



WELCOME TO THE
2020 EDITION OF THE
PORTHCAWL POST

Porthcawl Post



Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter

Headteacher's Address

As I begin this piece I hope that you, your family and friends are all healthy, and you all remain so. It goes without saying that the last few months have been the most challenging our school community has faced. I honestly hope that things will improve in the near future and none of us will have to endure another pandemic.

It was Spring and the 23rd of March when school was forced to close. At that time public health was the main priority and all schools closed. This was a time of change and uncertainty for all of us and collectively our school rose to the challenges before us. I hope you didn't mind my series of letters during this period but I felt contact with learners and families was important to maintain. I did not want the learners, especially the most vulnerable, to feel isolated or alone and distant from our school community.

I am proud of our efforts to teach remotely and feel we did manage to keep the learning going. I am fully aware of the problems faced and realise we can refine and improve our approach. Should the learners be off school for significant lengths of time, we have done much to refine our blended learning and the subsequent use of platforms to support the learners. Like everyone else, I don't know what the

future holds, but Porthcawl Comprehensive School has taken actions to support all learners should similar problems arise.

In the late Summer term we held our check in and catch up programme. In common with schools in Bridgend we offered learners the chance to return to school. The idea here was to reduce anxiety and increase confidence levels among our learners in preparation for the full September return. It is sad to say that Covid-19 did impact upon our school and we were forced to ask certain learners to stay home and self-isolate. This was a most difficult and painful decision to make, however I have stated from the start I will always take the safest option, not always the most popular. In the case of Years 7 and 10 we needed to be 100% certain of who the positive contacts had mixed with. The very fact that we could not be 100% sure resulted in the whole year group being asked to self-isolate. Going forward, Public Health Wales have offered more updated guidance, so we will employ this should we need to in future.

The whole Covid-19 experience has been the most difficult challenge in my 35 years of teaching. I would like to thank the very many of you that sent in very kind and encouraging messages. We have all been inspired by how well the learners have responded and adapted, a credit to you and

themselves. We will need to develop new methods of operating in terms of parents' evenings and our meetings. To this end we are currently developing our virtual open evening, more details to follow!

There was much national coverage of the examinations, or lack of them, last year. We based our outcomes on the work the learners had produced and were very confident in the outcomes arrived at. We have a very large return to Year 12 and the vast majority of last year's 13 have accepted university places. It was a sad way for Years 11 and 13 to leave, but we wish them well and look forward to hearing of their successes in the future.



Headteacher's Address

(continued from previous page)

I will conclude my article with some of the more common pieces we look at.

Staffing, Mr Tobin left us last year and we are delighted to welcome Mrs Catherine Bennion to our Welsh department. Mrs Sian Price, Mrs Helen Guest and Mrs Laura Cartwright have all returned to school following their maternity leave, a warm welcome back to all three of you.



I have reserved the end of my article to play a personal tribute to Mrs Vicky Hunt. Mrs Hunt has fulfilled four roles here, pupil, parent, teacher and governor; few have such an association with our school. Mrs Hunt began her teaching in 2002 in the Biology department. She is an excellent teacher of Biology and countless numbers of students have benefitted from her teaching, care and support. Many of you will know Mrs Hunt in her role as Assistant Headteacher which has enveloped our community activities. She has worked tirelessly to help organise the school carol service, school show and our Eisteddfod. Our school has a national reputation in these areas and Vicky has done more than most to maintain and enhance this reputation and tradition of excellence. She has made a massive contribution to our school and the school with sorely miss her. As Vicky retires to spend time with her family, we wish her and the family well, do keep in touch with us.

Andrew Slade
Headteacher



Ty Enfys

Hello Everyone. We would like to introduce you to Ty Enfys; meaning Rainbow House. Ty Enfys can only be described as a 'one stop shop' of support at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

The building, formerly known as the Assessment Centre, is in the centre of the school site and offers a perfect location for our pupils to access the support available. Ty Enfys accommodates many aspects of support in school, including the Additional Needs Department, Student Support and the CLA (Children Looked After) Key-worker. You will also find the Education Welfare Officer and Lead Youth Workers based at the centre. The school counsellor is also linked to Ty Enfys.

The team at Ty Enfys is led by Mrs Sloggett, Deputy Headteacher, and her office is located at the heart of the building. The Duty Officer and Heads of Year often base themselves at Ty Enfys to offer a co-ordinated and joined up approach to all support on offer.

The big move to Ty Enfys took place a couple of weeks before the Summer holidays when staff worked very hard at making the space both workable and welcoming. We are pleased with the result, especially our colourful wall and window displays; they have been the talk of the school! I think you will agree that they are something else. The centre was ready for the start of the new academic year and we are delighted with the pupils' response to the new facility.

The name Ty Enfys is never more appropriate than now, given the times we are going through. The rainbow symbolises support and hope for the future, everything we have to offer in Ty Enfys.



RRSA Bronze Award

We are delighted to say that the school has been accredited with the Bronze Award for the work the pupils and staff have been doing towards becoming a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. We now have an Action Plan in place and will be working towards Silver and then ultimately Gold!

Well done and thanks to all those involved!

Thank you to Covid-19 Strategy Group



Many thanks to the Porthcawl Covid-19 strategy group who kindly donated eleven refurbished laptops to school. These computers are greatly appreciated and will be used by our pupils who are less advantaged.



Community Defibrillator available for public use

Members of the community will be interested to know that the school's defibrillator is now situated outside our main entrance building A block and is available for public use, on obtaining an access code from the Emergency Services. The defibrillator was originally purchased in memory of a former Governor of the school, the Reverend Paul Floe, from money raised by the pupils during Charities' Week. It was previously kept inside school for emergency use, but Mr Slade has agreed that it should be moved outside to be available to the public at all times. Members of the Emergency Services came to school on 10th January to mark the occasion.

Hi Everyone !

Hi Year 7 and anyone who is new to the school!

My name is Debz Silk and I am your careers adviser. I work for Careers Wales and my room is in D block next to G1 (the corridor with the water fountain). My job is to help you make decisions, throughout your school life.

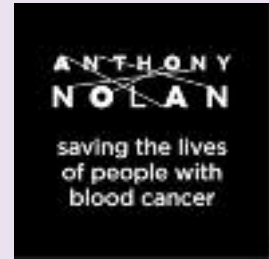
Careers Wales has a website full of information: www.careerswales.gov.wales. Go and explore! There are a number of ways to contact us; phone 0800 028 4844, email and live chat which you can access from www.careerswales.gov.wales. We have even got a TV channel on YouTube. This link is ideal for your parents and guardians to watch to see what we do.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjMxUeqmnlk>



ANTHONY NOLAN

- How you can help save a life!



What is 'Anthony Nolan'? - Every day, the charity Anthony Nolan matches willing stem cell and bone marrow donors to people who are suffering from blood cancer and other blood disorders. For some people, these transplants are life-saving. The Anthony Nolan stem cell register was set up in 1974 by Shirley Nolan after her three-year-old son, Anthony, was in urgent need of a stem cell transplant. From this, Shirley Nolan set up the world's first register which matched donors with people in desperate need. The Anthony Nolan Stem Cell register now saves three people every day by finding them life-saving matches. But, without willing donors, there is no cure.

How can I help? - From the age of sixteen, young people in good health have the chance to register with Anthony Nolan to become a stem cell and bone marrow donor. Research shows that the younger the donor the better the outcome for the patient, which means you could be helping to save someone's life. So you could potentially be a perfect candidate! Even if you don't qualify to become a stem cell donor, the charity still relies on financial

donations from generous members in the public. It roughly costs £40 to recruit and tissue type every new potential donor. So, you could help fund a potentially life-saving treatment!

How do they collect stem cells from a donor? - 90% of the time, donations are made using a method of peripheral blood stem cell collection. This means that blood is extracted from one of the donor's arms before a machine removes the stem cells from it. The donor's blood is then returned to them through their other arm. The other 10% of the time stem cells are collected through a donor bone marrow.

How do I register with Anthony Nolan? - All you have to do is fill in an application online at anthonymolan.org. You will then receive your swab pack in the post for you to complete and send back to Anthony Nolan so that they can add you to their official stem cell register.

What happens after I join the register? - Once you have sent off your swab pack, all you have to do is wait until you are matched with a patient. You may never match a patient, but if you do, the charity will be in touch with you straight away! If you are matched with a patient the charity makes it their duty to support you through every process of the donation, from travel to accommodation, Anthony Nolan has got you covered.

During this time of uncertainty, it has been very difficult for many charities, big and small, to function as they normally would. Anthony Nolan urgently needs more people to apply to become a stem cell donor since nearly 19,000 fewer people have joined the stem cell register so far this year compared to the same period in 2019.

For some patients, a stem cell donation is their last chance at survival. Your donation could give them a second chance at life.

Erin Thomas-Parker Head Girl



Macmillan Cake Week 2020

We were determined not to let the strange events of 2020 stop us from taking part in the national Macmillan Coffee Morning event and raising money for charity. Several members of staff baked cakes and other tasty treats, which were enjoyed in socially distanced venues around the school. It was lovely to see some new bakes alongside the regular favourites. Mrs Stephens' chocolate brownies set a high standard amongst the office staff, which continued right through the week. Thank you to all staff who supported the fundraising event, whether they were involved in the baking, eating or donating! As a school, we raised £240 for Macmillan Cancer Support.





Foodbank collection

New Foodbank Trolley for the Rhiw

Following on from the success of our Foodbank collection trolley in reception, we were asked if we would design and make a trolley for the Rhiw Shopping Centre in Bridgend town. The Technology Department kindly volunteered to complete this task. A massive thank you to Mrs Thelwell-Davies, Mr Isaacs and Mrs Wilcox for their assistance with the design, the making and the painting. After a couple of months of work, the pupils were ready to present it to the Foodbank. We are so proud of the excellent job Leon Hamilton, Seren Cole, Alama Taylor and Jake Richards have done, the trolley is very impressive and I am sure it will encourage more people to donate items whilst they are out shopping.



At present we are not collecting items for the Foodbank due to Covid-19, but are aware that people in our community are more in need of this support than ever. We hope to restart this as soon as it is practicable for us to do so.

Mrs Hunt - Assistant Headteacher

Foodbank Donation at Sister Act



Thank you to everyone who brought in food donations to the Grand Pavilion during 'Sister Act'. We had an absolutely terrific response as you can see from the photos! Volunteers from the Foodbank came to collect our donations on 28th January.



Respect Our Beaches!

I surf and train with Sker Lifeguards on Coney beach and I am disappointed by the amount of litter and plastic discarded on the beach. I do not understand why people do not respect the beach and take their litter home. I am part of the Porthcawl Volunteer Community Cleanup Group, (Facebook group), and every Sunday evening I take part in a litter pick. I always focus on the beach as it's the last line of defence before the litter ends up in the sea. There are times when the amount of litter is overwhelming, but every bag of rubbish removed from the beach is one less that ends up in the sea. As a group we usually fill at least 15 bags! I do it to protect the marine environment and it's very satisfying to see the beach far cleaner as a result.

Maria Lynn 10TL





Rotary International Evening

The Rotary Club International Evening was held at the Hi-Tide on Monday 2nd March. Members of our Sixth Form Interact Team who regularly organise events to raise money for charity were invited to attend.

The evening started with a welcome from Mr. Andrew Singer (President Elect of Porthcawl Rotary) followed by students from our school who performed extracts from their performance of 'Sister Act'. Just like the actual performance in the Pavilion, the standard was fantastic and many guests commented it was better than the West End shows they had seen in London.

International students from Atlantic College at St Donat's in the Vale were also invited to share an evening of music, food and worldwide cultures. Atlantic College is a member of the United World Colleges. There were student representatives from Paraguay, Argentina, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Italy, Zimbabwe, Ukraine, Israel and Denmark. Some of the students gave presentations on their cultures/language/background; others read poems,

sang songs or played musical instruments. It was very informative and we were amazed at the confidence in the students. The students were first years, 16 to 17 year olds having undergone competitive selection in their own country. The qualities they had to demonstrate were a willingness to serve the community.

The special guest of the evening was Donna Wallbank, who is the President for Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland. She concluded the evening by summarising the importance of the Rotary and Interact Club motto, which is service above self. She thanked Mrs. Giles and the all pupils who performed and finally thanked our pupils from the Interact team at PCS for their efforts with fundraising activities and demonstrating clearly to members of our community service above self.

Proceeds from the evening went to support an international charity that the Rotary Club are supporting called Project Sekoly. They are supporting the construction of a new school in the Anosy region

of Madagascar. In Madagascar, children between the ages of 6 and 22 only have a 50/50 chance of any form of worthwhile education.

SEED (Sustainable, Education, Environment & Development) have been operating on the island for 25 years and their Project Sekoly will involve the building and maintenance of a new school. Porthcawl Rotary intend to provide support to the project in the form of furniture for each of the new classrooms.

We are very much hoping to get INTERACT up and running again later in the year.

Mr. Pucella



Pupils celebrated World Book Day on 5th March by sharing a whole school story and learning about why it is so important to read regularly.

The whole school heard the spooky story "The Monkey's Paw" by WW Jacobs, read in instalments across the five lesson day.

Every year group held an assembly to remind them why reading matters.

"Studies show that the more we read, the more we enjoy it and the higher we achieve in school," explains English teacher Mrs Kembery. "That leads to better qualifications, a higher salary, better health and even a longer life. So to be smarter, healthier, and happier: read!"

Maquette Making

Our lovely Year 12 Textiles students have been busy making 'Maquettes'. A maquette is a miniature garment, which they have been making using a variety of textile techniques and materials. The title of our main project this year is 'Landscapes' and pupils were asked to reflect their chosen Landscape through their maquette making. Our pupils have been doing a fab job, and as you can see, have been creating some fantastic outcomes.

Watch out for our next mini projects - disassembled shirts and a sleeve, which will also reflect their chosen landscapes.

Mrs Carson



Future Chef 2020

Sam Flanagan and Mack Jenkins won the school heats and progressed on to the local finals. Both boys worked really hard and produced beautiful dishes. Mack won the Bridgend heats with a chicken breast wrapped in pancetta, on a potato rosti with a homemade pesto. For dessert he made a chocolate fondant with a chilli chocolate sauce.

Sam made a beef and broccoli stir fry with an oyster sauce and lemon cheesecake for dessert. Fantastic effort, well done boys!



Mackenzie Jenkins progressed from the Bridgend heats at Bridgend College on to the Welsh heats in Cardiff and Vale College. Although he didn't win this heat he was fantastic, demonstrating difficult skills and beautiful presentation.

Huge congratulations to all that entered. This year Future Chef is going to be conducted online, please come and see me if you are interested. We very much hope that things will get back to normal next year.

Mrs Thelwell-Davies

FRANCOPHONIE



• French is spoken in 24 different countries! These are France, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Ivory Coast, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Haiti, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Monaco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo and Vanuatu.

• 369 million people in the world speak French.
 • The things celebrated on Francophonie Day are the French language, the rich diverse Francophonie culture and also the values of peace.

• **Facts about Belgium:**

The main foods from Belgium are Belgian chocolate, Belgian waffles and moules-frites.

The Belgian weather is similar to ours in Wales.

Belgian animals include the dogs Bichon Frise and Bloodhound and the Belgian Blue cow.



2020 French Bake Off Competition

Once again this year for the Bake Off, we had some fantastic entries and it was really hard to decide a winner. The cake is called "La Galette des Rois" (The Kings' Cake). It is a marzipan-based cake which is traditionally eaten during the month of January in France to celebrate the Three Wise Men who came to see Baby Jesus.



Well done to the winner Holly Jordan, runner-up Lily Kedward and third place Patrick Clewer! Bravo et bon appétit!

Madame Morgan



Languages Discovery Day

– Cardiff University

On 7th February, 15 pupils from Year 8 went to Cardiff University for a Languages Discovery Day. We were split into two groups and between the groups we participated in languages including French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Throughout the sessions, we made Italian pizza recipes – squisito! ; took a dive into Catalan, learnt about the famous people who speak it and tried to speak it ourselves; designed costumes for Spanish carnival; became French film critics and learnt how to use the language of love to talk about Valentine's Day. We also dressed up in ski gear, spoke German and ate lots of sweets!

After lunch we met up with the other groups for an Award Ceremony. Four pupils from PCS won an award:

Freddie Hall: for his hard work

Cade Rees and Max Hall: for excellent participation

Josh Jones: for his wonderful French film critic impersonation!

Thank you to the language students at Cardiff University for organising such a great day and inspiring us with all your stories about your languages journey.

Merci, Danke, Gracias, Grazie, Diolch!

Max Hall (9OT)



German

Year 12 German enjoyed an interactive lesson using Quizlet Live and Textivate. Adela Henderson is our current reigning Quizlet champion, demonstrating her excellent knowledge of vocabulary. Gut gemacht Klasse 12!





Diwrnod Shw'mae Su'maes

On Thursday October 15th we celebrated Diwrnod Shw'mae Su'mae, a day to celebrate the Welsh language and pupils and staff were encouraged to start conversations using Shw'mae - Hi how are you? To start the celebrations, students received a special message from Ruth Jones. Ruth is currently learning to speak Welsh alongside her successful acting and writing career and was keen to be part of the day.

The celebrations didn't stop there, Porthcawl was adorned in Welsh colours with everyone wearing something red or green to show their support. Pupils also had the opportunity to pose in our Welsh Photo booth sharing their favourite Welsh words- Pysgod Wibli Wobli coming out on top!

With Covid-19 restrictions stopping pupils coming together, the Welsh department decided to create an online competition where pupils shared their own Welsh speaking videos. The entries were extremely competitive with songs, poems, special effects and family members joining in with the fun. Da iawn to you all, however, with help from our Year 11 judges, we are proud to announce that our winners were Joseph Shingler and Seren Pope in Blwyddyn 7, Adam



Kelly in Blwyddyn 8 and Ryan Timms and Oliver Phillips in Blwyddyn 9 - Llongyfarchiadau mawr i chi gyd!

Ar ddydd Iau 15fed Hydref, roedd Diwrnod Shw'mae Su'mae, diwrnod i ddathlu'r iaith Gymraeg a annogwyd disgyblion a staff i ddechrau sgysiau gan ddefnyddio Shw'mae. I ddechrau'r dathliadau roedd neges arbennig gan Ruth Jones. Ar hyn o bryd mae Ruth yn dysgu siarad Cymraeg ochr yn ochr â'i gyrfa actio ac ysgrifennu llwyddiannus ac roedd yn awyddus i fod yn rhan o'r diwrnod.



arbenig ac aelodau'r teulu yn ymuno â'r hwyl. Da iawn i chi i gyd, fodd bynnag, gyda chymorth ein beirniaid o Flwyddyn 11, rydym yn falch o gyhoeddi mai ein henillwyr oedd Joseph Shingler a Seren Pope ym Mlwyddyn 7, Adam Kelly ym Mlwyddyn 8 a Ryan Timms ac Oliver Phillips ym Mlwyddyn 9- Llongyfarchiadau mawr i chi gyd!



Ni stopiodd y dathliadau yno, cafodd Porthcawl ei addurno mewn lliwiau Cymraeg gyda phawb yn gwisgo rhywbeth coch neu wyrdd i ddangos eu cefnogaeth. Cafodd y disgyblion gyfle hefyd i sefyll yn ein bwth lluniau gan rannu eu hoff eiriau Cymraeg- Pysgod Wibli Wobli oedd y gorau!

Gyda chyfyngiadau Covid-19 yn atal disgyblion rhag dod at ei gilydd, penderfynodd yr adran Gymraeg greu cystadleuaeth ar-lein ble rhannodd y disgyblion eu fideos Cymraeg eu hunain. Roedd y ceisiadau yn hynod o gystadleuol gyda chaneuon, cerddi, effeithiau



Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen St Dwynwen's Day



In Wales we celebrate St Dwynwen's day on January 25th. Our Year 7 pupils had a special assembly on St Dwynwen and did a fantastic job of making their own cards to post to that special somebody in school. This year 7LC were responsible for the sorting and delivering of the cards to the lucky recipients. We are pleased to report that all the cards reached their correct destination and on time! The cards were gratefully received by pupils in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10. Diolch yn fawr to all the dedicated volunteer postal workers of 7LC!



Dwynwen lived during the 5th century and legend has it that she was one of the prettiest of King Brychan Brycheiniog's 24 daughters. Dwynwen fell in love with a prince called Maelon Dafodrill, but unfortunately her father had already arranged that she should marry someone else.

'In A Moment' – Year 13



The Year 13 Drama class performed their polished devised and set text pieces to a live audience and an examiner on the Wednesday 11th March, 2020. All based around the central theme of 'In A Moment', the students' devised work considered a broad range of subjects and their performances showcased extracts from many different playwrights.

Who would have thought a week later the school would have been in lockdown due to Covid-19..... 'In a Moment!'

'Some of the work was the best devised work I have ever seen – very inspiring!'

Will Foskett

"I think it was one of the most inventive and touching pieces of theatre, I've seen from school" Carys Mainwaring

Drama School Success for Jack!



Former PCS pupil Jack Williams, pictured in our most recent school production of *Sister Act*, gained a place to study in one of the top Drama Schools in the UK, Arts Ed (Arts Educational School London). He has just begun his first year and is absolutely loving the experience so far! Many of our pupils aspire to study at drama schools and conservatoires, and so we thought you would enjoy hearing some great advice from Jack!

"I chose Arts Ed because it was the school that gave me the best vibe and gave me exactly what I wanted, which was a modern approach to your typical drama school approach but also allowed for discipline and there is a real homely vibe to the place".

I've always thought about performing and acting as a career option and whilst I got older it became apparent that I couldn't see myself doing anything else and that acting was something which I really enjoyed and found I was fairly good at.

If you don't get in first time, there are so many options to keep you improving before you try again in later years. I wouldn't have got in without Porthcawl Comp because they provide so many opportunities within the

arts that other schools don't offer. If this is your thing, you'd be a fool to not take full advantage of it.

In these times where we are not regularly rehearsing or attending drama, theatre and music groups, it is important to keep looking forward and trying to get involved in whatever opportunities come your way!

"I have been very lucky with the roles and opportunities given to me but you don't need to have performed leading roles to get into the industry or drama school. The best thing is to persevere and take the most out of the opportunities given to you. You're very lucky in Porthcawl Comp and you just never know. I would never have thought I'd have got in first year and to get multiple offers. I can only thank the whole school but in particular the drama and music departments".

We wish Jack all the very best and look forward to seeing him performing in the near future.

Keep playing and performing through the hard times, things will get better! We hear from many people who have regretted quitting, but not one who regretted sticking with it!



Trip to Hedda Gabler

As a group of Drama students we went to see a production of 'Hedda Gabler' at the Sherman Theatre Cardiff. It was a stylish production which used a number of contemporary staging elements. The use of music and symbolism was very engaging and helped to provide a rich theatrical environment."

"An incredibly unique and inspiring piece of drama" Carys Rosser-Stanford – Year 13

I thought it was awesome and I've used some of the staging elements in my Year 13 devised piece" Jack Williams – Year 13

"The lighting was extremely atmospheric and was truly inspirational" Max Williams – Year 13



AS DRAMA PRACTICAL



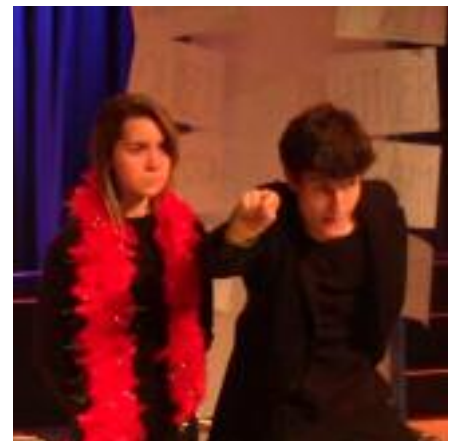
In February this year, the AS Drama class completed their examined performance of a reinterpretation of a set text. There were five groups in total reinterpreting the texts – A Taste of Honey, Blue Remembered Hills, Dr Faustus and The Birthday Party. It was a demanding project but everyone was pleased with the work created.



"I didn't take the subject for GCSE but I feel the quality of the work I produced was as good as my peers' which I was really pleased about." - Rhian Abuleil Year 12

"I really enjoyed the process even though it was quite demanding at times." - Fiona Lord Year 12

"I feel our piece was really strong and I worked well with my group." - Stella Marks Year 12





SCHOOL SHOW

January saw our 42nd annual school musical, 'Sister Act' at The Grand Pavilion, which started with 'Oliver!' back in 1979. Unaware of what the outbreak of Covid-19 would soon mean, pupils relished in all the usual challenges, and our then Head Girl, Carys Rosser-Stanford, wrote an account of the show and her experiences. Many thanks to Dan Minto for the wonderful photographs, we are so grateful.

We wholeheartedly look forward to a time when we can do this again...

Sister Act



Porthcawl Comprehensive School decided to make a change this year with their annual school production held in the Grand Pavilion. Leaving traditionalism behind, pupils and teachers alike took on the challenge of bringing Sister Act, a 2006 musical, to life on the stage.

It's an incredibly fun, energetic and humorous musical that centres on the diva-singer Deloris Van Cartier (Eddylyia Osborne) who dreams of making it big. After witnessing a murder committed by Curtis Jackson, (Will Foskett), her gangster boyfriend and his gang of dim-witted thugs, (Keighan Dyer, Evan Davies and Patrick O'Neill). Deloris is placed under the care of the shy police officer "Sweaty Eddie" Souther, (Jack Williams). For her safety, she is placed into witness protection, under the alias Sister Mary Clarence seeking refuge in the Queen of Angels, a nun convent headed by the strong-willed and devoted Mother Superior, (Elys Davies) and Monsignor O'Hara, (Elis Powell). After being welcomed by the quirky Sister Mary Patrick, (Carys Rosser-Stanford), and the rest of the sisters, she takes control of the disastrous church choir, previously led by the deadpan Sister Mary Lazarus, (Meg McCloy). Her influence transforms the convent's resident tone-deaf nuns into an overnight sensation. It is at the Queen of Angels that Deloris takes under her wing the quiet Postulant, Sister Mary Robert, (Annalise Traylor), and together with the convent they learn the value of loyalty in sisterhood and passion of performance.



'Leaving traditionalism behind, pupils and teachers alike took on the challenge of bringing Sister Act, a 2006 musical, to life on the stage.'



From start to finish, the cast, crew, orchestra and teachers worked extremely hard to provide a fabulous, high-energy performance through singing, dancing and acting. Eddylyia took on the challenge of Deloris Van Cartier and wowed us from the first note to her last bow, not sparing on comedy, sass and a heart-warming display of emotion. Her rendition of the punchy opening number Take Me to Heaven, supported by her talented trio of divas, played by Olivia Baglow, Samantha Wensley and Beci Senior, left the audience star-struck before the show really began. Despite playing the 'villain' of the production, Will attacked his role with equal vigour, giving the crowd someone they loved to hate particularly throughout When I Find my Baby which was in equal parts amusing and genuinely intimidating. Jack as the character of 'Sweaty Eddie'

quickly won over our hearts through his nervous yet sweet portrayal of the Philadelphia Police Officer. Jack's sincere performance allowed us to watch his character grow in confidence and eventually become the hero of the show. Mother Superior, a difficultly stern and poised character to approach, was mastered by Elys, whose voice both astounded and amazed. In her song I Haven't Got a Prayer, we truly felt her character's frustrations whilst also enjoying her humour and wit that left audience members chuckling long after. Annalise's acute attention to the detail of her character gave such a sweet rendition of Mary Roberts and yet her burst of confidence in the Life I Never Led was enough to bring a tear to the eye.





(From previous page)

The crew that worked behind the scenes were clearly an efficient and fantastic team and made what were tricky scene changes appear seamless. The orchestra's efforts in approaching the upbeat and highly energetic music was greatly impressive and hair raising from the first number to the last. Of course, without the efforts and direction of the tirelessly hardworking teachers, Mrs Kelly Pool, Miss Rhian Thomas, Mrs Rhiannon Giles and Mr Joe Smith, such an incredible show wouldn't have been possible so much appreciation goes to them for producing what was truly a memorable event. Our thanks go out to all those who came to support the show and to those who danced along with us. The feedback received between family members, school staff as well as the general public has been totally overwhelming. It's because of this support that Sister Act 2020 was such a fantastic experience. So in one final thanks and in the words of Deloris Van Cartier, "You guys are fabulous!"

Carys Rosser-Stanford



'From start to finish, the cast, crew, orchestra and teachers worked extremely hard to provide a fabulous, high-energy performance'





Young Playwrights' Festival

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our annual Young Playwrights' Festival in the Summer term. However, we still set the creative and challenging task of writing a play.

The Drama department would like to congratulate the pupils pictured for their fantastic efforts. We enjoyed reading the plays very much and it was clear that each pupil had a strong creative idea. The standard of writing was incredibly high and it would have been a very hard choice to only choose 6 winning plays. Keep up the excellent effort!!

Mrs Poole Head of Drama



From an early age, I have loved writing. There was something that I really enjoyed about expressing my ideas and opinions onto a blank piece of paper, so of course when the opportunity to create my own play came up, I took the chance immediately. For the past three years it has been an extremely fun experience participating in the Young Playwrights' Festival, watching your own ideas playing out together and being performed. The Playwrights' Festival is an activity that I recommend to all new Year 7's looking for something creative to do, hopefully at the end of the year we will be able to watch new ideas from new people.

It's been a highlight for me every year!!

Poppy Shingler Year 10





Porthcawl Comprehensive School

Head Team 2020-21



Head Girl

Hi, My name is Erin! I am this year's Head Girl at Porthcawl Comp, and I study English, Welsh Bacc, Drama and History at A Level. I know times are uncertain but if there is anything I can help with, please let me know! I'm always around if you need any advice :)



Head Boy

Hi, I'm Jonathan Munro and I'm the Head Boy for 2020-21. I study Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Welsh Baccalaureate. My advice for the Sixth Form is to make the most of free lessons to complete homework as it makes exam time much easier. Make sure you choose subjects that you enjoy, and are willing to work hard! Good Luck!



I'm Rachel, I'm Deputy Head Girl, and I'm studying English Literature and Language, German and History. I'm hoping to study the Social Sciences at university in order to go into a job in international development. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas or problems!



Hey, I'm Archie and I'm Deputy Head Boy. I am currently studying Maths, Physics and Biology. A Levels are a step-up from GCSEs, however keeping on top of your notes in your free lessons will make revision a lot easier. If you have any questions about Sixth Form then feel free to ask me, I'd be pleased to help.



Hello, my name is Lucia Brown and I am Deputy Head Girl on the Head Team. I definitely value how this role allows me to engage with certain aspects of school life and create an interface between students and pupils. Undoubtedly, I would say that keeping on top of tasks but also recognising your limitations is extremely valuable in Sixth Form. Whilst valuing work is important, looking after yourself tops that, so make sure you're always recalling the achievements you have made and giving yourself some downtime!



Hi I'm Noah and I'm Deputy Head Boy for this year's Head Team! Here's my tip: Challenge yourself! With all this extra free time we get at home you could learn something new or start a new hobby. Whatever you enjoy, just do it!



Hi I'm Nia and I'm Assistant Head Girl. I am currently studying Biology, PE, Business and Welsh Bacc. My advice would be to enjoy school and go with the flow in this current situation!



Hi I am Liliana and I am Assistant Head Girl. I am studying French, Sociology and Business and I am working towards studying International Relations and Languages at university. Any new ideas for the school I am only a 2 metre distance away!



I'm Matthew Greenwood and I'm an Assistant Head Boy. I study Maths, Physics and Biology. I would recommend making the most of free lessons by doing outstanding work, to create more time for other tasks.



Hi! I'm Leonora. I'm Assistant Head Girl this year on the Head Team. I'm doing English, History and Sociology at A Level and I hope to study English at university next year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



Hi I'm Izzy and I'm studying English Lang/Lit, History and French, with hopes of pursuing journalism. "Working hard for something we don't care about is called stress. Working hard for something we love is called passion."



Hi I'm Krista Kavanagh and I have the position of Assistant Head Girl in the Head Team. I am currently studying Sociology, English Literature, History and Welsh Baccalaureate. My advice to all years would be never to be embarrassed or too scared to ask for help in any way, whether it's with work or mentally, because there will always be support whenever you need it. Your teachers will always give you the resources necessary to achieve and our school will always provide you with support if you need it.



My name is Carys and I'm one of the Assistant Head Girls for 2020/21. I'm currently in Year 13 studying Biology, Chemistry, Drama and Welsh Baccalaureate. My top tip for being in Sixth Form is take every opportunity you are given and enjoy it, it goes too quickly.



Hello, my name is Meg McCloy and I'm an Assistant Head Girl. I'm currently studying Maths, Physics and Drama for my A Levels - a strange mix! My advice to any new students would be to get involved in everything that you can, so when the time comes to narrow down subjects, you'll have a good idea of them all! Good luck everyone!

AWARDS EVENING 2020

Many congratulations to the following pupils for being nominated for awards this year. Sadly, the evening itself had to be cancelled at the last minute, but we would like to say a big well done to all the pupils for being nominated; from our new Year 7's to Year 13 leavers!

As is always the case, the event celebrates achievements from the previous academic year.

Pictured are winners of the main awards who are still with us at PCS.

Winners of Cups and Shields for Academic Year 2018-2019

AWARD	WINNER
GCSE PE Academic	Jonathan Munro Chloe Wyatt
Key Stage 3 PE	Luke Roberts Ellie Evans
Snr. Drama Student	Emily James
Jnr. Drama Student	Ellison Roberts
Drama Performance of the Year	Angharad Thomas
Porthcawl Little Theatre	Megan Morris
Snr. Music Student	Millie Fry
Geraint Watkins Memorial Shield for Jnr. Musician	Grace Clear
Gwen Hughes Memorial – Lower School Wind Player	Anousha Cronje
Stuart Gass Memorial Award (Maths)	Conor Farrell-John
Howard Cave Memorial Cup for Art	Nia Eales
Laura Thompson Award for Textiles	Charlotte Coleman
Award for Technology	Mollie Ashton
Elizabeth Sumner Challenge Award	Christian Phillips
100% Attendance Award	Curtis Willmott
Town Twinning	Nicola Gladding
Science Student of the Year	Maja Zeleska
Year 10 Academic	Olivia Geddes
Year 10 Effort	Cerys Keeping
Year 11 Academic	Noah Henderson
Year 11 Effort	Chloe Wyatt
Year 12 Academic	Lik To Chung
Year 12 Effort	Jessica Adams
Year 13 Academic	Charlotte Coleman
Year 13 Effort	George Rossini
Eisteddfod Welsh Senior Chair	Trent Francis





Nominations Year 7 - 9

Year 7 2018-19

	Excellence	Progress	Honours
7JM	Isobel James	David Palmer	Grace Phillips
7AM	Lex Wren-Owens	Sabine Guillerm	Eryn Williams
7OT	Joel Griffiths	Ffion Thomas	Anna-Rose Merchant
7ME	Poppy Newton-Williams	Amelie Gee-Wing	Samuel Richards
7RM	Ellie Powell	Max Lloyd-Cole	Kate O'Leary
7RS	Saoirse Moulton	Gethin Davies	Lewis Morgan
7WS	Ava Davies	Holly Griffiths	Finlay Cannon
7HS	Romy Francombe	Brianne Maund-Daly	Carys Griffiths-Cole

Year 8 2018-19

	Excellence	Progress	Honours
8ES	Libby Geddes	Ella Hunt	Cole Rees
8JS	Efa Morris	Molly Milligan	Roddy Evans/ Isobel Evans
8TS	Seren Cole	Naarayanan "Raj" Rajasubeshan	Grace Phillips
8LT	Isabella Hemington-Gorse	Joe Mortimore	Grace Clear
8TL	Cara Wheatley	Leon Hamilton	Mia Cray
8GD	Ffion Pryce	Ruby Jenkins	Tia Lynch
8TE	Scarlett Osbourne	Emma Brown	Zane Aldridge-McLean

Year 9 2018-19

	Excellence	Progress	Honours
9EH	Bronwyn Jones	Daniel Lewis	Tal Juliff-Jones, Ayla Farnworth
9AS	Sophia Walters	Anwen Braden	Ruby Griffiths
9AL	Hannah Dickson-Jardine	Ethan King	Ewan Hall
9LC	Alina Biju	Yaian Watkins	Rhys Lloyd
9RB	Christian Phillips	Megan Prance	Isabelle Richards-Heir
9KP	Sophia Sleep	Lily Staples	Jacob Green
9OW	Lucy Griffiths	Aaron Peterson	Ellie Evans
9JG	Joseph Dingle,	Maisie Fashan	Elis Jones



Year 7 2019-20

	Honours
7JT	Meryn Bridge
7SW	Noah Williams
7MC	Lucy Bradbury
7LC	Sam Lane
7HD	Ben Harvey
7KP	Jamie O'Keefe
7OW	Abe Matthew-Winch
7JG	Iwan Froley & Tomos O'Leary

AFYM - Abertawe Festival for Young Musicians



On the 10th, 11th and 12th of February me and my brother Jamie competed in the Abertawe Festival for Young Musicians in Swansea. The festival has been running for the past 27 years and we first played there 10 years ago. It aims to support and provide performing opportunities for young people and has allowed us to gain more experience and receive expert feedback. We participated in both competitive and non-competitive classes playing piano and woodwind. We were also able to play two duets and perform in the family music class. After performing the adjudicators gave each player feedback on their pieces in order to help us improve and prepare for our future music exams. We thoroughly enjoy playing there each year and we are very grateful for all the volunteers who allow the festival to run.

Pippa Harrowing

National Music for Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall

When you first pick up an instrument that you have decided to learn, you don't often think about where that instrument could lead you and what you could end up doing with it. If you had asked me, when I first started playing trombone, that I would end up playing in front of about 6,500 people in the Royal Albert Hall in London, I would not have believed that would be the case. Just 8 years later, and there I am – performing in the Music for Youth Proms in a group of just 12, and the crowd loving it.



Getting to play the Royal Albert Hall as a group marks a massive achievement - to get there, we had to compete in a regional competition (South Wales) and then compete in a national competition, competing against the best youth bands from around the UK. This isn't the full story, however. Not only is our success attributed to a year's long work and practice, going through lots of detail, but a love and passion for performing and music which shows very clearly when we are all up on stage – coming from years of practice in the instrument and a lot of effort from not only us, as pupils, but our teachers as well.

Without the music service in Bridgend, none of this would have ever been remotely reachable, the dedication and effort that they put in, from giving up their time (unpaid) after school to run rehearsals, to inspiring us with that passion for music, to allowing many pupils to grow through music.

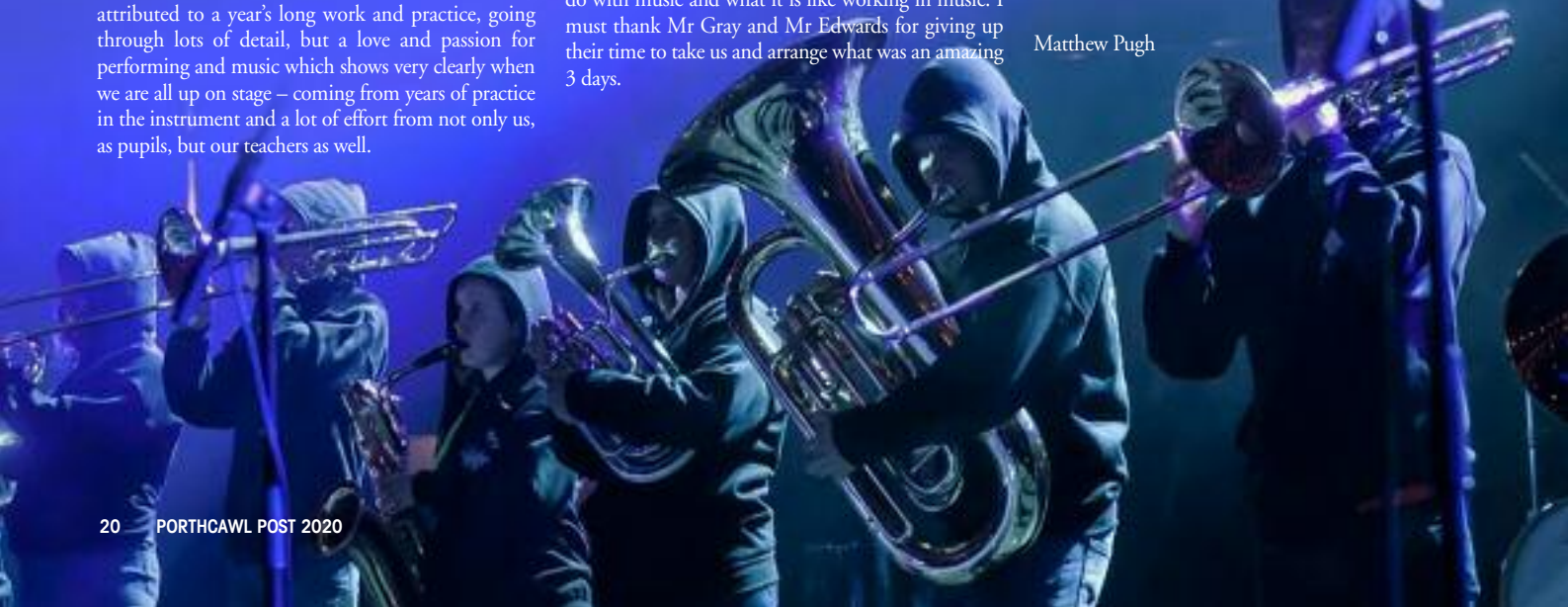
When I first started, I was very shy and had very little confidence in what I could do – I would have been terrified at even the idea of playing to 6,500 people on a stage, with no conductor, no music and only 11 other people. Through music, and all the groups it has allowed me to join, along with all the performances I have done, this has allowed me to grow – I cannot emphasise enough how much I see new players come out of their shell and become much more confident about themselves, as has happened with me. This is the importance of music, even if it is just done as a hobby. Music can lead you to become much more confident within yourself, allow you to grow your personality and give you a group of people with a shared interest to go to which provides a fun space to be yourself.

So all of this led 12 of us from Bridgend to perform in the National Music for Youth Proms in the Royal Albert Hall. This was an amazing experience, and we spent 3 days in London looking at different careers you could do with music, even going to see the Lion King in the West End and going backstage, talking to a horn player that grew up in Bridgend about what you can do with music and what it is like working in music. I must thank Mr Gray and Mr Edwards for giving up their time to take us and arrange what was an amazing 3 days.



From what I have written, it would seem that the journey ends here - however, it does not. After only 8 years, I have ended up in the Royal Albert Hall and, even though I do not plan to pursue a career in music, I will keep playing the trombone as it has provided me with many, many great experiences that I would never have had without it. I am sure that, in the future, I will play in many more bands and have many more of these amazing experiences.

Matthew Pugh



Music Competitions Update

Traditionally, many PCS pupils regularly take part in competitions and display their impressive level of talent within the wider community. Here is a summary of those from this year before Covid-19 hit, and we look forward to a time when we will be able to participate in and enjoy these events again.

The High Sheriff's Musical Extravaganza

Grace Clear and Elys Davies took part in this new and prolific event held at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama on Sunday 16th February 2020. Pupils from Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff counties were involved and competed against each other within instrumental, vocal and choir categories for ages 11-13, 14-17 and 18-24. Judges for the event included Go Compare's Wynne Evans and famous Welsh Soprano Rebecca Evans.



Grace Clear was successful in the heats and was selected to compete in the Young Instrumental Competition giving a tremendous performance on violin representing the 11-13 category.

Elys Davies performed in the Young Vocalist Competition, representing the 14-17 category. Elys was awarded the

Overall Vocalist Prize across all age categories with a unanimous decision from the judges!

We were so thrilled to hear of this well-deserved success for both pupils who are extremely dedicated to Performing Arts in PCS. We are so proud of you both! Da iawn!



Rotary Young Musician

The following pupils took part this year, and gave wonderful performances at All Saint's Church, Porthcawl:

Olivia Pownall (Year 13) Olivia Geddes (Year 11) Trent Francis (Year 11)



Margam Abbey Music Foundation Young Musician 2020

The following pupils took part in the preliminary round of the Margam Abbey Music Foundation competition in March:

Olivia Pownall (Year 13)

Jamie Harrowing (Year 13)

Olivia Geddes (Year 11)

Trent Francis (Year 11)

Pippa Harrowing (Year 11)

Olivia Pownall and Trent Francis were selected to go on to perform in the final on Thursday 12th March. They both gave outstanding performances and were awarded pleasing cash prizes for being runners up! Congratulations to you both, and thank you to Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Hnyda for accompanying them.

Well done to all pupils who have competed, we are so proud of you all.

For any further information, please ask any of the Music department teachers or peripatetic teachers and check the noticeboard outside P21 for future opportunities.

The Music Department



Welcome to my world...

So sang Jim Reeves back in 1963, and our year 7 pupils made the same invitation during the Spring term. Unlike the silver tongued crooner, our children invited us to consider what they think about their world and their place in it.

As part of the exciting New Curriculum for Wales, every pupil has been actively involved in a project called "Our World" that spans each of the subjects in the curriculum. Every lesson was designed by our staff with the needs and interests of our pupils in mind. For a whole term, they explored where they see themselves locally, nationally and even globally. They have imagined creating new world in space, investigated where our language comes from, how the Olympic spirit runs through us and a host of other fresh and invigorating challenges bespoke to their learning needs.

Staff have really enjoyed the freedom of creating their own curriculum and have seen the levels of engagement and enthusiasm increase, and pupils have given a massive collective 'thumbs up' to the project and can't wait for similar developments to enrich and enervise their time in Porthcawl Comprehensive as the new approaches to education in Wales emerge.

Mr Thomas Director of Studies

Our World Visit

As part of the Humanities Faculty Year 7 project on "Our World", we were lucky enough to have a visit from Robert Francis-Davies, the Swansea City Council's Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration and Tourism. He outlined the vision of the future of Swansea and the current plans to regenerate the city. From the new Arena being built, a zip wire from the top of Kilvey Hill, vertical gardens and the proposed tidal lagoon. Pupils found the talk really useful giving them ideas about their projects on the future of Wales.

Mrs Coleman



WJEC Innovation Success Leads to National Final for Chloe



Having been a keen member of Rest Bay Lifeguards since a young age, I decided to design a land-based training aid for the event of surf ski-paddling, as my main GCSE Design and Technology project.

Ski-paddling is much like canoeing, demanding both stamina and arm strength. With these aspects in mind, I developed a prototype that used a magnetic system to replicate water resistance, this is the defining aspect of the product, making it perfectly suited to develop an athlete's general strength and technique on a surf ski.

Following the completion of my GCSE project, my product was nominated for a WJEC National Innovation Award. My product was displayed in two exhibitions around Wales and after attending an award ceremony in November last year, I was awarded 2nd place in my age category. During the exhibitions for this award my project was selected as one of five finalists from Wales to compete at the NEC in the 2020 Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair, the largest celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) for young people in the UK. This event is a celebration of innovation and talent and I am honoured to have been selected and had the opportunity to represent Porthcawl Comprehensive School in Birmingham.

Chloe Wyatt

Arkwright Engineering Scholarship Success for Lucy



The interview itself would have lasted around 15-20 mins max, where I'd use the time to express my project with physical evidence and a well prepared off-script overview of the project, whilst having the examiners get to know me. This is a lot to take in, I know, but I can still remember going to Debz (Careers Adviser) once a week to ask for advice on the future, where to look, how to look and present myself the best I can etc. I spent months preparing and 2-3 weeks before the exam I had an email, upsettingly, when I was going through the final notes for the interview, cancelling the day.

During the Lockdown period I had to provide details of what I will go into for A Level courses, and give a 200-word account of any extra achievements to add to my application form. This was all they had to go by and there were so many other people; the prolonged wait didn't help either. They extended the time to announce the final results because one of the sponsors pulled their funding, (British Airways), which meant a lower number of places and less of a chance of being accepted.

I was meant to attend the interview which would have been for the entire day at Bath University, mostly attending lectures, working with some of the other applicants who were in the same boat as me, (I would have no idea who they were), and we would have to participate in STEM activities and advanced technological issues, yet, we'd have to politely compete to express leadership skills. It would have been the entire day of the programme watching and analysing us to see who was most suitable, it would have been nerve racking to say the least!

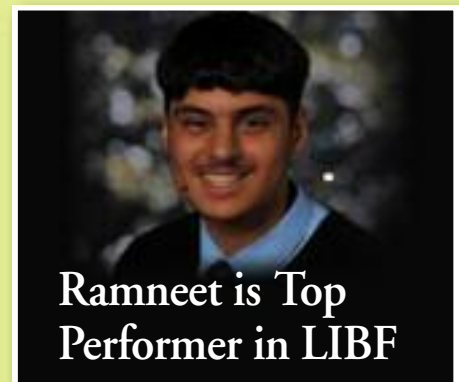
The school will be provided with £400 (£200 a year-split up) and I will receive £600 in total over the two years; additionally, I will receive a personal mentor, either from my Sponsor (The Royal Commission for the Great Exhibition of 1851) or from Arkwright itself. The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 is a charitable organisation that uses the investment income from the profit left from the Great Exhibition



of 1851 to support education and research in Science and Engineering for the benefit of industry. Such was the success of the Great Exhibition that in 2014 the Commission's investments were still worth £96 million. Its President is Princess Anne.

I'm really happy, still shocked but quite excited. There's a lot more pressure but no doubt this'll all pay off at some point.

Lucy Roach Year 12



Max Wins Volunteer Award



Nominated by at teachers at PCS during Year 13, Max Williams was absolutely blown away to hear that he had won a Bridge FM Radio Young Volunteer Award which recognised his dedication to both his in-school and out-of-school commitments. These have included:

- Political education work, working to improve young people's understanding of politics
- Training as an Anti-Bullying Ambassador, aiming to raise awareness of identifying and preventing bullying
- Working with community theatre and the school to help run the technical aspects of performances - including lighting and sound design and deputy stage managing
- Volunteering with First Porthcawl Beavers and Cubs for 6 years, helping to encourage young children to work together and develop their skills
- His work as Chair of the School Council, Bridgend Youth Council, and his local political party - where he was elected as a Youth Officer for the Bridgend constituency

His Drama teacher Mrs Poole and his Form Tutor Mrs Harris both noticed the extra-curricular activities and commitments which Max participates in and felt that he deserved recognition for choosing to go the extra mile to help others, while still managing to balance it with his schoolwork, achieving high grades. Congratulations Max!

"I would like to congratulate Ramneet Chaudry on achieving outstanding results in our Level 3 Diploma in Financial Studies qualification. He was a top performer in the qualification during the academic year 2019/20 and we are awarding this fantastic achievement with a £500 scholarship towards a degree course with The London Institute of Banking and Finance. Very well done Ramneet! This is a wonderful achievement and you and your teaching team should be very proud of yourselves."

Debi Howell

Financial Capability Relationship Manager for Wales and West England

Mrs James, Head of Humanities at PCS added that, "The Faculty are really pleased with his performance. Ramneet's hard work for LIBF and Business Studies paid off and we wish him every success for the future."



I'm in Year 13 and I attended the virtual Jesus College, Oxford Summer School this August. It was run by Dr Matt Williams, a Politics Fellow at Jesus College, in partnership with the Seren Network. Applying for a place on the Summer School was one of the best decisions I ever made. Not only did they give tips on how to write a "killer" personal statement, but I had the opportunity to experience the tutorial teaching method which is unique to Oxford and Cambridge. I attended lectures on Astrobiology, Classics and even Medicine! As a Humanities and Arts student I was completely out of my comfort zone for some lectures, but I still loved every minute of it. I also had the opportunity to chat with Oxford students about life at Oxford and what their university application process was like. Dr Matt Williams even guided a virtual tour of all of the Russell Group Universities which was incredibly helpful considering all open days had to be called off this year. Everyone was lovely, encouraging and welcoming. All my questions were answered and all my worries about applying to university put to rest. I strongly recommend that anyone considering applying to the Summer School should do it! It was an experience I will treasure forever and I am so grateful to everyone who was involved in running the programme.

Erin Thomas-Parker

Participating in the Cardiff Medicine Summer School provided me with an insight into studying Medicine and the case-based learning style used in various universities. Initially, I was definitely concerned about how the Summer School would run online, but I actually feel that the remote platform was advantageous to the course as I was able to access material in my own time. The course included a variety of discussions from admissions tutors such as preparation for the MMI (interviews), where participants were able to attempt questions and receive feedback from an official interviewer at the university. Undoubtedly, I feel that my participation in this programme further aided me in understanding what I want from a university but also what I can do to improve my application. Similarly, my undertaking of the Cambridge applicant programme has certainly allowed me to understand what Cambridge looks for in a medical student but also what to expect if I were to study there. Particularly, the programme has offered me support for my application to university through various webinars (short talks) and activities that have allowed me to further understand the admissions process. The combination of these programmes and a great variety of university open days has enabled me to come to a decision about what is important to me when deciding where I will want to study for the next few years of my education.

Lucia Brown



VIRTUAL SUMMER SCHOOL SUCCESS



In August, I participated in the Jesus College Summer School by Oxford University where we studied the theme of intelligence. Through lectures, seminars and tutorials we analysed the different types of intelligence such as cognitive and naturalistic. We were very lucky to get lectures from professors who are the world leaders in their respective fields, such as Astronomy and Psychology. Here, we were able to question these experts and listen to their revolutionary breakthroughs which can impact day to day life. Separated into groups based on our academic interests, we were able to have discussions with professors of those subjects. As an aspiring medic, I spoke about a range of medical ethical issues which contribute to the attributes that doctors need, as well as the guidelines that will be set by the relevant medical authorities. I found that this was an experience that I thoroughly enjoyed and will never forget.

Jon Munro

During the Summer, I participated in the University of Bath's Summer School and I undertook the course in Biosciences. During this programme I learnt about cancer therapies and used this knowledge to conduct a research project into a potential cancer treatment. The experience supplied me with skills that will be beneficial in the future and provided me with a task to keep me preoccupied during lockdown.

Lily Corbett

Through the Seren Network, I achieved a place on the Harvard Pre-College Summer Programme in the US, but this was made online due to COVID, and I therefore took part in an Oxford University International Online Summer School instead. On this Summer School, I took part in the Humanities and Social Sciences capstone, and produced my own updated version of the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen. I was also asked to speak to some representatives of the Welsh Government about policy and about the Summer School itself which was an amazing opportunity to understand policy making and meet (virtually) people who make decisions that affect us every day. The Summer School featured lectures and seminars ranging from intersectional feminism to the ethics of language with Oxford fellows as well as students studying in Yale's Singapore campus, and it was a rewarding and challenging experience to keep up my studies over lockdown!

Rachel Appleton



National Urdd Gala Finals 2020

Early in the year, swimmers Abigail Davies, Tegan Davies, Eve Hickman and Sofia Chayka competed in the National Urdd Gala Finals 2020 Championships in Cardiff International Swimming Pool. They became Welsh Champions winning two gold's in the Freestyle and Medley relay.

We are very proud of them representing our school in a national level.



FootGolf Tournament (Staff)

A number of staff entered the TeeRex FootGolf tournament in Cardiff during lockdown. It was a competitive introduction to FootGolf for beginners and to allow players to see if they would be interested in joining the new South Wales and West Country Club League which is part of the National Footgolf League (NFCL).

In order to comply with the Covid-19 awareness players had no play in groups of no more than 4 and keep the social distance 2m rule on the course, not to touch the flags and all rented balls were sanitised before and after use.

It was the best of 18 holes. It was a really fun day out and good to try out a new sport. At the end of the day, the players were presented with trophies for the winners and we had a winner from Porthcawl Comprehensive.

Congratulations must go to Mr. Blanche who won the over 50's category!

Now I know what you are thinking, and it is hard to believe as Mr. Blanche looks so young.

To finish on a positive message, it wasn't that long ago that Mr. Blanche had broken his leg. He had months of physio and made a full recovery. If you think of our school motto, 'Perseverance Creates Success', this is a real life example that if you keep working at something you can be successful. So until we meet again and play in a future tournament, Mr. Blanche is the over 50's South Wales and West FootGolf Champion!

Mr Pucella

Basketball



We are hoping that when things settle down with Covid-19 that we will enjoy sport again at school. Congratulations to last year's Year 10 basketball team. They comprehensively won through the Bridgend/Port Talbot/Neath group stages of the National Schools Basketball tournament. They then progressed onto the South Wales finals where they narrowly missed out on a place in the Welsh Finals winning two out of their three games.

Mr Stradling

ICT London Trip - Review



On day 1 we went to the National Computing Museum where we looked at the German ENIGMA machine used for communication during World War 2. Shortly afterwards we got distracted by retro gaming computers and obviously went and had a go at them. Mr. Pucella showed us his first ever computer which was a Sinclair ZX81 - a bit different to my HP Chrome Book. We then went into Bletchley Park and it was well worth it, as well as seeing ENIGMA machines we also had a look at the BOMBE replica. We also visited all of the WW2 offices there was the gift shop to go to. Alan Turing was Britain's top Mathematician and he and his team developed the Bombe machine that cracked the code that the Enigma machine was using. This helped Britain understand what the Germans were saying, so it was a significant turning point during the war.

The Enigma Machine

The Enigma machine was meant to make top-secret German military communications secure. It was hugely difficult for anyone listening in to turn the message into readable text. Whenever a letter is typed into the machine, an electric signal passes through the plugboard at the front, through rotors behind the keyboard, and back through the plugboard to light up a different letter. There are billions of different possible settings. Guessing them or working them out was practically impossible. We went straight on to Byron Burgers in central London and after that we checked into our hotel and organised ourselves before going to bed.

The next morning we went to the London Eye and the views were fantastic, when we got back to the ground

we went straight onto the tourist boat to take pictures on the Thames cruise. When we finally got back onto the bus, we went off to the Science Museum where there was a "Top Secret" coding exhibition and the rest of it, space, engineering, the café and the gift shop. When we were back on the bus, we went for a quick pit stop and photo opportunity at Buckingham Palace. The flag was up so the Queen was in but perhaps it was a bit cold for her to come on the balcony for a photo! We then went to Planet Hollywood where there was so much memorabilia and so many delicious burgers. Then we went back to the hotel for the night. On our final morning we checked out of the hotel and went to the National British Museum for a couple of hours and it was extraordinary with the amount of ancient items from each country, Japan was my favourite section and then of course the Pizzeria.

Microsoft Flagship Store

Once our time was up, we went to the notoriously busy Oxford Circus where we went to the Microsoft flagship store. Inside we played on some of the computers for a while then we went into a room to do some coding with the Microsoft staff.

McLaren Simulator

The Microsoft store also had a £1.6 million McLaren car with the engine removed and a computer put inside and was setup as a simulator. Sadly, you had to be over 16 to have a go at driving the car. Once we had done our coding we all felt pretty happy with ourselves then the person who was with us came back in to give us freebies, including a wristband and a

portable charger. On the bus heading out of London, we passed a football Stadium, the pub where the Beatles first performed and the road where the Queen was born.

It was one of the best times I have ever had in England, and my first time in London, it was fantastic!
Noah Griffiths 8OW

I enjoyed the London trip! I especially enjoyed going to the Science Museum, I found it very interesting. I also really enjoyed going to Bletchley Park because it was interesting looking at all of the old computers and how they evolved over the years. The food was amazing! We went to Byron Burger and Planet Hollywood. The views from the top of the London Eye were fantastic; we did many tiktok dances up there and even managed to include Mr. Pucella in one of them. I could not sleep one night and saw some interesting views when I looked out of my window at 3am. One of the most interesting things I saw was in the Science Museum where there was a demonstration of hacking tweets on twitter.

Artist Christopher Blake has programmed this to search Twitter for tweets containing emotive phrases such as 'argh', 'meh', 'grrrr', 'oooo', 'ewwww' and 'hmp'. These are then printed in the museum in real time. It was amazing to watch the printouts of the tweets mount up. The tangled piles serve as a reminder of how much personal information we give away online, often without even realising it.

How might this 'intelligence' be used by digital technology companies with the computing power to store and process it?

Lucia Gates 8OW



Auschwitz and Oświęcim Trip

February 2020

On Thursday 13th February two Year 12 students: Amelia Jones and Rachel Appleton went on a trip as a part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project, they were chosen to represent Porthcawl Comprehensive and experience the chilling remnants of the Jewish death camp. This was an indescribable experience that they are both very grateful to have had, thanks to the Humanities department.

We entered Auschwitz I under the famous 'Arbeit Macht Frei' sign and immediately the mood changed. The first camp was museum based, this gave you a real feel of what the camp would have been like when it was still in use. This was particularly powerful because we could see pictures of the Jews' fate being determined by the Nazis and then walk outside the building and see the exact place it happened, it was completely surreal. The museum experience was also when we got to see the belongings of all the individuals that had died there exactly 75 years ago. Going into this experience I had expected to feel all different emotions but I cannot describe how I felt when I saw millions of shoes piled to the roof surrounding our group. That was a standout image from the day. However, something I did not have any prior knowledge about had a larger impact, towards the end of our tour the tour guide pointed out a house that was a few metres from the camp. We were then told that this house belonged to Rudolph Höss, who was the longest serving commandant of the camp. This residence had housed his family during the war, in letters Höss' wife had described the house as 'paradise' and described her children playing in the pool. I could not believe that one family's paradise could be so close to hell on earth for the Jewish Community. The complete ignorance of the Nazis really affected me as I learnt that these 'monsters' were human too, so much so that they did not want to look their victims in the eye and instead introduced gas chambers. Around 10% of the Nazis

were actually brought to justice and tried to destroy the evidence, labelling the mass murder as 'mercy killing'. After this experience I still do not understand how these individuals can know what they are doing is completely wrong yet still commit these evil acts against an innocent community.

After a short bus drive we arrived at Oświęcim. At one point, Oświęcim was a town ripe with Jewish culture, with seven thousand of its twelve thousand population of Jewish heritage. However, after the war, the Jewish population of this quaint town was virtually wiped out. Our tour guide described the town dynamic to our group. According to him, the relations between the Christians and the Jews in the town were integrated and tolerant. This was particularly enlightening when we were shown pictures of the Oświęcim deportation to the Ghetto, where these supportive neighbours stood by and watched. This town would soon be renamed 'Auschwitz' and one of the most infamous locations in Europe, a sight of so much death, would be built just five minutes away from what was once a



thriving community.

As we drove towards Auschwitz-Birkenau, also known as Auschwitz II, a frightful sight stood before us. The famous Watchtower was almost impossible to look away from, and this intensified any emotions we had already felt in Auschwitz I. As the weather grew colder, Wales seemed farther and farther away. 1.3 million people died in Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, and that was a fact that was difficult to swallow when you're stood where they had once stood. Firstly, we were able to climb the Watchtower, and we could see what the Nazi officials would have seen. This showed the absolutely incredible scale of the camp. It seemed to go on for miles. Next, our group was taken into one of the barracks where up to 1,000 people would be forced to live, sleep, wash, and stay for hours on end. The bunks we saw would surely not be large enough for up to five people, yet that was the experience that Auschwitz victims suffered. However, 70% of Auschwitz victims never experienced these conditions as they were sent straight to the gas chambers.

Our group then progressed to the gas chambers, or what were once gas chambers. As the Red Army approached, the Nazis blew up their gas chambers. The gas chambers you see in Auschwitz-Birkenau are completely untouched from what the Soviet Army saw on that day of liberation. This, once again, added a sense of reality to the horrors of the Holocaust - what we were looking at was a piece of history that no one should forget.

There was a ceremony at the end of the day at the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial, which given the emotional build up as well as the freezing weather, was very beautiful. Auschwitz-Birkenau solidified the reality of the Holocaust for us.

Amelia Jones & Rachel Appleton - Year 12



Early on the Monday morning of February half term, 29 of us pupils and 3 staff boarded our coach to Heathrow for the trip of a lifetime to Iceland. Everything went smoothly and we boarded and took off on time to Reykjavik.

On landing our first port of call was the Blue Lagoon for a dip in very warm waters with the snow around us and a blue sky above. Very refreshing and invigorating! After a quick shower and dress we set off with Hero our coach driver to the City Hi Hostel where we were staying for the week - pizzas awaiting and bed.



An early morning call on Tuesday got us up and out for our excursion to the south coast. First stop - a glacier walk. After being kitted out with a harness, crash helmet, crampons and a pick axe we set off to the ice field that feeds the glacier. We trekked up onto the glacier single file and aside the crevasses. Hard work but amazing - the views - just Wow! It didn't stop there though, we then saw spectacular waterfalls, black sands and basalt tubes and beware...the sneaker waves!



Exhausted but excited we set off early again on Wednesday. This time we went to the Thingvellir National Park - for you geographers out there, this is where the Rift Valley can be seen on the Mid - Atlantic Ridge. Mrs. Mackey was in her element standing on the North American plate and looking at the Eurasian plate across the rift, then doing the same in reverse. Off we went then to the geysers and the wonderful Gullfoss Waterfall.

Snow was in abundance and the obligatory snowball fight was underway - boys v Liv. The weather closed in quickly and we had to get back to Reykjavik as roads were being closed and our guide was getting nervous. She didn't want us to get stranded as many tourists were, so we had a little shop in the main street before dinner and a quiz.

Thursday was another early start - this time to the lava tube. Again we were kitted out in crash helmets and extra grips for our shoes and we descended into the tube. Another Wow! This country is full of amazing sites and contrasts. Unfortunately, (but quietly I think we were all relieved as the sea was very choppy), whale watching was cancelled. We'll just have to come back - perhaps in the spring or summer and have another go. Instead we shopped - if you could afford their prices, and ate a hearty lunch in Reykjavik before a long trek, hindered by flying snow balls, back to the hostel for a warm shower, sleep and chill. The evening culminated in a public bus ride to town and our booking in the Hard Rock Café - a great meal to end a thoroughly enjoyable week in Iceland. But, it got better! Some of us were disturbed at half 11 by banging on our doors and screams of 'get out' and 'bring your cameras' - the Northern Lights in all their glory were dancing about in the sky above us! That really did polish off a great week in Iceland.

Friday morning - yay! We had a lie in till 8am! A quick guided tour and then back to the airport to fly home - on time, good flight with Icelandair again.

Thanks to everyone - staff and pupils - this was a truly memorable trip.

Geography Trip to Iceland

February 2020



Visit from Holocaust Survivor, Dr Martin Stern

We were privileged recently to welcome Dr. Martin Stern who came in to share his experiences as a survivor of the Holocaust. Dr. Stern, who was only five years old when he was taken from his school in Holland and imprisoned, spoke to Year 7 pupils as part of the 'Our World' project for the curriculum for Wales. Pupils were absolutely captivated by his whole presentation, and particularly his account of what happened to the rest of his family, and how he survived two concentration camps.

Dr. Stern also spoke with Sixth Formers who gained an incredible ethical insight from listening to his experiences. We are so grateful that our pupils have been awarded this rare opportunity, and thank Dr Stern very much for his visit.

'It's something you need to hear!' Evie Richards 7KP

'Listening to his amazing story touched all of our hearts. It was inspirational and made us all realise how lucky we are!' Grace Taylor 7KP

'I found the talk very interesting and moving. I

found it sad as it was a true story displaying the cruelty of humans.' Tom Powis 7KP

'I thought his life story was very touching and inspirational. We are so lucky today.' Holly Wiseman 7KP

'I found the story quite fascinating and was amazed how he kept fighting for his life.' Toby Fox Tatum 7KP

'It was amazing to hear his story and to see how fortunate we are.' Gwen Williams 7KP

'I found the talk interesting and I think he explained it really well.' Dylan Evans 7KP

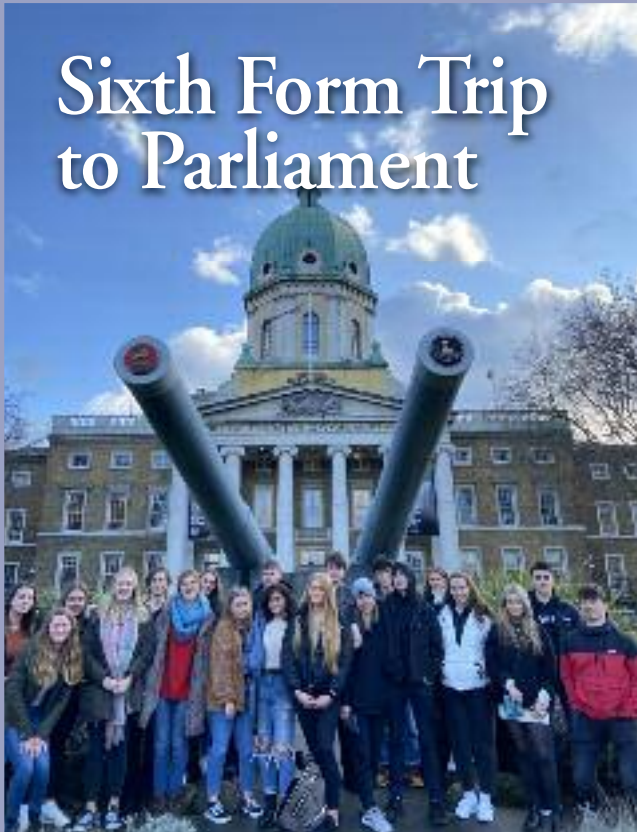
'I found the talk interesting because he experienced it first-hand.' Dewi Powis 7KP

'It was very touching and made me sad but I'm glad he survived.' Elliott Frazer Blanks 7KP

'I found the Holocaust survivor very interesting and enjoyable, but very sad at the same time because we are very lucky that we don't have to go through what he did.' Molly Gould 7KP



Sixth Form Trip to Parliament



On Monday 17th February, the History Department, supported by Mr Hutchison and Mrs Ruck (our former PGCE Student) accompanied Sixth Form Students on our annual visit to Parliament. The tour, organised by former MP Madeleine Moon, was another successful visit and has certainly developed a further understanding about the history and traditions that lie at the heart of British politics! There is always something more to learn about the processes of Parliament and it was exciting to be guided again through the Palace of Westminster.

The chambers are so much smaller than they appear on television, something our guide confirmed, by informing us that there are 650 MPs, but not all of them can have a seat in the House of Commons. There is only room for 427, so the rest must stand. In the House of Lords, there are around 800 members but only 400 seats. So half have to stand... not that every member turns up to every debate of course!

After the visit, we continued our journey to the Imperial War Museum. The museum is a place to experience the continuing influence of war on the world – an experience that is as compelling and thought-provoking as it is unforgettable. A highlight was the Holocaust exhibition, which told the story of the Nazi persecution of the Jews and other groups before and during the Second World War.

It was a real pleasure to organise this trip for our Sixth Form Students and I hope that it will be an experience that they will never forget. Thank you also to Mrs Hammerton, Mr Shutt, Mr Hutchison and Mrs Ruck for all their help and support on the day.

News from the Primaries

Newton Primary

We all looked forward to returning to school and starting our final year in Newton Primary. It was so nice to meet up with our friends and teachers again. School life changed a little but we continued to plan our own learning. The term started with a topic all about happiness. We realised how unique we all were and how amazingly well we dealt with the challenges we faced over the past few months.

This term our topic was Icons. We planned a variety of activities including Icon Top Trumps, Diet Plans for our sporting heroes and even a Newton's Carpool Karaoke! We wrote and published our own graphic novel on a boy's ability to use his 'day-dreams' to inspire others. A picture book allowed us to write a story where our imagination could take us anywhere. Our classroom became the House of Commons and taking into consideration the needs of our community at this time, we held a debate on how to allocate a given budget. The mental health of the community and the reduced income of the local charities were a priority alongside the issue raised by Marcus Rashford for the provision of school meals during holiday time.

Stay safe everyone,

Year 6 Newton Primary School.

Nottage Primary



This new academic year has begun like no other! The global pandemic has brought us well into the 21st century and a new digital 'normal'. Nottage Primary staff and families, like so many, have embraced the new way to work and we all came back in September with a huge smile, albeit from a safe distance. We are no longer shy at the terms 'risk assessment', 'PPE', 'face coverings', 'social distance' and 'Google Classroom', these are the way to go along with our 'bubbles'!

The Nottage family wellbeing has been at the heart of our work this term and will continue to be a priority for some time to come yet, and our PTA are in the process of bringing us all together with a 'Pathway of Positivity' where families and staff can paint a pebble with a positive message or picture which will be laid into a pathway for all the community to see and take comfort. To add a sprinkle of fun and normality, within our bubbles, Friday 23rd October saw us come to school in odd socks and crazy hair.



Porthcawl Primary

I can't begin to tell you how much we have enjoyed our first half term back. Although certain routines have changed because of the pandemic, the important things have remained the same. Being back together with all our school friends feels extra special and we have learnt to appreciate the simple things in life such as playing, laughing and learning together!

For the last two months, in addition to English and Maths, we have focussed heavily on Health and Wellbeing - particularly emotional literacy and mental health. Now more than ever it is important that everyone recognises their own self-worth and capabilities. We encourage everyone, whatever their age, to be aspirational, resilient and to break goals down into small steps so that we can all enjoy success. In coming back together again, it has been important to further nurture the relationship skills of negotiation, communication and friendship because positive relationships underpin wellbeing. We want everyone here to flourish so that we all feel happy and fulfilled. Happy children make highly effective learners!

I hope you enjoy the photos of our younger children showing us how to work together and have fun during their topic 'Our Wonderful World'.

Stay safe everyone.

Jo Rowley (Headteacher)



West Park Primary



Wow.....what a busy start to our Autumn term at West Park Primary! Our theme this term is Brilliant Books and we began our topic by having an exciting immersion day where we all dressed up as our favourite book character. We all really enjoyed the experience and developed our speaking and listening skills as well as working in teams.

We have developed our journalist writing skills by writing a newspaper report about the wonderful story 'Cogheart'. It is about a girl called Lily whose life is in mortal peril. Her father is missing and now silver-eyed men stalk her through the shadows. Martha said, 'It was a really exciting book and you didn't know where it would go next'. Emily reported that, 'I thought the story was really interesting because there were so many twists and the main characters had to escape lots of dangerous places and people'.

In a different way, our transition to the comprehensive school has already started for us in West Park. We met Mrs Sloggett, through a virtual Google classroom meeting, at the beginning of term and she gave homework diaries to us all. These have been a great help to make sure we are going to be organised in Year 6.

Mr Tunnadine and Mr Jones – Year 6 Teachers

Pupil Achievements 2020

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Euan Sainsbury Selected for Welsh Schools' Team for Trampolineing	Year 9
Oliver Gardiner Represented Bridgend Schools Football U16 Team in the Welsh Schools' Final in January 2020	Year 12
Sofia Chayka, Eve Hickman, Abigail Davies & Tegan Davies Swimming – Urdd Gala Finals Cardiff International Pool - won 2 Golds in the Medley and Freestyle Relay	Years 10 & 11
Lewys Benjamin Football for Wales	Year 9
Amber Hemsley Welsh Gymnastics team - competed in Florida in the Presidential Classic Competition at the ESPN Centre – February 2020	Year 8
Jacob Barnett & Sofia Chayka Represented the City of Cardiff Swimming Club at training camp in Lanzarote February 2020	Year 10
Gwen Williams, Tiana Woodward, Molly Tweedy, Ruby Harvey & Lucy Bradbury Selected for the Bridgend Netball Hub U13's	Year 8
Jess Orum & Isobel Evans Selected for the Bridgend Netball Hub U15's	Year 10
Abigail Davies 5th place in Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships – Brecon – qualifying to compete for Wales	Year 11
Lucy Roach Awarded Arkwright Engineering Scholarship	Year 12
Rohan Johns & Rachel Appleton Achieved places at the Harvard Summer School Programme	Year 13
Saul Williams Selected to attend Air Experience Flying Squadron at RAF St Athan February 2020	Year 11
Chloe Wyatt Finalist at Big Bang UK Young Scientist and Engineering Fair at the NEC representing Wales	Year 13
Ramneet Chaudry Awarded Scholarship by the London Institute of Banking and Finance due to excellent Level 3 Diploma in Financial Studies	Year 13 Leaver

Music Exams

Huge congratulations to all our musicians at Porthcawl Comprehensive School that have sat Music exams over the past term! Well done for showing excellent dedication to practising and preparing for these examinations on top of your normal lessons and extracurricular activities. Remember to update your music teacher on any success that you achieve or see Mrs Giles so that she can update her records and publish your achievement in the next Porthcawl Post! Diolch, Mrs Giles

Name	Instrument	Grade
Samuel Richards Year 9	Violin	Grade 4 Merit
Yaian Watkins Year 11	Piano	Grade 1 Distinction
Rhiannon Watkins Year 10	Piano	Grade 3 Merit
Shaumiya Sasiruban Year 11	Violin	Grade 3 Pass
Sneha Sunil Year 11	Violin	Grade 4 Pass
Nicola Hughes Year 13 leaver	Violin	Grade 8 Pass
Trent Francis Year 12	Violin	Grade 8 Distinction
Ben Pownall Year 11	Clarinet	Grade 6 Merit
Imogen Hopkin Year 11	Saxophone	Grade 1 Pass
Ava Davies Year 9	Clarinet	Grade 2 Merit
Ffion Thomas Year 9	Clarinet	Grade 2 Distinction
Angelica Griffiths Year 9	Flute	Grade 1 Merit
Isaak Cronje Year 13	Bassoon	Grade 5 Merit
Molly Gilbert Year 12	Flute	Grade 3 Merit
Libby Geddes Year 10	Alto Saxophone	Grade 3 Distinction
Jemima Duffon Year 8	Flute	Grade 2 Merit
Dylan Jones Year 8	Clarinet	Grade 1 Merit
Isabella Hemmington-Gorse Year 10	Clarinet	Grade 3 Pass

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

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