful, (but scenic), back breaking, (but scenic) walk at the Heads of the Valleys, Rhondda. They set off at ten o'clock on the dot accompanied by the Mayor of Bridgend! They trekked through the Heads of Valley Footpath and made their way down through the valley into Tondy where they rested and had lunch. An hour later, (an hour too soon), they set off again, this time heading towards Kenfig Nature Reserve where the desirable finish line and the burger stand stood. Finally, after 7 hours of walking we reached the finish line invited by the unmistakable smell of burgers! They all learned a lot of lessons about themselves and I certainly know I did! The lesson I learnt was never ever think of giving up however bad your feet ache, just keep going and think of all the poor children who get bullied day in day out!

Ieuan Walmsley Williams - Year 9

Transition Day 2014

On June 19th we once again welcomed Year 6 to the school for the day. Approximately 190 pupils from 19 different primary schools enjoyed a sunny day with us during which they followed a sample timetable of lessons. The pupils were kept busy with science, Maths and Welsh to mention just a few of the subjects. They also had lunch in the school canteen and were ably supported by a number of Year 12 students.

It was lovely to see the Year 6 pupils mixing so well with pupils from different primary schools and already beginning to make new friends. We hope that the day gave them a real insight in to what comprehensive school is all about and perhaps allayed some of their fears about leaving primary school.

Many thanks to all those who made it such a successful day, both pupils and staff.



Helping Hands

The Helping Hands Programme was created in order to facilitate transition from Primary to Secondary School, for pupils identified as being particularly anxious about the whole process. Primary pupils are selected by their respective schools and invited to join in the Helping Hands sessions run by the Comprehensive. The sessions are designed to be informative, informal and, of course, fun! Porthcawl's Helping Hands Programme received excellent reviews in our recent Estyn Inspection and has been highlighted as one element of Sector Leading Practice in Transition.

Our Year 6 visitors attended three Wednesday morning sessions and took part in various activities. They had a guided tour of the school, created great works of art and enjoyed an energetic lesson delivered by our PE Department. In smaller groups the pupils were able to discuss worries and concerns about transition, as were their parents/carers when they were invited to join in our final session.

In a questionnaire filled in by the pupils, all stated that they had enjoyed the Helping Hands Programme. Thirteen out of fifteen said they "felt happier" about coming to Porthcawl Comprehensive in September. All agreed that it is not as scary as they thought it would be!!

Thanks to all who supported us in this initiative.

Disaster Response Day with STEM



On Wednesday 25th June we were chosen by Mr Evans in Technology to go on a trip to Cynffig Comprehensive School. The trip was organised by STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), and it was based around disaster response.

We did many activities such as solving lots of engineering problems, like how many beds you could fit in the Sports Hall if a disaster was to occur. Also we had a lesson from the firemen who taught us how to move debris in the case of an earthquake using levers, rollers, blocks and also pulleys. We also made a model house using different material such as Corriflute plastic and clip together components. We tested the houses' sound insulation and heat insulation using special equipment. The last thing we did, was work out how many people you could fit in a tent and the layout inside. We also had to work out how many toilets to have and how much water people would use.

We really enjoyed the experience and learnt a lot, (we especially enjoyed lunch and break where we stuffed our faces with cakes, biscuits and fizzy drinks!!).



Team Members were:

Caitlin Marie Matthews 8RL, Amy Davies 8KV, Sarah Davidson 8HD, Emily Barnston 8HD, Daisy Brown 8KV, Emily Parker 8RL, Gracie Nicholls 8RL, Emily James 8HR, Elen McCloy 8KE, Jamimah Cook 8RL.

Sarah Davidson, Emily Barnston, Amy Davies, Daisy Brown Now Year 9



Year 6 Music Transition Day

During the last week of the Summer Term, the Music Department staff welcomed nearly 60 pupils from a variety of Primary Schools to join us in the Jubilee Theatre to enjoy a day of fun and musical activities once again! At 3:30pm pupils were going to be performing a concert in the Jubilee Theatre for their parents, to show them what they had learnt during a day at PCS!

The pupils arrived feeling slightly nervous and apprehensive about being in 'the big school', but soon relaxed after getting to know some new faces and playing some warm up games. They enjoyed playing 'Wink Murder' and 'Don't clap this one back!'. The pupils then all learnt a routine to the song 'It's Oh So Quiet' and were fantastic at showing us how well they could work together as a large ensemble!

After break in the canteen, the pupils split off into their specialist groups for rehearsals. The guitarists went with Mr Jefferies, the instrumentalists went with Mrs Williams and the singers stayed in the Jubilee Theatre with Miss Mayo and Mrs Atherton. Each group began learning their pieces and were helped by various music pupils from PCS who were absolutely fantastic with the Year 6 pupils and very encouraging all day. A big 'thank you' to all our volunteers who helped through the course of the day! All the Year 6 pupils worked with excellent focus and determination and were very professional in their attitude to the day's challenges!

After a sociable picnic lunch in the quad outside the Music rooms the pupils had a dress rehearsal in the Jubilee Theatre, running through each piece they had learnt with the theatre lights on and the

staging set up. The pupils were very ready for their performances as their parents began to arrive. The choir were outstanding in their two-part arrangements of 'When I Grow Up' from the musical Matilda and the magical 'Pure Imagination' from the musical Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Once again, we were so impressed at the standard reached when the pupils had only had a few hours to learn and perfect their pieces. We are certain that we will have another talented year group joining us at PCS this year. It was delightful to see pupils confidently perform solos and show what lovely voices they have! The guitarists performed a beautiful rendition of 'Chasing Cars' by Snow Patrol and then rocked out to 'Wipeout!' by The Surfaris! Our newly formed Orchestra, led by Mrs Williams played an old time favourite 'Mack the Knife' and impressed everyone at how quickly they were able to pull off such a performance!

Congratulations to all those who took part in the day and a big 'thank you' to all the PCS pupils and staff who were so encouraging throughout the day. We now can't wait to see these pupils join us this term in our choirs and orchestras as we prepare for the school's Carol Service on the 18th December at All Saints Church in Porthcawl.



Posh “Spices” up Attendance Awards

This year’s celebrity presenter of the attendance prizes, on the last day of the Summer Term, was none other than Victoria Beckham, of ex- Spice Girls fame, spouse of David and now a fashion designer in her own right.

Mrs Beckham becomes part of a distinguished guest list, who have participated in previous attendance draws, which includes Prince Charles, Tony Blair, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Simon Cowell, Barack Obama, Shrek, Graham Norton and the legendary caped crusaders, Batman and Robin.

Looking as elegant as ever, Victoria showed off her new muscular physique, with a pair of arms covered with slightly more hair than usual! (Mr Booth didn’t quite pull off this impersonation, as he has done in the past.) The school would like to thank the “Friends of Porthcawl” again for donating the prizes.

Pupils with 95%, or more, are rewarded each term by being included in a prize draw for each year group, culminating in a special draw in the Summer Term where we award various prizes donated kindly by “Double Overhead”. The Grand Draw, at the end of the academic year, for which ‘Posh’ was invited, involves all the pupils in the school.

Each year, our aim is to include more pupils in the draw, but they must achieve an attendance of 95% or above. Parents are to be reminded that the target for each pupil this year, is a minimum of 97%. Posters showing a table and chart, illustrating the relationship between attendance and achievement in school, are displayed around the school. We will be updating you about your child’s attendance at the end of each term.

All pupils should remember; “If you’re not in school ... You cannot succeed.”

K John Senior Year Tutor



Year 10 Parents’ Forum



Embarking upon GCSE courses can be quite daunting for parents/carers as well as pupils. Things in education change so rapidly that even if you had a child who sat their GCSE examinations two years ago the process may no longer be the same now. Coursework and Controlled Assessments, Oral Exams and Practicals can be a mind field!

It was therefore extremely pleasing to see so many parents/carers of pupils in Year 10 attend our forum a couple of weeks ago. The evening was packed full of information and was an opportunity for everyone to understand fully what is ahead in the next two years.

Organisation and planning are vital components if our pupils are to succeed and we very much hope that the booklets provided have been of use and will help to alleviate some of the uncertainty about the coming months.

The evening also mapped out the broad range of support that is available in school, whether that is subject specific or more pastoral. We trust all pupils have been using the Student Resource Centre and if you feel there is something missing from it let us know!

If you were not able to attend on the evening a pack was posted out to you. If you have not received this information then please contact the Head of Year 10, Mr Card in school.

Year 6 Open Evening

Approximately 200 Year 6 pupils and their parents/carers attended our Open Evening on October 2nd! The weather held out and pupils and parents were able to explore the school and meet many staff – expertly guided by our volunteer Year 12 and 13 students!

Moving from Primary to Comprehensive school can be an anxious time for parents and pupils and we hope that this evening helped to answer some of the questions parents/carers will have. Feedback on the evening was fantastic thank you!

A number of Transition events have already taken place and will continue to happen throughout the coming year, ranging from visits to Primary Schools by our staff, Science and Technology mornings at the Comprehensive School, Welsh workshops and our BTEC pantomime to name just a few!

If you have any questions or concerns about Transition then please contact Mrs Sloggett in school on 774100.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

After a year's interlude, the PCS Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award is up and running again and has been offered to members of Year 12. Demand was overwhelming with a record number of over 50 potential members showing interest. After a selection procedure, 33 members were chosen on the strength of their written applications.

A full programme of events and training has been organised and will commence with a training walk at Llangeinor. In February, we will embark on a venture in the Forest of Dean before turning seriously toward the assessment stage of the Award. Expeditions are planned for June and July in the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons respectively.

We aim to achieve a 100% pass rate again this year and all members are looking forward eager with anticipation.

Mr C J Priest D of E Co-ordinator

Friends of Porthcawl Comprehensive School Annual Golf Day 2014

Our 16th Annual Golf Day proved to be another huge success. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our sponsors, supporters and players. Money raised from the Golf Day funds items that the school budget does not usually cover, to provide extra resources, to support attendance initiatives and thus further enrich our pupils' experience at school.

Thanks go to the following:

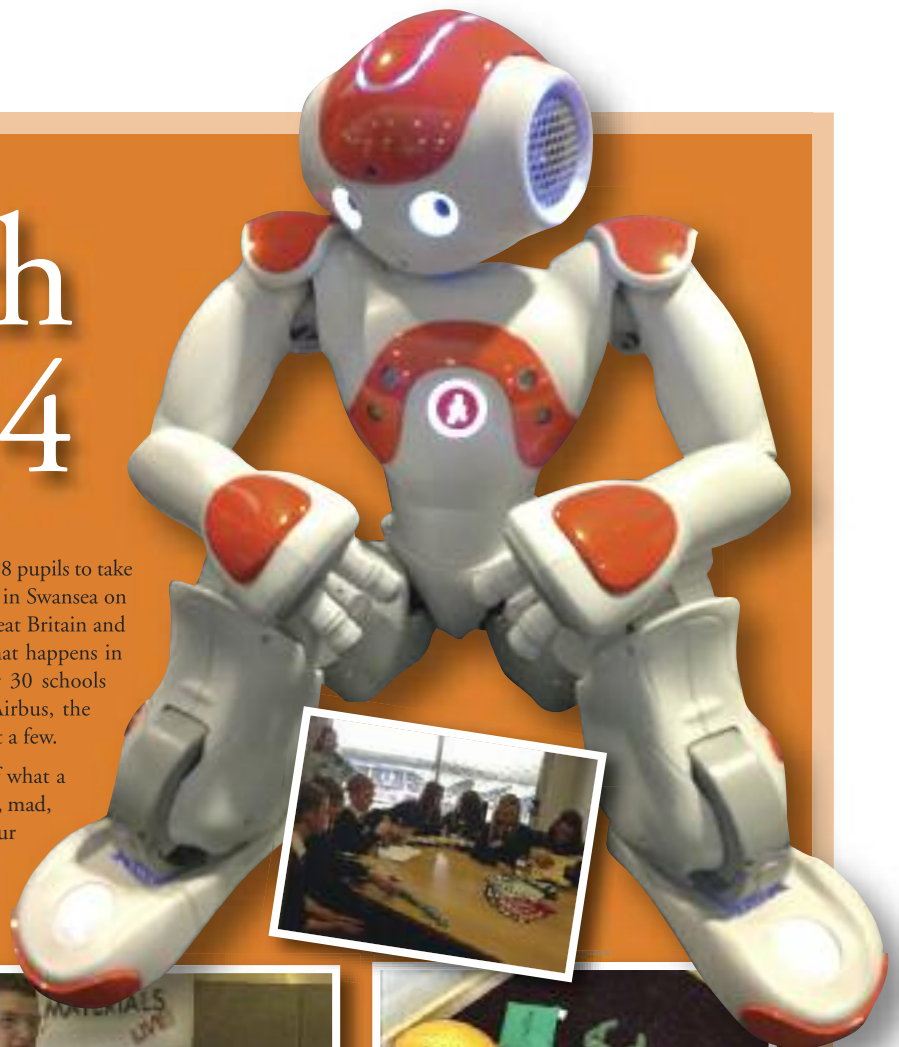
Mountain Ash Ladies	Carpet Care
Grace Church	Computer World
Bridgend Office Furniture	Graham Paul
The Pier Hotel	VFM Electrical
Elite Signs	Homework Diary Company
Total Produce	Parrot Travel
Solar Sunshades	Riverside
Coity Engineering	Top Pops

Well done to Graham Paul Chartered Accountants
– Bridgend on winning again!

Teen Tech Day 2014

The ICT Department were asked to select 10 Year 8 pupils to take part in a Teen Tech Day at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea on 14th May. These workshops are held across Great Britain and the idea behind them is to broaden pupils' ideas of what happens in Science and Technology industries. There were over 30 schools present as well as major companies including Sony, Airbus, the BBC, JVC, Tata, Atkins and National Grid to name but a few.

The day started off with students drawing their idea of what a scientist looks like. It was funny to see some of the ideas, mad, large hair, white lab coat, (not sure what it says about our Science Department at school!), but only 14 students drew a woman, one of which was Sophie Price 8HR. Interesting!



Our school then went to take part in three different activities; the first of which was with the National Grid where we took part in Robot Wars! We split into a boy and girl team and had to move bean bags and balls to the other side of the course using a robot. This was easier said than done for the girls who unfortunately got beaten by the boys 42 – 0. Oops!! The boys of Jayden Russell, William Underhill both of 8HR, Dylan Lewis 8SR, Robin Edwards and Richard Morris both of 8SW showed that they may spend far too long on their games consoles as they moved the robot with ease around the course and even managed to destroy the girls' robot on the way!

Next was designing an App. They worked together to come up with an App, had to design the logo for the App and then go on stage to present it. After much deliberation they decided on an App that if someone borrowed or used your phone it would alert you

with what they had done or changed. Maya Squires, Karah Watkins, Eden Thomas all of 8HR and Jenny Passingham 8HV did an excellent job of going on stage to explain the App in front of over a 100 people. Well done girls!

Our third challenge was programming an electric guitar using a circuit and various electronic concepts. We had a few budding Rock Stars in the making and we are hoping to have a go at making these at school so look out for that in the yellow bulletin.

After lunch we rounded off the day by going to three smaller challenges and then time to explore the various stands and pick up a few things!

Everyone agreed it was a worthwhile day and said it was interesting to see how Technology is used in real-life organisations.

Mrs Christopher ICT Department

Saint-Sebastien Trip 2014



Last Summer we had the chance to live with a French family for a week in Saint-Sebastien-sur-Loire, France, through Porthcawl's Town Twinning Society. Before the trip, we were both apprehensive to live with strangers in another country, speaking a different language. However, when we got there we were given a very kind welcome and made part of the family.

During the week, we visited Terra Botanica and were able to ride around in a walnut (une noix), experience beautiful horticulture and, of course, practice our French! We had a picnic and went shopping in Nantes' high-street boutiques and had a big bowling tournament with our French families, only then to have a très grand meal in a petite restaurant. The last night we had a big fête to celebrate fifteen years of successful town twinning and friendship. This was accompanied by a four course meal in a stunning bateau, whilst sailing past the pretty sites of Nantes.

It was difficult to say goodbye to our families, yet we stay in touch through Snap Chat and Facebook and we are looking forward to hopefully seeing them next year when they visit Porthcawl.

Although we have both studied French in school, we would recommend the trip to anyone and everyone – most of the people from Wales could only speak a little French but managed to communicate through smiles and lively hand gestures, and of course, Google Translate.

We are grateful to the Town Twinning Society for giving us this opportunity to see first-hand what life is like in France.

Tabitha Carrington, Thomas Phillips Year 13



CAMPS
international



Peru Meets Porthcawl

As many of you know there are 9 pupils who have signed up to go on a volunteer expedition to Peru with Camps International and during October, a couple of us decided to grab our gear and hit the town to fundraise!

So dressed in our super cool rock and roll outfits, Charlotte Newman-Williams, Becca Green and I braced ourselves before entering 'Viva Las Porthcawl'. We were even asked to have a few photos taken - we looked THAT authentic! We were greeted by the jam packed crowd of people (apparently over 40,000 according to the radio; the biggest yet!) who had come far and wide to celebrate Elvis Weekend with the residents of Porthcawl! At first we were shaking in our 'blue suede shoes' (well...converses if I'm being completely honest!), but then we got the hang of going up to people and large groups dressed to the nines in either costumes or just fancy clothing! The drinks were flowing, the crowds were growing and the money just kept on coming! Whether it was pound coins, a fistful of change or just a few pence - it all helped!

As the evening died down and the drunks went to Coney Beach to pass out, we started to feel the weight of our buckets we were holding to collect, they were pretty heavy! With grins plastered to our faces we snagged a sneaky picture with a local dressed as the legend himself, Elvis! Thanks to Charlotte Newman-Williams for helping out even though she isn't going to Peru! It was a fantastic turnout and incredibly we raised just under £200 total.

Jenna Abuleil Year 12



History Department Trip to New York, May 2014

After some very successful trips to the USA in the past, this year we decided to visit our most popular destination – New York!

We left on the 26th May and despite a very long journey when we finally arrived at our hotel in New York, we were all extremely excited and couldn't wait to explore the city. We had Pizza in our hotel that evening in typical 'New York' and 'Home Alone' style. The city tour the following day was packed full of highlights, which saw us visit Times Square, Central Park, Fifth Avenue, Grand Central Station and the Rockefeller Centre. Grand Central Station is huge and one of the 20th Century's most elaborate and majestic buildings. We discovered through the assistance of our tour guide that under the four archways on the way down to the lower concourse, you can experience an amazing sound focussing effect! If you and a friend stand at opposite ends of the underpass and one of you speaks towards the wall at normal volume, the other person can hear you perfectly, although you are a good ten metres away! At Central Park we saw some sights and enjoyed an ice cream as the weather was getting warmer at this time of year in NY City. We then moved on in our tour to visit famous assassination and movie spots which were all explained brilliantly through our tour guide.



That evening we were treated to experience a glimpse of American culture in the form of a baseball game. We went along to the New York Mets second game in the series, supporting them fanatically by purchasing their shirts and collecting souvenirs such as the famous 'Hand' pointing a finger and purchasing American snacks such as popcorn, chilli dogs and bagels. The Mets were playing the Pittsburgh Pirates and we supported them boisterously with chants of "Lets Go METS! Lets Go METS!"

The following day we encountered a much feared but thrilling experience, the Metro! It took some time to get all of us safely on the train to our destination...the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Wall Street. The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island proved a favourite among our pupils, and after trying to balance on the short boat ride over with refreshments in hand, we explored the Statue! Well we couldn't go to NYC and not visit the Statue of Liberty could we? One of the highlights was the Bubba Gumps restaurant that we ate at one evening, as it had a Forest Gump theme. It was here that we celebrated Mr Jenkins' birthday as he had a big one before we left! We sneakily told the staff at Bubba Gump who made him stand up, gave him a drink of what appeared to be nothing but foam and asked him to dance to a song while they and the PCS group sang to him! We then took a walk through Times Square back to our hotel, a sight not to be missed at night!

However, it didn't match the experience of our visit to St. Paul's Chapel; it is the oldest surviving church building in Manhattan and was built in 1764. It was the only building in the vicinity of the Twin Towers that was undamaged during 9/11. This was an extremely emotive part of our trip and all pupils found it easy to empathise and were moved by the messages and items left there. Our visit to the Empire State Building at night was also one to remember! The high speed elevators literally shot us up to 1,050 feet (86th Floor Observatory). It stands at 1,454 feet tall and became the city's highest building in 1931. A truly breath-taking experience! Although slightly nippy that far up in the sky, it was a beautiful sight of NYC, not to be missed. It is impossible to fully appreciate how high it actually is until you step out onto that ledge!

Another highlight was our trip to watch 'Cinderella' on Broadway. This was something special, although the story was not everyone's favourite, (namely the male pupils in our group). We were all amazed by how Cinderella did not leave the stage yet with a flick of the Godmother's wand, she was transformed from rags to riches...literally! We simply could not explain it! The costumes and stage settings were second to none and most of us were fully engaged in the performance. This Broadway musical was a superb way of bringing to a close our time in New York. All that was left to do was visit all of our favourite stores on Fifth Avenue and Times Square, where all the remaining pocket money was spent, judging by the abundance of shopping bags that the pupils hauled back to the hotel!

Now we look forward to Hawaii, Los Angeles and San Francisco in February 2015.

Mrs G Hammerton



AMERICAN VISIT



Friday 4th July... American Independence Day was marked by the return of approximately 25 people, aged between 15 – 50, from First West Baptist Church, Louisiana. This was the 6th consecutive year for the group to visit Porthcawl Comprehensive and they spent the day delivering lessons in Drama, Music, PE, RE, History and English.

Throughout the day students experienced Vocal Workshops in Drama; Specialist Guitar Workshops in Music and Seminars and Presentations in History and RE on topics such as Civil Rights. Key Stage 3 English classes learned about life and culture in Louisiana.

This year saw the return of 'Team Impact', a group of 'big guys' from the states who have all had a career in sport at some point in their lives, but now work together travelling the globe, performing amazing feats of strength. The guys delivered assemblies across the school in which they displayed their strength at its best, from bending iron bars with their teeth and blowing up water bottles until they burst! The assemblies were highly entertaining and clearly enjoyed by the students.

They also delivered a fitness session for GCSE PE students in the afternoon which again was thoroughly enjoyed by the students.

As usual it was a rewarding day with pupils responding positively and enthusiastically to the range of sessions.





West Park Primary School

Our new Year 6 pupils began their transitional journey to Porthcawl Comprehensive this year with a visit, on the first day of term, from Mrs Sloggett. Mrs Sloggett told them lots of things about the school and presented Year 6 with a homework diary. Our pupils were so thrilled with their gifts that they couldn't wait to put them into action, so being the thoughtful Year 6 teachers that we are, we immediately set them lots of homework!

On Friday 19th September we had a visit from Porthcawl Comprehensive History Department, who came to tell the children about the Belgian soldiers who stayed in Porthcawl during World War I. The pupils looked at different sources of evidence and found facts and information about the events of the time. Pupils were then set a task of writing a song, rap or poem for a Year 6 transition Competition. Our pupils have been busy trying to put all the knowledge they learned into an artistic form. Best of luck everyone!

Many of our pupils enjoyed attending the Open Evening with their families on 2nd October and are now enthusiastically awaiting their first visit to the Comprehensive for Science transition later this month.

Mrs J Mainwaring and Mr R Tunnadine

NOTTAGE PRIMARY NEWS

The last day of the summer term saw Headteacher, Miss O'Halloran, speechless in our Leavers' Assembly as she left for a year's secondment with the Central South Consortium. We wish her well.

Belated congratulations go to our Year 6 Basketball Team who won the Bridgend Southern League and also to Matthew Davidson who represented Sker & Pink Bay Lifeguards in the Welsh and British Championships.

Our September value was PEACE and we were, once again, fortunate to have some of our assemblies led by Pauline Lewis and Father Craig.

Year 6 visited the Dylan Thomas Centre to see the moving production of 'The White Feather' and brains were made to work hard in Years 3, 5 and 6 when the Techniquet Maths Problem Solving Kits arrived in school.

Our visitors from Bangladesh thoroughly enjoyed their day at Nottage visiting classes and were amazed with the colourful learning environment our pupils experience. Their day culminated with a whole school assembly where they were presented with a selection of Welsh mementoes.

Massive thanks go to the tireless volunteers, led by Mr Lewis, who have transformed the Foundation Phase Patio into such a stimulating resource.

K M Townley Acting Headteacher



Porthcawl Primary School News



Later in the term, the focus was Literacy with parents attending an assembly and visiting classrooms, please see the article below, written by 2 of our Year 6 pupils.

Mr A Wood Headteacher

During October we had Literacy week here at Porthcawl Primary School. Year 6 performed an assembly all about Roald Dahl and his amazing stories. You would think that such an amazing writer would have started writing straight after he left school but this author didn't; he flew planes in World War 2.

Dosbarth Llynfi not only performed the assembly but they also did all the writing and research. It was very interesting and all the facts were spot on! Roald Dahl was an outstanding writer getting more and more imaginative every time he wrote an adventurous story. What do you think of Roald Dahl? Did you know the BFG was based on his granddaughter Sophie Dahl? Not only did she get to be Roald Dahl's granddaughter but she got to be the star of one of his amazing books!

As well as the assembly we planned and wrote our own stories inspired by Roald Dahl. Every aspect of the story was randomly chosen so by the end of the week we had a strange but amazing story. We also invited our parents in so they could write with us and see what we do in class. Literacy week was great and we all did Roald Dahl proud!

Katie Thomas and Ellie Cleverdon Year 6

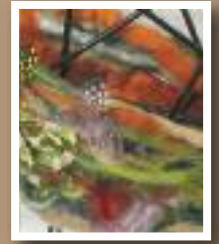
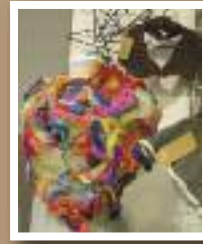
Porthcawl Primary has had a very successful start to the new school year. In September, we were visited by Transport Minister from the Welsh Government, Edwina Hart, who announced that she was awarding over £250,000 to the school for a new cycleway, gate entrance and additional safety measures in and around the school. This is part of the Safe Routes in Communities initiative. Visiting the school, Edwina Hart stated that she was pleased to be in the school and praised the children she met who were part of the 'Safe Routes' and 'Bike It' Groups. October saw the launch of our P.E.N. Themed Weeks. We have linked with the Parental Engagement Network Cymru to invite parents into school to find out more about the standards which pupils are expected to achieve. We were also delighted to receive the TECHNIQUEST problem solving challenge kits in school which were great fun.

News from Newton Primary



It has been an exciting start to the new school year for the Year 6 pupils at Newton Primary School. To begin the term's topic 'Scream Machine', the children visited Oakwood Park to learn about the effects of forces, their screams and laughter could be heard across the park as they experienced the thrills of Speed, Megafobia, the Pirate Ship, Tree Tops Roller Coaster, Bobsleigh and Tinks Flying School. The first hand experiences they gained during this trip will certainly help them design and create their own roller coasters. Year 6 pupils are in the process of preparing a business plan for their designs which will be presented to a group of representatives from Walt Disney in the hope that their roller coaster will become the newest ride at Disneyland Paris.

Year 6 are looking forward to their visits to Porthcawl Comprehensive School as part of the transition programme. Using their own words, they are particularly looking forward to the Science transition day as they, 'can't wait to do experiments in the Science Lab', and the Language transition as they would, 'like to learn German, it will be something I have never tried before'.



PORTHCAWL COMPREHENSIVE TEXTILES PUPILS PUT UP A SHOW IN JOHN LEWIS

Year 13 have been working on designs for collars as part of their A level syllabus; however their work took an interesting turn when they were given the opportunity to display their work in the John Lewis store in Cardiff.

After initial discussions, it was decided they would work with the Visual Merchandising team whereby the collars the pupils made would be primarily made from wool and their display would be shown during British Wool Week during October.

The pupils then had the chance to visit the store for a look behind the scenes of the Visual Merchandising Department; they visited the workshops, gained an understanding of the corporate image of the store and were amazed at the amount of hard work and serious effort involved from a very dedicated team in the

department. The same team had recently worked through the night putting up Christmas decorations at the end of September ready for a media launch at 8 am in the morning!

The pupils had a wonderful time and enjoyed seeing their work displayed in a professional way. They have even been invited to do more similar work with the store next year. We are all very thankful to John Lewis for giving the pupils the amazing opportunity.

Pupils involved in the project were Katy-Anne Brown, Rosie McDonald, Hanna Price, Molly Rees, Emily Jones, Stefan Farmer, Melissa Rowntree, Sara Bevan, Lois Hadley and Megan Evans.

Julie Howells Art Department



THOUGHTS FROM THE PUPILS...

"We spent the day in John Lewis, having pictures taken with our display, and then we looked at the window displays and decorations. A member of the V.M. team took us on a tour of the store showing us the studio and workshop where everything for the displays is made. We enjoyed the day very much and found the experience extremely beneficial, giving us lots of ideas for our A level projects."

Rosie McDonald

"It was an amazing experience seeing our work as part of a John Lewis display. Understanding the work behind visual merchandising gave me a great insight into working in a Department Store."

Stefan Farmer

"It was a fun experience seeing our collars up on display in John Lewis Haberdashery Department. I learned a lot from the behind the scenes tour. It was really interesting to see how they work."

Megan Evans

"I was so impressed when I saw my class' collars on display in such a high profile store. Looking behind the scenes with a member of the V.M. team really inspired me."

Mollie Rees



Rebecca Manley

Hello, I'm Head Girl and linked with the Sixth Form. I currently study History, English, Sociology and Welsh Baccalaureate. I hope to study Law at university to pursue a career as a Legal Officer in the Army.



Alicia Cooke

I'm Deputy Head Girl on Porthcawl Comprehensive School's Head Team and linked with Year 9. I'm currently studying A Level Biology, Geography and History, hoping to go on to do Geography at university.



Ellie Henderson

I am Deputy Head Girl and linked with Year 11. I am currently studying Chemistry, Biology and History at A level and hope to go on to study Cellular and Molecular Medicine at university.



Alisha John

I'm Assistant Head Girl and linked with Year 10. I'm studying Economics English and History. I'll hopefully study Economics in university but I'm not sure of the career I want yet!



Madeleine Dabernig

I'm Assistant Head Girl in this year's Head Team and linked with Year 7. I'm doing English, Religious Studies and History at A level and hope to study Religion and Theology in university next year.



Elli Rosser

I am Assistant Head Girl and linked with Year 11. I am currently studying History, Philosophy and Ethics and Drama at A level. After finishing my study at Porthcawl Comprehensive, I hope to continue with Philosophy and Ethics at university. Where this will take me... Who knows?



Tabitha Carrington

I'm Assistant Head Girl and linked with Year 9. My Sixth Form link is with Year 8 and I am currently studying English, Drama and Religious Studies for my A levels. I am looking forward to studying English at university and then maybe writing a book or play or something like that.



Thomas Phillips

I'm this year's Head Boy and linked with the Sixth Form. I am currently studying Music, French and Religious Studies for my A Levels and I hope study Music and French at university next year.



Tom Parry

I am Deputy Head Boy and linked with Year 8. I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths. I hope to study Medicine in university next year.



Stefan Farmer

Hello, I'm Deputy Head Boy and linked with Year 7. I'm studying Drama, Textiles and ICT, and after this year hope to go on to study Musical Theatre and pursue a career in Performing Arts.



Richard Price

I'm Assistant Head Boy and linked with Year 11. I'm currently studying Drama, History and Religious Studies. I hope to study Acting at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama next year.



Sam Pryce

I'm Assistant Head Boy and linked with Year 11. I am currently studying for A levels in English, Drama and History. After Sixth Form, I hope to study English at university and then go on to write professionally for theatre or in journalism.



Peter Sloggett

Hello everyone! I'm one of the Assistant Head Boys for this year and linked with Year 10. I am currently studying Music, History and Religious Studies and would like to continue my studies in Music next year at university.



Daniel Vinen

I am an Assistant Head Boy and linked with Year 10. I am studying Geography, History and English at A level, all of which I am thoroughly enjoying. I hope to do a Geography degree at university with the intention of following a career in City and Regional Planning.

SMILE PLEASE!

On the morning of the 5th September, Porthcawl Comprehensive School, (with a little help from our friends at Tempest Photography), undertook an extremely ambitious project – taking a whole school photograph.

Fortunately, it was a beautiful morning, which was just as well, because the whole process took about 2 hours! Whilst the pupils basked in the last of the Indian Summer sunshine, they were organised into year groups and then into height order with military precision by the photographer and his 4 assistants. The staff were soon to be given the same treatment, and perhaps needed a bit more discipline than the pupils who behaved brilliantly.

It was quite a feat! The pictures were taken in 2 stages; Years 10 and 11 were first to scale up the sheer scaffolding and smile for the camera. Once their picture had been taken, it was time for them to be replaced by the 6th Form, Staff and Years 7, 8 and 9 who were all marched onto the enormous framework together.

By the wonder of magic, the two photographs have been blended together to produce one whole school photograph – no one will ever know!



DRAMA CLUB UPDATE!

A group of GCSE students, including us, were approached by Mr Smith and Miss Hardwick to take on Year 7, 8 and 9 Drama Club. We were all delighted to be part of this as we thought it would be a good opportunity to build on our own skills and help others to learn new ones. There are approximately 10 of us involved and we all have lots of ideas for what we are going to do for the Showcase Evening next year.

For Year 7 Drama Club we are planning on a Roald Dahl theme. We will be developing two of his books into short plays which will be performed in front of parents. The aim of this is to increase their confidence levels and to teach them new skills that they will put into practice. We believe this will be a great way to introduce them to Drama at PCS.

For Year 8 and 9 Drama Club we have decided to split the large group into two with each group devising their own work for performance. We have spoken to the Year 8 and 9's and they have decided to do create work using the horror genre and Disney Tales. We thought that giving them the opportunity to decide what they wanted to do would give them more freedom to make the work their own. We hope to give them a lot more say in the content of the work as we want them to develop understanding of plot and staging techniques. This will help them if they decide to opt for GCSE Drama in Year 10.

Caitlin Toy & Charlotte Clarke Year 10



‘The aim of this is to increase their confidence levels and to teach them new skills’

GHOST Review



On the 3rd and 4th of July, the Fellowship Theatre Company performed the very technical and hugely popular musical 'Ghost' for a packed and excited audience in the Jubilee Theatre. A huge challenge the Year 12 and 13 BTEC Performing Arts students faced was the tricky lighting effects used in 'Ghost the musical' on Broadway. Obviously they weren't on Broadway so they had to adapt the lights they had, which the packed out audiences agreed were extremely effective.

Most of you are probably already aware of the plot of Ghost from the hit Film 'Ghost' in 1990 starring Patrick Swayze, but for those who aren't aware here it is! The plot of ghost centers around the lovers Sam Wheat and Molly Jensen, who are attacked by a mugger named Willie Lopez returning to their apartment. When Sam dies he becomes caught between the real world and the next. Molly is in grave danger and Sam cannot leave her. A medium or psychic, Oda Mae Brown, helps Sam to get in touch with Molly to warn her.

The final performance of Ghost was a sad fair well to Jack Easterbrook, Katelyn Weaver, Ellie Morris, Georgia Young and Jess Kilpatrick who upon completion of their final performance and assessment set off to university and the world of work!

The BTEC Students would like to give a huge thank you to Sam Pryce Year 12 who along with his AS exams took on a principle role and was an invaluable asset to the team!

A big thank you also to the chorus of the show who were made up of Year 10s and Year 12s, of course a massive round of applause to Brett Smith, (Performing Arts Technician), who helped us with the microphones and sound throughout the production.

The annual musical is always a highlight of our year, and we are really excited about our production of Grease in January. The new intake of Performing Arts students enjoyed our 'Song and Dance' Showcase evening which took place on Thursday 23rd October – details will follow in the next edition.

BTEC Performing Arts



Through a Director's Eyes!

The Young Playwrights' Festival exudes creativity, confidence, and ambition. It is a chance for KS3 pupils to express their talents and the opportunity for GCSE Drama students to try their hand at directing. There were six groups this year comprising of over 80 pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9, including a mass turn out of Year 10's performing in the various roles of theatre technicians, musical directors, costume and make up as well as the directors themselves. The experience was worthwhile and fulfilling for all involved.

'The experience to direct those Year 9 pupils with such dedication and star quality truly inspired me!'

Lauren Ellis-Stretch

'I thoroughly enjoyed working with my friends to create a fabulous performance!'

Phoebe Lewis

'I feel that this experience has been really exciting and has taught me many new skills.'

Anna Arrieta

This year's guest speaker was Mrs Linda Coombes. Linda worked at the school as Head of Performing Arts for many years, so it was lovely to welcome her back. She was thoroughly impressed with all the talent on display and gave glowing feedback on each play.



Leavers' Week

The last week of June proved to be a week of mixed emotions. On Tuesday the 24th the whole school closed early to pupils to allow all staff of the school to assemble to wish our Year 13 leavers all the very best in the future.

We also said a sad goodbye to Mr Buckley who has been involved in the Sixth Form for many years, but wish him a very happy retirement. The Head Team presented him with a photograph and a replica football shirt for his beloved Swansea City with his name on the back and the number 34 to represent the number of years he has been teaching at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

It has been a pleasure getting to know the year group especially over the last two years. Each and every one of them has their own unique personality which makes them individual. Both as individuals and as a year group they have achieved so much. We have had tears and tantrums but many, many happy times. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way, I have enjoyed every minute.

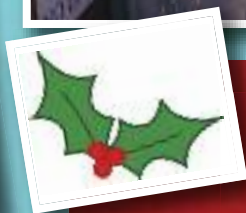
On the Friday night at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff the Summer Ball gave me the opportunity to sit back and realise just how proud I am of them all and appreciate the young adults they have become.

"Whatever your dreams and wishes may be I sincerely hope they all come true. Don't just seize the day, seize every moment."

Miss Crook Head of Sixth Form



Prom Pics



Christmas Carnival

Come to our Christmas Carnival on 2nd December 2014
Sixth Form Hall, Porthcawl Comprehensive School

The doors to the Christmas Wonderland will be open 4pm- 6pm, free entry

There will be over 28 magical 'Stantas' (Santa stalls) to experience so don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity of fun. There will also be other amazing events to enhance your Christmas experience. There will be year 7 'Elflings' who will be running their own stalls as well as local companies selling sweets, goodies and gifts perfect for Christmas stockings! Also there will be a spectacular Christmas special guest... Santa Clause himself will be there with his lovely wife- Mrs Clause. Why don't you bring the kids to meet them in person? So don't be bah humbug, come to our Christmas grotto of fun!

All of the money raised will be given to LATCH and Graces gift charities.



History Club

Won £500 at the National Heritage Awards



World War 1 - 100 Year Anniversary Commemorated in Porthcawl

Our History Group worked hard all of last year on the start of a five year project for the Commemoration of World War I. This project is led by Porthcawl Museum which is trying to modernize its image and raise its profile, and is assisted by other organisations such as London War Museum, Western Front Association and local groups such as us.

When the Heritage Award judges visited our History Department in early May 2014, they were noticeably impressed with our presentations. Special mention must go to those who were in 9Y1History at the time who were taught about the Belgians in Porthcawl through their History lessons. They then created some fantastic presentations for the judges such as puppet shows, mini autobiography stories and even a football chant! The judges were impressed mostly with the primary documents that were collected from our field trips to The Glamorgan Archives, Porthcawl Museum, Porthcawl Library and 'The Rest' before it closed. Two presentations were given to the judges as well as a presentation of our source pack, power points and outcomes. One was a puppet show illustrating the causes of World War I, this was of a high standard and was designed for pupils of Year 6 age; it was full of interest. Thanks to those in Rhiannon Mainwaring's group for this excellent display.

Secondly, thanks to Cameron Rees who gave the presentation, and to the other pupils who talked to the children and took questions from the judges. Well done – you were fantastic!

At the beginning of August 2014 the commencement of World War 1 was commemorated in Porthcawl by local residents, businesses, and community projects. There were displays in the museum of a purpose built trench (to scale) and lectures in the YMCA opposite Porthcawl Museum. Even our own Mrs Hammerton gave a talk about the Belgians during the War. The Mayor opened the event and there were activities and re-enactments such as the Suffragette march through John Street which was brilliant. A few of us were nearly arrested ourselves! Locals in Porthcawl were asked to place cards in their windows at addresses of soldiers who went to War – a blue card if they came back alive and a black card if they died. There was also a tour available to visit these homes and see first hand where these brave men lived.

In September 2014, Mr Shutt took a group from our History Club to the five primary feeder schools as part of transition in order to cascade the information we had developed from our project. We used the document pack we had produced and the power point we had prepared and we taught

approximately thirty pupils in each school about what we found out about the Belgians in Porthcawl. There was a huge response from all of the primary pupils and they were not shy in coming forward and asking questions.

This year is even more exciting. We are concentrating on researching the lives of five Porthcawl soldiers and tracking their experiences of World War I. We have planned our field trips already to the Glamorgan Archives, Porthcawl Museum and to the graveyard to do some rubbings of their graves as they are all buried there. We would like to create autobiographies of these brave men but at the moment only have some service records, their graves and two old photos! We would also like to put together a pack of games and starters for future primary lessons. Eventually we would like to add all of this onto our school website, so are looking for pupils to help us who have experience with IT.

Come along to D3/4 every Tuesday lunchtime to help us plan our next trip to the primary schools, to help us gather evidence on our field trips and to put together these autobiographies.

History Department



ART



PICTON COURT MURAL PROJECT



THROUGH A PUPIL'S EYES...

From 14th July to 18th July 2014, we spent time doing voluntary work at Picton Court, Porthcawl, working on large boards for the Dementia Unit's garden. We painted large scale pictures of the beach with bright, vibrant colours to make the garden more interesting for the residents. As we are all currently studying Art for our A levels, we enjoyed the experience greatly, spending five days using our artistic skills outside of school. We thank Picton Court for the experience and hope to visit again soon.

Rosie McDonald Year 13





ARTISTS- IN- RESIDENCE 2014

The Art Department were approached by Ms Shajitha Augustine, Manager of Picton Court Care Home, to help establish a sensory garden for residents in the Dementia Unit. A group of Year 12 Art students – Sara Bevan, Megan Evans, Adele Hontoir, Rosie McDonald, Shannon Reed, Mollie Rees, Jodie Smithen, Melissa Rowntree, Gabrielle Tracy and Fern Walters – rose to the challenge and spent the final week of the Summer Term working on several large murals in the allocated garden area at the home. This presented the pupils with a wonderful opportunity to put their skills to good use, participating in a community Art project.

Thankfully, the sun shone (most of the time!) and we were provided with plenty of refreshments to keep us going, even ice-creams as the temperatures soared! We were also photographed by The Gazette and appeared in a community news feature. Thanks to all the staff at Picton Court for making we feel so welcome.

Mrs J Willcox Art Department



Annual Summer Music Concert!

On Tuesday 16th July the Music Department hosted their annual Summer Concert in the Jubilee Theatre. Parents, friends and relatives were invited to celebrate pupils' work and performances from throughout the academic year. Refreshments were kindly supplied by Mr Slade and set the tone for the evening ahead.

The energetic Junior Choir performed a medley of songs from The Lion King and gave a beautiful rendition of 'Pure Imagination' from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. It was lovely to hear some of our pupils take on solo lines and small ensemble parts, as there is some real talent in this group! It is fantastic to see so many enthusiastic young pupils participating in choir and we look forward to seeing them perform again at the Christmas Carol Service.

There were lots of solo performances including those who were giving their last performance at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. This year, we have said goodbye to some very talented pupils from the Music Department, as they go on to pastures new! A few particular highlights from these pupils included a beautiful flute solo given by Lucy Pugh-Bevan and two of our BTEC Performing Arts pupils performed an operatic delight with the challenging 'Flower Duet' (Delibes). We wish them all success in their future studies and careers.

The audience were fortunate to hear solos, duets and trios from pupils of all ages. Some pupils performed GCSE and AS/A Level Recital pieces, whilst others performed their favourite pieces and songs. All performances

were versatile and featured many different styles of music varying from Musical Theatre, Classical and Pop styles.

Under the batons of Mrs Hnyda and Mrs Williams, Junior and Senior Orchestra thrived!! All the hard work and rehearsals definitely paid off! Their performances as always were of a high standard and enjoyed by all. Wind Band opened the concert in great style with favourites such as 'The Sound of Music' and 'The Battle of Britain'. The finale given by the Senior Orchestra was outstanding, as the audience were taken on a whistle-stop tour through a wonderfully dramatic Miss Saigon Medley. Junior Orchestra got all our feet tapping with the 'Can-Can', which was such a crowd pleaser and started the second half of the evening off brilliantly. The String Group were also a highlight of the evening and it was wonderful to hear pupils at Porthcawl School performing to such a high standard. Mr Jefferies also presented us with a modern treat from the Guitar Ensemble, as they performed 'Wipeout!' They certainly rocked that one out! A huge 'Thank You' once again to our Peripatetic teachers: Mrs Hnyda, Mrs Williams, Mr Jefferies, Mr Griffiths and Mr Gray for their continued hard work and support each year for running such extra-curricular groups or playing in them to support the pupils. We couldn't do it without you all.

Miss L Mayo Music Department



TRIP TO THE WEST COAST 2014



In the early hours of Saturday 19th July 41, sleepy pupils and 4 staff arrived in Portway car park to embark on an epic journey that would see us travelling for 12 days and covering a few thousand miles in total, but what a journey it turned out to be!

After an 11 hour flight with Virgin Atlantic we arrived in Las Vegas airport and after negotiating immigration we met Jack our bus driver. Getting on the bus was our first experience of the heat of Vegas - 110 degrees, but Jack was all ready and prepared with freezing cold water. I don't think any of us have drunk so much water as we did those first few days. The heat was intense. Just standing around made you sweat or 'glisten' - it really was a matter of 'get to buildings quickly', so the benefits of air conditioning could be felt - bliss. Las Vegas is everything we thought it was going to be - barren, dry, hot and everything OTT but fab! After checking in and a quick swill we proceeded to The Hard Rock café. Then we walked 'The Strip', stopping to watch the fountain show of the Bellagio, glancing at the gamblers in Caesar's Palace and through the Venetian to watch the gondolas gliding along the canals of Venice, and it was still in the high ninety's. Amazing sights!

After an interesting breakfast we drove out to the Hoover Dam - a magnificent engineering feat. It was so high, Mrs Mackey stayed well away from the edge but amazing to think it was built over 40 years ago. We all went inside to see how it all worked and then walked across from Nevada to

Arizona, as the dam straddles two states. En-route back to our hotel we stopped and shopped in the Mall, removing some of the weight of dollars from our purses and wallets. It was a good shop - very therapeutic. Our afternoon was spent lazing in the pool - if you could stick the heat, or finding some shade. Evening meal was in the Stratosphere - a buffet to die for and then onto Freemont St to watch an amazing light show and buy up some of the bling of Vegas.

Monday morning was an early start to Bryce Canyon. If you don't like heights this was not the place for you. I don't think ONE person would go back here - Hey Mrs M!! That aside it was 'awesome' - the hoodoos were a sight to see, all naturally formed. Our night was spent in Kanab a one street town, just like in the old Western films but the next day for many was one of the highlights of the trip - smooth water rafting in the Glenn Canyon. Our group was split into two and off we went down the Colorado, stopping for the brave souls to have a dip in the freezing river. You've heard of brain freeze, well this was body freeze but a real cool-off in those temperatures. Two hours later we arrived in Page, disembarked and after our picnic drove to Kayenta in Utah. This was real Navajo territory and this is where we had the opportunity to talk to Peter Macdonald of the Navajo tribe who was one of the original code talkers in the Second World War. Our morning was spent in Monument Valley, on a jeep safari - great fun in the back of a truck bumping along dirt

tracks to go up close to naturally formed structures which the Navajo believe are sacred. We bought traditional Navajo jewellery and went inside one of their actual houses. After being sung to in a cave, some of us were chosen to perform a traditional warrior dance. On return, we were treated to wet wipes from Mrs Rose, as we were red - the dust of monument valley was ingrained in our hair, skin and on our clothes. We all looked as if we were very sun tanned!

After a night in Tusayan, our second highlight was about to begin - a helicopter ride through the Grand Canyon. Looking back, most of us, that morning, had a light breakfast - just in case, as we didn't know what to expect! On arriving at the airfield just up the road, we were all weighed and allocated numbers when we were called individually. You sat where you were put and stayed with the group you were called with. For 18 of the group this meant an upgrade to super-duper red copters - all glass for great views. Not sure whether Adam wanted this but nevertheless he did it - front row and by the door - all that was between him and the canyon below was glass. What a trooper! And what a journey - 35 minutes of absolute wonder and awe. Amazing! This was added to with a hike along the trail of the Canyon to Bright Angel to see, up close, this wonder of the world. Someone was missing along this hike - I wonder who that was???





After a hearty lunch to make up for breakfast, we hit the road again, this time off to Williams and Route 66. What a brilliant place. Here we all ate together in Cruisers and the teachers really did make quite an effort to get Miss Evans hitched up with Jaysire, a fab waiter who really looked after us all. If you wanted to buy a sign this was the place - there were signs for everything and anything!. A place to go back to!

Our cultural journey was to an end as we entered Los Angeles and make believe land - Disney! But not before a stop off in Saligman - definitely not in the 21st century! After Downtown Disney, food, sleep and a lie in, we joined the throng of people making their way to Main Street. With our Minnie ears firmly on our heads, off we went twisting, twirling and speeding along on all the rides and eating ice cream cones big enough to feed a family let alone one person. Great fun!

Our trip was going so quickly we hadn't realised that in fact we only had 4 days left. On the way to Yosemite we stopped off at the Chinese Theatre and Oscar land and Hollywood. Many of us tried our hands and feet into those of the stars along the walk of fame which were of all shapes and sizes, some recent, some old. Our trip to Mariposa and

Yosemite turned out to be longer than first thought, as there was a huge bush fire in the Park which meant road closures. Nevertheless we did manage a hazy, smokey view of the valley after which we left quickly and journeyed to Mariposa - one of our favourite inns.

The last two days were spent in San Francisco - another wow place. Shopping in Union Square, lunch for staff on the roof of Macy's at the Cheesecake factory and the highlight of the day - a trip on the trams of San Fran to Fisherman's Wharf and the famous sea lions basking in the sun. Although, many of us bought hoodies here as we were all cold - the temperatures had certainly dropped.

Our last night at the Hard Rock was a sad one as we had to say farewell to a fantastic guy - Jack our driver. He had driven us safely around Nevada, Utah and Arizona and finally California giving us plenty of stops to stretch our legs and buy ice creams to break up the journey. He also took us shopping to Barstow, a bargain hunter's paradise and supplied us with cold water throughout the 12 days. After presenting him with a signed picture, Tim then walked us all back to the hotel via Lombard Street - for those who have never heard

of it, it is one of the most famous streets in San Francisco and steepest. Jack was not amused - he was not a walker but he too saw the funny side of it. You certainly needed oxygen!

Opening the curtains the last morning was to the view of the Golden Gate Bridge- what a way to finish your holiday. After loading our cases on to the bus for the last time, we made our way to Pier 39 and boarded the ferry to Alcatraz. Yet another 'awesome' place! Head phones in place, off we went on our tour independently of everybody else listening intently to what we were being told about this prison, the break out, the prisoners and guards. To top it off we met one of the last prisoners of Alcatraz - William Baker who had stolen a car and he ended up there! Quite harsh - don't you think! And finally, you can't go to San Francisco and not do this? We crossed the Golden Gate Bridge, not once but twice and in the sun - another breath-taking experience!

Well that's it folks - 12 days of awesome, fabulous fun. Truly memorable! What a way to finish off your school years. Thank you.

Year 13

(2013 - 2014)



Stamps for the RNIB

A big thank you to all for your fundraising efforts of collecting used stamps. Just last year the RNIB (The Royal National Institute of Blind People) raised £24,605 from the stamps handed in. Porthcawl Comprehensive School have collected the most incredible number of stamps over the last few years - British ones, foreign ones, themed ones and some very old stamps, (some with King George VI on them!). The box with them all in couldn't even be lifted it weighed so much!

It's easy to do! It doesn't matter if the stamps have already been used, or if they are everyday first or second class stamps - the RNIB can collect enough of them to raise money. When the RNIB receive the stamps they sort through them and even carry out stamp auctions and sell the used stamps abroad.

If you would like to donate your stamps, please cut the stamp off the envelope and leave approximately 1cm of envelope bordering each stamp - this will help their volunteers organise them later. The rest of the envelope can be discarded (which will make it cheaper to send).

Please bring them to Mrs. Pleydell-Pearce in G13. Thank you!

TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2014

Monday 7th July – Wednesday 9th July

WINNER
Harley
Stephens



The 8th Annual Porthcawl Comprehensive School Tennis Tournament was a huge success again this year, attracting over 200 entries both male and female from Years 7 to 10.

At court side, Year 10 AYPD leaders and BTEC pupils helped the PE staff in planning fixtures and recording results.

The winners of each event were awarded with an engraved 5x60 Slate trophy to remind them of their achievement.

**YR 7
WINNER**
Emily
Stradling



Results - Boys' Tournament

A summary of the Boys' Singles (Years 8 -10) is below: *Plate Competition in red italics*

1/4FINAL	SEMI-FINAL	FINAL	WINNER
Brad Griffiths 6 <i>Zak Furness 5</i>	Brad Griffiths 3 <i>Zak Furness 5</i>		
Brandon Cooper 2 <i>Rhys Cobley 4</i>		Harley Stephens 6 <i>Zak Furness 1</i>	
Jack Ellis 1 <i>Ben Jones 5</i>	Harley Stephens 7 <i>Ben Jones 2</i>		
Harley Stephens 6 <i>Cameron Best 2</i>			Jak Robbins <i>Harry Evans</i>
James Young 6 <i>Aaron Jones 5</i>	James Young 2 <i>Aaron Jones 5</i>		
Max Sheers 3 <i>Ross Overton 2</i>		Brad Griffiths 4 <i>Harry Evans 6</i>	
George Hurry 0 <i>Brad Tonner 3</i>	Nathan Jones 7 <i>Jack Brooks 1</i>		
Nathan Jones 6 <i>Jack Brooks 5</i>			

The Boys' Tournament was won by **Harley Stephens**.

The Boys' Plate Competition was won by **Aaron Jones**.

The Year 7 Boys' winner was also **Harley Stephens** who beat Max Sheers in the final 6 – 0.

Results - Girls' Tournament

A summary of the Girls' Singles (Years 8-10) is below: *Plate Competition in red italics*

1/4FINAL	SEMI-FINAL	FINAL	WINNER
Emily Stradling 5 <i>Gabriella Smith 3</i>	Emily Stradling 6 <i>Gabriella Smith 0</i>		
Grace Dalton 0 <i>Sarah Davidson 2</i>		Emily Stradling 6 <i>Chloe Jenkins 6</i>	
Tia Robbins 5 <i>Megan Morris 1</i>	Chloe Stringer 3 <i>Chloe Jenkins 4</i>		
Elise Thomas 3 <i>Chloe Jenkins 4</i>			Emily Stradling <i>Chloe Jenkins</i>
Sophie Dalton 4 <i>Bethan Jenkins 0</i>	Sophie Dalton 6 <i>Lilli Furness 4</i>		
Harriet Thomas 0 <i>Lilli Furness 4</i>		Demi Grant 6 <i>Lilli Furness 1</i>	
Alecia Wilson-Morgan 4 <i>Maya Squires 2</i>	Demi Grant 2 <i>Lucie Bentley 0</i>		
Nia Bowen 1 <i>Lucie Bentley 4</i>			

The Girls' Tournament was won by **Emily Stradling**.

The Girls' Plate Competition was won by **Chloe Jenkins**.

The Year 7 Girls' winner was **Cherisse Lau** who beat Anni Martin in the final 6 – 0.

DOUBLES WINNERS
Elise Thomas & Brad Griffiths



Doubles Results

In the Mixed Doubles Final, Elise Thomas and Brad Griffiths beat Nia Bowen and Nathan Jones 6 – 2.

Our success and love for tennis as a school was completed by the U13 and U15 Boys' Tennis Teams winning the Swansea and Bridgend League and progressing through to the South Wales Finals at the David Lloyd Centre Cardiff in September. The U13 team comprised of Harley Stephens, Max Shears, Levi Snell and Ben Mullins. The U15 team included Brad Griffiths, Nathan Jones, James Young and Jack Ellis.



U15s Team



GLAMORGAN VALLEYS SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over 40 pupils from Year 7 through to the Sixth Form competed in the Glamorgan Valleys Schools' Cross Country Championships at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend.

It was by far the most successful set of results seen by Porthcawl for many years. The girls, in particular, swept the medals board with the new Year7 pupils showing they are going to be a force to be reckoned with! Results were as follows;



Year 7 Girls' A Team

Nia Clatworthy	1st
Ocean Poultney-Maddy	4th
Amber Williams	5th
Meg McCloy	6th

The Girls' A Team came first in the team event and were awarded gold medals. Nia Clatworthy also won an individual gold and is certainly one to watch in the future.

Year 7 Girls' B Team

Ami Fraser	8th
Chloe Wyatt	10th
Hannah Davidson	18th
Leonora Breheny	20th

These girls took second place in the team event and were awarded with silver medals.

Junior Girls' Team Years 8 & 9

Emily Phillips	8th
Penny Sinclair	18th
Elen McCloy	20th
Emily Ezard	38th

This team took second place in the team event.

Middle Girls' Team Years 10 & 11

Lucy Edwards	14th
Chloe Jenkins	16th
Nia Bowen	17th
Katie Hill	31st

The girls came away with yet another gold team medal.

Senior Girls

Felicity Williamson-Sarll 3rd
Awarded the individual bronze medal.

Senior Boys

Robert Davis 5th

Congratulations to all those involved. As ever, the pupils were a credit to the school both with their performances in the field and their behaviour at the event.

H Davies PE Dept



BASKETBALL

Summer 2014 saw a record number of Porthcawl Comprehensive School pupils represent Basketball Wales at the FIBA European Division C Championships at U16 and U18 level. The U16's Championships were held in Malta and the U18's travelled to Andorra. Gabriel Williams-Rumble and Morgan Carter were on the boys' roster for the U16's team and Lucy Edwards and Emily Stradling were chosen for the U16's girls. Both Welsh teams had a successful campaign with the boys winning a bronze medal and the girls winning their first ever game in the last match of the tournament against Gibraltar. Emily then went on to play for the U18 ladies two weeks later in Andorra.

Basketball is flourishing within the school with numerous other pupils making national squads; Sam Hopkins, James Moon, Zack Wilson (U14's), Ethan Waters (U15's), Ben Merchant, Joe Stradling, Gabriel Williams-Rumble (U16's) and Morgan Carter (U18's).

Player development is strongly supported at club level by Cynffig Cougars and Cardiff Archers and regular school training (5 times a week).



CAMP PASS IT ON

This Summer I was given the opportunity of a lifetime. Along with Dan Koukouravas and Lloyd Roberts, I was offered the chance to visit Istanbul, Turkey and take part in an International Basketball Camp that saw 87 countries, over 200 kids and over 100 coaches all come together for one week to share a common passion for basketball. Camp PASS IT ON is an experience I will never forget! The people I met, the friends I made and the coaching I received was like nothing ever before.

I'm amazed that the TBF and the head coaches managed to offer us so many experiences in one week. From skill specific stations, a 5-5 tournament, the chance to play 3-3 on amazing outside courts in Istanbul, to sightseeing, an evening boat trip, team building sessions, helping in the Camp PASS IT ON garden and watching a men's Spain v Turkey exhibition game - we never stopped! I definitely came home feeling tired, but the knowledge and friends I picked up along the way made it all worthwhile and an experience I will never forget.

For all three of us representing Welsh Basketball, our week in Turkey was definitely a unique and memorable experience - we all learnt things that we never would have, had we not been on such a camp. We wish to spread the message of the power of basketball to unite and will be sure to PASS ON all that we have learnt and experienced this summer in Turkey.

Thank you!

Emily Stradling Year 10





Porthcawl Girls on Court at the Archers

“Did you see how sweaty she was?” that was probably my favourite quote from one of our Year 8 girls after watching the WBBL team Cardiff Met Archers triumph over Seven Oaks towards the end of October.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School's Years 7 & 8 girls had been invited to take part in a girls' basketball tournament at the Cardiff Met Archers Arena as part of a curtain raiser to the WBBL clash. Also competing were local club teams Cardiff Archers and Penarth. Though billed as a friendly the Porthcawl girls couldn't resist their competitive nature and eventually took 1st and 2nd position playing some thrilling basketball.

There was plenty of talent on show across all teams, but the depth of talent in Porthcawl's team was exemplified by the fact that every single girl scored and had equal court time as Coach Emily Stradling rotated her squad regularly and fairly. After the youngsters had demonstrated their potential, it was time for Steff Collins and team mates to show these young girls how the game can be played.

The girls settled down on court side and remained captivated from tip

off to final buzzer. They marvelled at how fast, strong and skilful (not to mention how sweaty) these amazing female sports role models were. Our girls shouted and chanted and Mexican waved their way through the entire game and were heralded as the all-important '6th wo(man)' as the Archers ran out eventual winners. Girls' basketball is a significant growth sport in Porthcawl Comprehensive School and the country in general and with strong role models for our daughters to aspire to right here in Wales, the future of the sport is very promising.

As the young girls surrounded their new found sports stars at the end of the game to take the obligatory selfie, I couldn't help but think that if our daughters are to grow up believing that sport is for them and that being competitive and 'sweaty' is not just for boys, (and tom boys), then more of this needs to happen. There were no slam dunks on court, but in our opinion the whole experience for Hannah, Nia, Aimee, Nicola, Amber, Emily, Jazmin, Mia and Cherise was one great big slam dunk.

Go Archers and thank you!

Mr Stradling PE Department



Junior Maths Challenge Report

On Thursday 1st May, 54 Year 7 and 8 pupils sat the Junior Maths Challenge. Pupils enjoyed trying a variety of problems and have achieved very well. Over 240,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge with approximately the top 6% receiving a Gold Certificate, the next 13% a Silver Certificate and the next 21% a Bronze.

The UK Mathematics Trust is a registered charity and it organises national mathematics competitions and other enrichment activities for UK secondary school pupils. Further information about the trust is available at www.ukmt.org.uk.

There were 14 Bronze Certificate Winners, 10 Silver Winners and 3 Gold Winners.

Year 8
Gold Certificate Winners
Jenny Passingham and Marcus Fish:
Best in School and best in Year
Rhys Leary

Jack Mort
Jamimah Cook
Emily Childs
Sarah Davidson
Ross Overton

Silver Certificate Winners
Anna Biju
Phoebe Roach
Conor Farrell-John
Cerys Davenport
Amman Abbas
Alys Ridsdale
James Powell
Katie Pickett

Year 7
Silver Certificate Winners
James Harrowing
Matthew Pugh

Bronze Certificate Winners
Dylan Matthews
Beth Burke
Cai Thomas

Bronze Certificate Winners
Hannah Strong
Penny Sinclair
Sunil Vummiti
Ewan Aitchison Hough
Jaden Davies
Max Williams

A big well done to all those certificate winners many more came close to a certificate so better luck next year.

1. How would you have done on some of these questions?

The number 987 654 321 is multiplied by 9.
How many times does the digit 8 occur in the result?
A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4 E) 9

2. How many prime numbers are in this list?

1, 12, 123, 1234, 12,345, 123,456
A) 0 B) 1 C) 2 D) 3 E) 4

(Answers on back page)

GIRLS' FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Congratulations to Lilli Furness, (Year 10), who during the Summer was selected for both the Mid Glamorgan School Girls' Football Association and for the South Wales Performance Centre. A huge achievement as competition for both was extremely high.

Miss H Davies PE Department

Rugby Assembly

PORTHCAWL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL AWARDED SCHOOL OF RUGBY STATUS



The school, under the direction of Mr Gregg Davies (PE Department), has been awarded "WRU Rugby School" status. At a recent assembly, Mrs Hunt received the award from WRU Development Officer, Tom Cole. He was joined by Ospreys players Morgan Allen and Lloyd Peers, who himself was a former pupil at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. The players held a question and answer session which was thoroughly enjoyed by the abundance of budding Ospreys players amongst the audience! The day ended with a 'Festival of Rugby' involving 5 teams of pupils, and much to their delight, one team of teachers, participating in a touch rugby tournament. It was great fun and enjoyed by all. We look forward to an exciting rugby season ahead.



Touch Rugby Festival

SPORTS DAY 2013

'Emily was the only female to score 24 points this year and was the clear winner'

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Sports Day 2014 resulted in the mass exodus of over 500 pupils boarding 10 coaches and 2 minibuses to make the short journey down the M4 motorway to Swansea University Athletics Stadium.

The travelling hordes ran, jumped and threw in athletic events ranging from the 100m to the 1500m; the long jump to the shot put. The fresh faced Year 7 spectators were treated to an outstanding sporting spectacle which will surely inspire them to get involved next year.

In Jazmin Gamble and Madi Jones the Year 7's had two worthy champions; Jazmin was 1st in both the 100m and high jump picking up a 2nd also in the long jump, whilst Madi won the 200m and 300m breaking the year record in the process. They were amongst good company; other girls achieving 2 wins for their house included Maya Squires Year 8, Ashleigh Phillips Year 10, Lucy Edwards Year 10 and Alecia Wilson- Morgan Year 10.

A new pupil to Porthcawl Comprehensive, Grace Dalton Year 9 showed signs of athletic prowess with an impressive new year record in the 100m. All were in contention for the coveted Victrix Ludorum, the award given to the female athlete who accumulates the greatest number of points for her house. This year the Victrix Ludorum goes to an athlete who won the 300m, 200m and long jump in the Year 9 Girls' category; Emily Stradling. Emily was the only female to score 24 points this year and was the clear winner.

The same can not be said for the Victor Ludorum which was far more keenly contested.

The award this year is shared by three outstanding athletes, but first a mention to the nearly men who came close; Jayden Russell Year 8, Mitt Russell and Joe Stradling Year 9 each achieved two 1st and one 2nd.

However there were three other boys waiting to go one better and achieve the elusive triple win. They were Ben Asprea, Year 10 champion in the 200m, 400m and long jump, Laurence Hunt Year 9 champion in the 400m, 1500m and triple jump and Will Murphy Year 8 champion in the 100m, 200m and triple jump. This year the Victor Ludorum for 2014 is shared between all three; well done to Ben, Laurence and Will.

Athletics, largely an individual sport of PB's and school records becomes really exciting when you're part of a team, a relay team in particular. This year the relays were spectacular with records tumbling and photo finishes, more relay races will be included in next year's programme. In the final shake up for the Sports Day House Competition, the results are below.

Mr Stradling PE Department

In reverse order the results are as follows:

4th	Gwynedd	689 pts
3rd	Morgannwg	755 pts
2nd	Powys	810 pts
1st	Dyfed	830 pts



NSSA National Single Handed Sailing Team Championships

On Friday, 3rd October, 2 of my friends from sailing and I travelled up to Birmingham to take part in the NSSA National Single Handed Sailing Team Championships at Bentley Sailing Club.

This was a new experience for me and the others, as we have all taken part in single events and not worked as a team. On Saturday morning we went to the clubhouse to register and to get our bibs. We were called the PARAMEDICS as ours had a yellow background with a green cross. There were some very experienced sailors; 4 of the teams are our national topper racing teams so really, we were out of our depth!

How the races are run... OK, there are 3 in a team and 2 teams race through the course against each other, but up to 5 races can be

running at the same time on the same course – sent off in 2 minute intervals. It isn't about who wins, it's about whose team has the lowest point score; 1st = 1pt, 2nd = 2 pts, 3rd = 3 pts, 4th = 4 pts, 5th = 5 pts, 6th = 6 pts. So, your team can come in 2nd, 3rd and 5th place, and still win overall as their total points can be 10 and the other team 11.

The aim of the race is to work as a team and help each other by "blocking" so your team members can catch up and overtake, so you finish better, running opponents into the "no wind area", or just making them change their course. You have red flags to carry and these are in case someone hits your boat so they have to do penalty turns. If they don't abide by the rules, each race has their own set of umpires who follow closely

watching to see the rules are followed.

In total there were 52 teams from all over the UK. After day one, due to our inexperience in this type of racing, we were lying 33rd overall and 8th in our class. We did learn a lot from this and decided we would sort our code words and tactics!

On Sunday, we were back at the sailing club after a fun night of ten pin bowling with all the other teams, and with our tactics in place, we did much better. We were placed 21st overall and 8th in our class – not bad for a team who had never sailed together as a team before! We now have 3 more similar races lined up starting in Barry then Bristol.

Lucy Year 8

Pupil Achievements

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Lauren Hancock
Year 8

Welsh Judo Champion
Member of the Welsh Judo Squad

Tyler Williams
Year 11

Sea Angling - Represented Wales in
the Junior Division July 2014

Bradley Griffiths
Year 11

Cricket - Represented Mid
Glamorgan U15s

Ethan Waters
Year 10

Selected for Basketball Camp in
Dublin July 2014
Basketball Wales U14 Squad
Member

Ben Merchant
Year 10

Selected for Basketball Camp in
Dublin July 2014
Basketball Wales U14 Squad
Member

Morgan Carter
Year 11

Selected for Basketball Camp in
Dublin July 2014 Welsh U16
Basketball - Bronze medallist in
European Small Nations Champs
Malta 2014

Gabriel Williams Rumble
Year 11

Welsh U16 Basketball - Bronze
medallist in European Small Nations
Champs Malta 2014

**James Moon, Sam Hopkins
& Zack Wilson**

Welsh U14 Basketball Squad

Grace Dalton
Year 10

Three Day Eventing - Competed at
the World Individual Championships
in July 2014

Emily Stradling
Year 10

Basketball - Welsh Girls'
Ambassador at "Camp PASS IT ON"
in Istanbul August 2014
U16s and U18s Basketball Wales
Team European Small Nations
Champs Malta and Andorra 2014

Angharad John
Year 12

Represented Wales at the European
Surfing Championships

Levi Bessell and Keiran Waring
Year 13

Probationary Members of Porthcawl
RNLI Crew

Cameron Morris
Year 12

Junior Club Champion Pyle and
Kenfig Golf Club

Scott Thornton
Year 12

Selection to the Glamorgan Cricket
Academy

Rebecca Sutton
Year 9

Swimming - Selected for Wales in
the School Games in Manchester

Lucy Edwards and Sophie Dalton
Year 11

U16 County Netball Squad
Selection to Netball HUBS

Amy Bradbury and Isabel Appleton
Year 8

U14 County Netball Squad
Selection to Netball HUBS

Trystan Winn-Davies
Year 11

Music Theory Grade 5 Pass
Electric Guitar Grade 5 Distinction

Lydia Pickett
Year 11

Cello Grade 7 - Merit

Catherine Pickett
Year 9

Grade 4 Ballet
Piano Grade 5 - Merit

Cerys Weston
Year 13

Member of Cwmtawe Youth Brass
Band who finished 3rd in the
National Eisteddfod in August

Lewis Scott
Year 12

Appearing in the Lord of the Flies
production at the Wales Millennium
Centre

Lauren Cooper
Year 9

Raised £1228.00 for CLAPA during
the last school year and was
nominated for a Superstar Fundraiser
Award by CLAPA, and selected as
runner up

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

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

Design : HahaGraphics 01568 668069

Answers from Maths Challenge on page 25 - Question 1. E Question 2. A



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