





WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE PORTHCAWL POST FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2018-2019





Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter

# **Headteacher's Address**

As I welcome you to this, the first Porthcawl Post of 2018-19, there can only be one headline - our fantastic, record-breaking results!! Without getting overly statistical, I would like to summarise the performances in the tables below.

### GCSE Results 2018

- All students achieved 5 or more A\* - G grades (Level 1)
- 75% students achieved 5 or more A\* - C including English and Maths (Level 2 +)
- The core subjects of English, Maths and Science returned the best results in Bridgend
- A\* C pass rates: English 89.2%, Maths 77.6%, Science 82.3%
- Whole School A\*-C pass rate 80.3%
- A\*/A pass rate was 35.8%
- These results compare very favourably with some of the top performances in Wales.

### A Level Performance 2018

- One third of all results were A\*/A grade (33%)
- More than 4 out of 5 were C grade or better (82%)
- 100% achieved two or more passes at A Level
- 38% of pupils secured a place at a Russell Group University
- 102 students at A Level sat 306 qualifications

These are the best results our school has ever had, and are the best in the Bridgend area!

Once again, this outstanding performance is the result of the staff and students, supported by their families all working together. Students at GCSE and A Level have had their resilience and endeavour justly rewarded.

As the Headteacher, I must pay tribute to our teachers who worked tirelessly for our students. We must remember lunchtime, after school, weekend

and holiday sessions run by our teachers - is there a better measure of their commitment to our young people? Thanks also to our supportive parents, who have done all they could to encourage and support the students in the most challenging of times. The final thanks must go to the students. These are their results, they worked, they achieved and they deserve their success.

I am delighted to report that the results at Key Stage 3 (Year 9) were also very strong, with 98.5% at Level 5+, so all looks good for the future!

Andrew Slade



### Mrs Laura Thompson

As we embark upon 2018-19, there has been a dark cloud of sadness over our school. Mrs Laura Thompson, Head of Technology, sadly died on Sunday 23rd September. Laura had steadfastly and courageously battled her illness, but finally succumbed. She began her career at our school in September 1995 and had completed 23 years of service here. Laura was originally a teacher of Textiles before being appointed as Head of Faculty for Technology.

Laura had a passion for her subject and many of our young people were the better for having met and been taught by her. She was incredibly enthusiastic and it was contagious to those around her, many students had their life chances improved by being taught by her. Laura was the consummate professional who put our learners first, she always gave willingly of her time

to ensure each and every student reached their potential. Those of us fortunate to have known Laura will remember her ready smile, kind words and great sense of humour.

For me, the abiding memory of Laura will be her massive contribution to the school shows. As we all remember, the shows are usually spectacular, largely due to the costumes having been designed and made by Laura. Laura spent hundreds of hours in the designing and making of show costumes, and this well illustrates her whole-hearted commitment to our school. The school is a poorer place without Laura and she will be fondly remembered by the community that is Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Andrew Slade ~ Headteacher



### House Keeping

### **FOOD BANK**

We have now launched our food bank collections. There is a trolley in reception for donations of food/toiletries or money. Items that we are looking for include:

Toiletries and toilet rolls, tea/coffee. Tinned meat – such as ham or corn beef, tinned fish – such as tuna, peanut butter/jam, UHT milk and orange juice, soup, rice/pasta, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tins of rice pudding and custard. A group of pupils from the Health and Wellbeing Committee will be delivering our donations each half term.

### **COMMITTEES**

As mentioned above we have a Health and Wellbeing Committee again this year and so far they have been very busy writing policies, planning assemblies and linking in with the school Gardening Club. There is also an Online Safety Committee and an Eco Committee. If you are interested in joining any of these then please see Mrs Christopher for Online Safety, Mrs Sloggett for Eco and Mrs Hunt for Health and Wellbeing.

### **UNIFORM**

It was a pleasure to see nearly all of our pupils returning to school in September smartly dressed in correct school uniform. In the run up to Christmas, I just wanted to give a quick reminder that SKIRTS should not be tight, slit, or made of stretch fabric. The hem of the skirt should be no more than 5cm above the knee. Skirts may be plain or pinstripe. TROUSERS should be plain classic school - style trousers. These should be straight legged and not a tight, 'drainpipe' design nor should they be 'ankle grazers'.

### **PUNCTUALITY**

Punctuality in Porthcawl is excellent, however from time to time a small number of pupils receive a detention. SIMS will keep a record of all late arrivals of pupils, and this includes late to lessons as well as late to school in the morning.

Once a pupil has 2 lates recorded in one week, a detention is given coupled with a letter to the parent.

Once a pupil has 5 lates recorded in total, a detention is given coupled with a letter to the parent.

The HOY and Assistant HOY will organise and oversee the serving of the detention and will record it in the pupils' pastoral file.

Please note that the school works very closely with the Education Welfare Service and our Education Welfare Officer may be involved in this process at any stage, via phone calls, letters and visits.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Medical appointments that are accompanied by a letter or phone call, giving the nature of the appointment and the time, will be recorded as an authorised absence and given an 'M' code. Examples include 1-2 hours to attend an appointment at the doctors, opticians, dentist or hospital, in the local area and up to half a day to attend an appointment further afield e.g. Cardiff or Swansea. However, many pupils are attending school first, then leaving to attend an appointment and returning to school; these pupils do not lose their attendance marks. Others are leaving after lunch and again do not lose their attendance marks. Whereever possible, please inform our attendance officer of appointments in advance by ringing the school absence line on 774170.

Mrs V Hunt - Assistant Headteacher



# **Careers**

Hi I'm Debz Silk. I work for Careers Wales and I am Porthcawl Comp's Careers Adviser. My job is to help pupils. I help them make decisions about their futures. I am here at the school from Monday to Friday. My office in school is in D block, the corridor going into G1 (where you find the water fountain).

I also attend Parents' Evenings for Years 9 to 13 so if any parents wish to speak to me, this is a great opportunity. If you want to see me during the evening feel free to, as I do not have fixed appointment times.

There is a lot of information on our website about jobs, training, school, apprenticeships. So feel free to explore.

www.careerswales.com.

# Charity



Gilgal Church had an amazing response again this year from our pupils who collected 320 sweet parcels. The parcels were all wrapped up and ready for Christmas, and will be given to Romanian street children, many of whom will have never had a Christmas present before. Members of the head team visited assemblies and talked to pupils about the project which was set up by Alan and Ann Penrose of Cardiff 23 years ago. The parcels are then taken to Cardiff, put on lorries and driven by them to Romania, along with other supplies. Sadly, this is likely to be their last year as they feel they are unable to continue this mammoth journey.

Mrs Ruth Evans of Gilgal Church was absolutely delighted with the response and said,

"The head team are so fantastic and did such a wonderful job, as are their form teachers and year tutors who do such a great job in encouraging and supporting this wonderful initiative."

To find out more about the work of Support for Romania, have a look at their website: http://www.supportforromania.org.uk



A Year 11 pupil, Freya Ashton, is set to go on an adventure like no other. She has solely organised to get a taste of life as a conservationist and marine biologist in South–Eastern Mexico's pristine Yucatan Peninsula. She will be learning first-hand the issues facing marine ecosystems and learn valuable skills such as fish and coral identification and how to conduct reef-based research as a base for a career in marine biology and conservation.

As part of her volunteering trip she will be completing her PADI diving certificate in the perfect turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea. It's likely she may encounter turtles, dolphins and perhaps even whale sharks! She will also get the opportunity to explore the ancient Mayan Cities and discover rich Mexican history set deep in the tropical jungles.

The monitoring program she is involved in aims to provide a long term record of coral and fish species abundance over time, to contribute to the long term survival of the reef.

What a fantastic opportunity! Well done Freya!

Mrs. Pleydell-Pearce

### UNICEF School-in-a-Box

The School-in-a-Box has become part of the UNICEF standard response in emergencies, used in many back-to-school operations around the world. The kit contains supplies and materials for a teacher and up to 40 students. The purpose of the kit is to ensure the continuation of children's education by the first 72 hours of an emergency.

The contents of the kit are culturally neutral, can be used anywhere in the world and are often supplemented by locally purchased products, such as books in local languages, toys, games and musical instruments. Exercise books are printed without margins, so that children who write from left to right or from right to left can use them.







# LEO Club

Porthcawl Comprehensive School LEO Club have been able to donate a "School in a Box" thanks to the proceeds of the Easter Egg Raffle and Sports Day Tuck Shop. In 2017/18 we have also been able to donate to Trinity Mums and Toddlers Group, KPC Youth and Race for Life. We have assisted Porthcawl Lions in various activities including a world record attempt for the longest chain of spectacles, (waiting on the ratification), the May Fayre and Santa's Grotto.

LEOs have also donated to "The Wallich" which cares for the homeless and street people in the area. They have also helped me in raising enough funds via a community project to provide clean water for communities in the Philippines, in memory of the late school governor, the Reverend Paul Floe. I can report 2 wells have been drilled and also a clean wash area set up in a paediatric ward at the hospital, so visiting parents can be clean before seeing children. There is a picture of one being drilled.

We meet at the moment in the Conference Room in A Block at lunch time on Wednesdays. We may be a small band, but we thank you for your support, and look forward to you joining us next term.

Mr L Pearce LEO Advisor.



The Race for Life is usually a series of women-only events and raises money for research into 200 different types of cancer. Over the past 20 years, more than 8 million women have taken part in the Race for Life, raising over £547 million to fund life-saving work. There are lots of ways to be part of the Race for Life, including 5k, 10k and Pretty Muddy running events. One of the big things about the Race for Life is that it's not competitive so it's fine to run, jog or walk parts of the course, it's up to you!

It was great to have the opportunity to hold this event at school and, as a year group we raised a total of over £800 with the support of our families and friends. The day itself was blisteringly hot and we all enjoyed taking part in either a 2 km or 5 km run around the school field. A number of pupils and staff have been affected by a cancer diagnosis in their families and so it felt really good to do something positive to help beat this disease.



# It Pays to Bake!



The winners of the charity cake sale project, Summer 2018 were Heather Coles, Olivia Geddes, Emily Cox and Beth Pickett from 9A1. They gained the most profit from their cake sale against the rest of Year 9 and decided to donate £100 to Tŷ Hafan the children's hospice that has supported Mr Pucella through a very difficult time.

As you will see, Mr Pucella has also been fund raising and was one of 13 men who climbed 5 UK mountains in 55 hours raising funds for Tŷ Hafan – details later on!

As a department we would like to congratulate them both on such great achievements and

raising so much money for a very deserving

The Technology Department

Thank you to Miss Owens for organising the cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support at the end of September – it raised £240!



# Avenue Q

Avenue Q is an American musical in two acts, conceived by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, who wrote the music and lyrics. It is an "autobiographical and biographical" coming-of-age parable, addressing and satirising the issues and anxieties associated with entering adulthood. Its characters lament that as children, they were assured by their parents that they were "special" and "could do anything" - but as adults, they have discovered to their surprise and dismay that in the real world their options are limited, and they are no more "special" than anyone else. The musical is notable for the use of puppets, animated by unconcealed puppeteers, alongside human actors.

"It was an amazing experience playing the character of Rod as it enabled me to explore different types of acting, such as puppetry as well as having the challenge of playing a male role" - Angharad Thomas

"I enjoyed Avenue Q as it helped me to develop different characters and it boosted my confidence playing these different characters, testing my ability" - Eddy Osborne

"It was a good opportunity to perform in a different type of musical than I was used to and it helped me to develop my skills" - Keighan Dyer

"It was a good opportunity to get a taste of what the course was going to be like" -Elys Davies







### An Evening of Song and Dance with BTEC Performing Arts!

On Wednesday 10th October, the BTEC Performing Arts group produced an Evening of Song and Dance for an audience as part of their exam. They performed a variety of monologues, and songs from both 'Chicago' and 'Miss Saigon'. The Year 12's also did a group dance that they devised themselves with a variety of different songs. It was very well received by the audience and it all came together well in the end. The group would also like to thank Noah Henderson (Year 11) who performs with a Street Dance group outside of school called 'Chainfam' for helping us choreograph the 'Thriller' section.

# A Visit from our American Friends

This year the Louisiana team returned to deliver lessons on what it is like to grow up and live in the southern United States and many other topics such as American Politics and American History. However, this year a group of Year 10 girls, including myself, Liliana Miller, Beci Senior, Ellie Jones, Annalise Traylor and Millie Stables, were lucky enough to have the experience of performing with them at their all-American celebration of different music genres. This opportunity allowed everyone involved to gain a truly special experience that will forever be valued.

Written by Erin Thomas-Parker 11HD

'It was an amazing opportunity to perform with such talented musicians' Millie Stables 11CR

'We were able to learn from their talents and experiences' Liliana Miller 11LY

'It was lovely to perform for my family and friends' Beci Senior 11CR



This year Meg McCloy, Annalise Traylor and I were lucky enough to be directors of the Young Playwrights Festival, along with a number of Year 10 pupils. After taking part in the plays from Years 7-9, we were all thrilled to have the opportunity to be on the crew side of things.

It was such a fun experience to be a part of, as well as a good opportunity for us to learn new skills that are necessary when leading a group. We all believe that the best part of directing the plays was seeing the entire cast on stage performing a script that we had developed, as it wasn't something that we had previously experienced. We're all happy to say that the cast thoroughly enjoyed themselves, which made the process so much easier and pleasurable.

Now that we have all been both on and off stage when taking part in the Young Playwrights' Festival, we can all agree that it is fun both ways! We have also gained a lot of respect for our previous directors, as we now know how difficult it can be to lead a group in such a short time and have a successful play. Meg, Annalise and I all learnt so much from this experience and would encourage anyone who enjoys acting or being part of the crew, to take part in the next Young Playwrights' Festival. There really is something for everyone!

Millie Stables (Year 11)

"The Young Playwrights' Festival was a fantastic opportunity and I would definitely encourage those in younger years to get involved!" – Annalise Traylor

"The challenges my group faced caused me to take more of a leader role and helped me become more wellrounded in the crew side of Drama" – Meg McCloy



### Technical Theatre Club



At the start of term, PCS Technical Theatre Club was re-launched with an invigorating and exciting new programme! The club takes place once a week, on a Wednesday lunchtime in the Drama Studio. To date, pupils have been focussing on using lighting and sound to create atmosphere in response to a stimulus. Pupils have been developing their storytelling skills with technology, and Mr Singer (Performing Arts Theatre Technician) has been very impressed with the pupils' imagination and creative flair. The equipment the pupils are working with is industry standard and the skills they are developing are enabling them to take a sophisticated approach to technical drama.

# Year 7 Drama Club Update



Year 7 Drama Club are currently preparing for a production of 'The Wizard of Oz', which will be performed in March 2019 in the Jubilee Theatre. Year 10 Drama pupils are directing the piece. Auditions are now over and rehearsals have begun. Everyone is excited about the production. More information to follow regarding dates and times!

### Year 8 Drama Club

Year 8 Drama Club will be performing a production of Matilda before Christmas! More information to follow regarding dates and times!

# Year 7 Expressive Arts Update!

This term in their Expressive Arts lessons Year 7 pupils have been exploring African Culture, culminating in a performance of work on Friday 7th December during Tutor Period and Lesson 2. This exciting new project will provide an opportunity for all Year 7 Pupils to showcase the new skills they have been developing in Art, Drama and Music.

To launch the project all of Year 7 spent a lesson in the Jubilee Theatre on the first day back in September where they participated in an African Drumming Workshop by Aaron Meli from Slapping Skins and listened to a short talk from Steve Lock (Gilgal Church) about tribal conflict in Uganda.







# King Lear

Our keen AS and A Level pupils were lucky enough to experience a production of 'King Lear' in September, with none other than Sir Ian McKellan in the title role. National Theatre Live was streaming the live production to the Odeon Cinema in Bridgend, so we were able to enjoy this set text in all its glory. Both Literature and Lang/Lit pupils will be examined on this play, so watching a superb cast perform it really helped bring it to life (although they could have done without the eye gouging perhaps!).



On 25 May, we held a special assembly to say goodbye to our Year 13 leavers who were about to embark on study leave and A Levels. All the form teachers, and as many other staff as were able, gathered together in the Sixth Form Hall to wish them well. Pupils were given good luck cards and leavers' mugs by their form teachers and listened to words of wisdom from Mrs O'Brien, Mr Slade, Miss Crook and Mrs Williams.

Our prom this year was held on 30 June at the St David's Hotel in Cardiff Bay. As has become a tradition in recent years, pupils gathered at the Fairways Hotel beforehand and posed for

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and favourite anecdotes to be read to the pupils, much

photographs with their school friends for the last time. This year, it was so blisteringly hot, it was all they could do to avoid melting altogether whilst family

and friends insisted on "just one more picture"!

From this beautiful location, pupils boarded a bus and headed for the St David's Hotel where they had a fantastic evening. Here they were joined by many members of staff and enjoyed dinner and dancing at the 5-star venue.

We wish our Year 13 leavers the very best of luck in their future endeavours and hope that they keep in touch!



# Year 12 round off the Summer term

We welcomed Year 12 back after their AS exams with a three-day induction programme, designed to equip them with the knowledge to make informed decisions about choices next year and beyond. This included visits from external speakers and UCAS information. They also worked on their Welsh Baccalaureate Global Citizenship Challenge. They had a lot of fun team building with the Royal Marines, and finished the term with a beach clean, Olympics, work experience and the traditional charity "Lavender Walk".







### U3A Interview Year 12

Lavender Walk



Many thanks to the volunteers from U3A who came to school in July and gave our Year 12 pupils some excellent interview practice before they make their university, apprenticeship and employment applications in the Autumn! We really appreciate your time, and the experience was very well received by the pupils, who now have some valuable interview experience under their belts to help them when it really counts!

# Food Bank

On 29th June a group of pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 went to the Tesco's at Bridgend, to help the local food bank. When we were there we gave out lists of non-perishable food items people could buy during their shop and donate to the food bank. Some people chose to give money instead. Once people had donated food, we labelled, sorted and organised the food into categories for storage and then distribution in the food banks around Bridgend county.

The total weight of donations collected over the weekend was 787.1 kg. Our help enabled the food bank to feed 217 individuals three meals a day for three days.

It was a really worthwhile morning spent helping people in the Bridgend area who may be struggling to afford enough nutritious food for their families. At Porthcawl Comprehensive we will be continuing our efforts with a whole school collection in the Autumn term and another morning at Bridgend Tesco asking shoppers for donations.

Drew Howells Year 9







# Missing School = Missing Out!

Our annual attendance assemblies were held at the end of the Summer term, when prizes were given out to pupils who had excellent attendance throughout the year. In order to qualify for the draw, pupils had to have had 97% attendance or above, and £10 vouchers for McArthur Glen Designer Outlet were given to pupils from Years 7-10 who were lucky enough to be picked out of the hat.

Remember...if you are not in school...you cannot succeed!

# JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE REPORT

On the 26th April 2018, 27 Year 8 pupils and 18 Year 7 pupils took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. For the Year 7 pupils it was their first go at this and I hope that they will, having enjoyed it this year take part and have another go next year.

The aim of the Maths Challenge is to answer topical and challenging puzzles which lets pupils apply their Maths.

This is a UK challenge and if a pupil does well enough then they can qualify for an intermediate challenge called an International Kangaroo Challenge Paper. We have, over the last few years had a few pupils qualify and this year has been no exception. Ben Pownall performed particularly strongly this year and was invited to take part in the follow through international challenge and was 9 marks off a Merit and getting into the top 25%. A wonderful achievement Ben, and I hope you will now try the Intermediate Challenge next year.

Awards to:

### YEAR 8

Ben Pownall - Best in Year and School, Gold certificate winner and Kangaroo International : Participation Award

Gold Award Connor Kedward

Silver Awards Connor Witney Embleton

Archie Jenkins

Matthew Powell

oseph Dingl

Erin Watkin

Megan Prance

Bronze Awards

William Stradling

Saul Williams

Dylan Carless

Ewan Hall

A1:... D::..

Oliver Burke

I C:0:1

Lucy Grimitns

- - -

Shae McCarthy

Kurtis Trezise

### YEAR 7

Bronze Awards

Scarlett Osborne - Best in Yea

Poppy Shing

James Browning

### A few questions for you:

1. How many digits are there in the correct answer to the calculation 123 123 123 123 ÷ 123

) 4 - 15

B) 6 C) 8

D) 10 E) 12

2. Billy has three times as many llamas as lambs.

Milly has twice as many lambs as llamas.

They have 17 animals in total.

How many of the animals are llamas?

A) 5

B) 6

C) 7

D) 8 E) 9



### Hello, we are the School Council for this academic year!

Last year we accomplished lots as a school council, including holding peer mentor interviews for the new group of peer mentors for the school, holding more general feedback sessions and meetings for year groups and the council itself and we sat down with Mrs Hunt to hear about the planned improvements to the school that are in the School Improvement Plan.

Also, last year we participated in the county Learning Festival, in which we invited the local primary school councils to the comprehensive to find out exactly what makes them happy in school. Members of Porthcawl Comprehensive's School Council also attended the BCBC Learning Festival in the Bridgend Recreation Centre, in which they learned more about what makes them happy in school, and how school improvements are planned and made.

This year we plan on building on the successes of previous years, with many plans on school-wide involvement throughout the year. We will be coming into assemblies with information throughout the year, and you'll be able to see this year's council members on the front of the staff room. If you have any ideas or suggestions contact any school council member, and we will discuss these ideas in our next meeting.

Conor Farrell-John ~ Year 13

### School Council 2018-19

**Year 7:** Finley Cannon, Carys Griffiths-Cole, Ffion David-Knight and Romy Francombe

Year 8: Eve Hickman, Tristyn James and Ella Matthews Year 9: Alina Biju

Year 10: Alana Greenwood, Cerys Keeping, Olivia Geddes Year 11: Scarlett Jenkins, Poppy McGlynn, Amelia Jones and Stella Marks

Year 12: Dominique Willmer, Max Williams

**Year 13:** Conor Farrell John, Ieuan Walmsley-Williams, Emily James.

Porthcawl Comprehensive Celebrates 70 Years of the National Health Service.

This year marks the 70th birthday of the National Health Service, which first came into operation on the 5th July 1948. It was the first time anywhere in the world that completely free healthcare was made available to all citizens regardless of their wealth. Over the years, the NHS has transformed to become one of the best healthcare systems in the world, looking after us when we most need it.

However, only 70 years ago, health care was a luxury not everyone could afford. Life in Britain before the NHS in the 1930s and 1940s was very tough. Every year, thousands died of infectious diseases like pneumonia, meningitis, tuberculosis, and polio. Those who could not afford medical treatment were made to suffer, simply because of a lack of means. 1 in every 19 children died before their 1st birthday. This was all to change thanks to the vision, courage and determination of one man: Aneurin Bevan. The facts below retell his story.

- Aneurin Bevan was one of ten children born on November 15, 1897 in Tredegar, in the South Wales Valleys. His family were poor, his mother made a living by washing clothes and his father as a coal miner.
- Academically poor, young Bevan repeated a year of studies. Due to his dismal performance, he finished

his studies at the age of thirteen and instead started working at the local coal mine.

- By the age of 19 his sister had died from TB and his father died in his arms from a disease of the lungs due to inhalation of coal dust.
- Bevan's experiences made him determined to make free healthcare a priority in Britain. He became an MP representing the people of Tredegar and fought hard to make his vision of a healthcare service become a reality.
- At the end of WW2 Bevan was appointed as the Minister of Health it was in this role he introduced the National Health Service to look after the nation.

Through collaboration with other colleagues, the History Department felt it was necessary for the school to mark this significant anniversary and to allow pupils and staff to show their appreciation for all who work in the NHS. In July 2018, pupils and staff were provided with Thank You cards, which were signed and delivered to the wards of Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend. A special thanks to the Head Team for meeting NHS staff and delivering the school's messages of appreciation.

Mr Short - History Department









# Exhibition at Cardiff Metropolitan University

In June this year, the Art department was asked to exhibit work by pupils studying Art and Textiles at GCSE, AS and A2, at Cardiff Metropolitan University's Llandaff Campus. Pupils' work was shown in a dedicated exhibition space alongside their peers from a select group of other schools – a chance to eye up the opposition and pinch a few ideas! This fantastic opportunity arose as part of the partnership scheme with the university's teacher training program, which the school has contributed to over many years.

The show enabled pupils to showcase their final outcomes and brought their work to a wider audience within a professional context and it was great to see so many of our talented students and their proud parents at the official opening. All in all, a terrific success and we look forward to another invitation (hopefully!) next year.



# Only Men Aloud *Workshop*

On the 11th September, members of the famous choirs 'Only Men Aloud' and 'Only Boys Aloud' made a visit to Porthcawl Comprehensive School to host a workshop in the school. They began the workshop by showing a 5 minute video of what they were all about, where they perform, their success in 'Britain's Got Talent' and future concerts, which was very impressive! Approximately 30 boys from Years 7-13 participated in the workshop, beginning with physical and vocal warm-ups. The leaders showed some interesting and fun activities that were quick and easy to learn. The warm-ups were also a great way to get everyone enthused and ready to get involved.

The vocal warm-ups were brilliant and they gave new exercises that can be used for future music rehearsals. When the group finished all the warm-ups they split into groups to sing a traditional song called 'My Bonnie'. This was a great experience for everybody, even those who have never sung in a choir. It was easy to learn and comfortable for the not-so-confident singers. It was a fantastic experience for everybody involved and we were very lucky to have met some members of the choirs. They also gave lots of information about the opportunity to join 'Only Boys Aloud' and inspired many to join them in Bridgend on Thursday evenings for rehearsals. It is completely FREE, and offers many opportunities to perform at various venues and places, even travelling with the choir outside of the UK. Even if you are not the most confident singer, and just simply enjoy singing, being part of a choir like 'Only Boys Aloud' helps to develop social skills and generally build confidence by being involved in a team.

If any pupils are interested in becoming a member or would like to learn more about their other choir 'Only Kids Aloud' then please see Mr Powell for more details or visit their website http://www.aloud.cymru .

We would like to thank the 'Only Men Aloud' and 'Only Boys Aloud' members who came for the workshop as it was an excellent experience enjoyed by all who took part!

The Music Department









# Dilwyn Evans Music Award

We are very fortunate to have a great partnership with the Porthcawl Male Voice Choir. Due to the snow disruption last year, they were unable to feature in the Eisteddfod but we are hopeful that they will join us again this year!

Every year the choir award a Music prize to one of our Year 13 A Level Music students to support them as they embark on a future career in the Arts. This year, Lucy Vinen was awarded the prize and was invited to perform in the Male Voice Choir's annual concert in the Pavilion on Saturday 8th September alongside other famous performers. Lucy is now studying Theatre and Performance Studies at Warwick University and continuing to develop her wonderful singing talent under the guidance of a new singing teacher.

The Performing Arts Department wish Lucy all the best in her future career! Mrs Giles Music Department



It has been a very exciting time in Newton Primary School for the pupils in Year 6. As part of our Cornerstones topic 'Scream Machine', we visited Brean Sands Theme park in Somerset. We were able to experience a range of thrilling rides and exhilarating roller coasters!

At the end of the Autumn Term topic, we designed and built our own working roller coasters using various construction kits and showcased them to the younger pupils in the school. Parents were also invited to attend to see all the hard work the pupils had put into this topic. We also used iMovie to create big screen marketing adverts for each ride, which were shown live on the projection screens in the school hall.





This was the time of the year that our pupil leadership team were selected. After all the applications were submitted, the school council chose the following year 6 pupils:

Head Boy – Charlie Ware
Head Girl – Bethan Price
Deputy Head Boy – Daniel Hall
Deputy Head Girl – Eva Dickenson

Head Prefects - Emily Jenkins and Toby Evans

We look forward to our Spring Term topic, 'Mods and Rockers', which is based around the life and times of the 1960's. We will begin the topic with fancy dress themed '60's disco!

Mr Henley Jenkins Newton Primary

# Nottage Primary

On Monday the 26 September Nottage Primary School visited the Masonic Care Home to celebrate its 45th anniversary. We left school at two o'clock to start our journey to the home. We arrived at the masonic at 10 past two. Firstly we dropped off our coats at the reception area. Then we went to the main hall to watch a film about the masonic care home when it opened The elderly home was fantastic we had lots of fun, seeing the old folks faces light up with joy as we sang to them it was beyond words. We really enjoyed the atmosphere; it was joyful and heart-warming and especially when everyone's attention went to the dog. In total

we sang 5 songs; the Cup Song, This Little Light of Mine, Autumn Days, Calon Lan and a real classic, Elvis Presley's I Want to be Your Teddy Bear.

To celebrate they created a time capsule and put information about residents' and pupils' work from Nottage Primary School and buried it to be dug up in 45 years' time. This was the best part! We all waited in line to help bury it and the dog almost jumped inside!

After we had buried the capsule we went into the dining room to have some fruit juice and some mouth-watering doughnuts and squash. After that

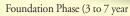
we said our goodbyes especially to their dog. Everyone crowded around him. I think he was a bit scared because he ran up the staircase faster than lightning but the cutest thing about him was the fact that he wore an adorable red bandana around his neck. Then we were on our way back to school and we will remember this trip as one of the best. We are so lucky to have an excellent care home for elders right on our doorstep.

Rachel Clear, Jessica Jones, Harrison Burke and Dylan Evans - Year 6

# Porthcawl Primary

We have had a great first half term back at Porthcawl Primary. We started with our COOL (Choosing Our Own Learning) Days where all our children are involved in selecting topic ideas for the term ahead. COOL Days are one of the ways in which we ensure learning is engaging, motivating and fun for everyone.





olds) went back in time to learn about schools when

their grandparents and great-grandparents would have attended. We invited grandparents into classrooms to read their favourite stories, talk to us about the clothing they used to wear to school, explore artefacts from Victorian schools as well as play and make games from when they would have been in school. After a fabulous time in the classrooms all grandparents along with the children took part in a picnic activity. As a community focussed school, we love having grandparents to visit Foundation Phase. Foundation Phase have also just returned from an exciting trip to St Fagan's.

Our Key Stage 2 children (7 to 11 year olds) are studying environmental issues and came up with lots of new ideas under the topic Sustainable Wales. Their COOL day involved a TRASHion show (recycled fashion), creating windmills and balloon powered antics! The children are now keen to use their new ideas to campaign and make a difference to the world. KS2 will work with Seaquest later this term.

Ms Jo Rowley Head Teacher

# West Park Primary

What a busy start to our last Autumn term at West Park Primary! Our theme this term is 'Warriors' and we began our topic by having an exciting immersion day where we researched Celts and their weapons. We all really enjoyed the experience and developed our speaking and listening skills as well as working in teams. We also visited Gower Heritage Park to discover how the Celts lived and listened to legends.

Our transition to the comprehensive school has already started for us in West Park. We met Mrs Sloggett right 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. We have also been to the comprehensive for our MFL transition, and this was an amazing experience. We learnt a song in French, German or Welsh and performed it to each other. What a great experience.

This year, we have started to have transition lessons every week from the comprehensive's teachers from the English and Maths departments, so moving up next year should be a breeze for us!!

We have all been made prefects in Year 6 this year. This has given us all extra responsibilities such as looking after certain areas and pupils in the school, selling fresh fruit and being a 'buddy' on the nursery playground. We have all been given prefect badges and are extremely proud to wear them.

It has been a good start to our netball and rugby season so far and we have been lucky with the weather. Let's hope this continues.









# MEET THE HEAD TEAM 2018-19



#### ZAK BENNETT

Hi, I'm Zak and I am Head Boy. I am studying Biology, Sociology and History, with the aim to study Criminology at university. Outside of school I enjoy cycling and swimming and can also be found working at Woodyz when not in school.



RHYS LEARY

Hi my name is Rhys Leary and I'm Deputy Head Boy. I'm currently studying Maths, Chemistry and Biology and want to study Medicine in university. Outside of school I play basketball for Cynffig and for Vale.



TILLY PERKS

Hi I'm Tilly and my role is Assistant Head Girl! I'm linked with Year 11 and am studying Biology, ICT and History with the hope of becoming a Forensic Investigator. Outside of school I enjoy participating in my local street dance class.



LAUREN SLAUGHTER

Hi I'm Lauren, I'm Assistant Head Girl and a Year 8 representative. For my A Levels I'm doing Biology, Chemistry and German. I hope to study Biomedical Sciences in university.



ANNA BIJU

My name is Anna Biju and I'm Head Girl. I am the Sixth Form link. I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. I hope to study Medicine at university in the near future. My main interests are playing the violin, dancing and learning languages – I hope to become fluent in French soon.



**MAYA SQUIRES** 

Hi, I'm Maya Squires and I am Deputy Head Girl. I am currently studying Textiles, Art and Physics. I plan to further my education in university studying Fashion Design Technology.



MORGAN ROBERTS

Hi! My name is Morgan and I'm Assistant Head Boy. I'm currently studying Biology, PE and History and hope to study Environmental Sciences. I love playing rugby, surfing and going to the gym. I am happy to answer any questions you have for me this year.



IEUAN WALMSLEY-WILLIAMS

Hi, I am Ieuan Walmsley-Williams and I'm an Assistant Head Boy. I am currently studying Physics, History and Geography. When I finish Year 13, I hope to go on and become a pilot in the Royal Navy. I am a volunteer crewmember at Porthcawl RLNI lifeboat station, and I really enjoy mountain biking. I'm tied with Year 10, and I am very approachable so if you have any questions or problems don't hesitate to talk to me.





### HANNAH SCOURFIELD

Hi I'm Hannah, I'm Assistant Head Girl and look forward to being linked to Year 7 for this upcoming academic year. I am currently studying History, English and Philosophy and Ethics for my A Levels and would like to study Teaching in university. I have a keen interest in musical theatre and singing.



### **EMILY JAMES**

Hi I'm Emily and I'm Assistant Head Girl. I am linked with Year 11 and am currently studying English, Drama, Philosophy and Ethics and History. I hope to study English Literature at university. In my free time, I enjoy dancing, running and reading.



### OWEN JEAL

Hi I'm Owen. I'm currently studying History, RS and ICT. I joined the school at the start of Year 12 and have loved being a part of the Sixth Form. I hope I can make this year fun and exciting as a member of the head team.



### CONOR FARRELL - JOHN

Hi I'm Conor and I am linked with Year 7 for this upcoming year. For A Level, I am studying Maths, Further Maths and Physics and would like to study Mechanical Engineering in university. I enjoy playing music, climbing and volunteering at the local Scout group.



ZARA CHRISTOPHER

Hi I'm Zara, I'm Assistant Head Girl and am linked with Year 9 this year. For my A Levels I am studying Biology, Sociology, Media Studies and Travel and Tourism. At university I hope to study Psychology. When I'm not doing school work, I enjoy playing my guitar and piano, reading psychology books and volunteering.



### LUCIE BENTLEY

Hey, I'm Lucie Bentley and I am Assistant Head Girl. I am studying Biology, Chemistry, French and Welsh Baccalaureate. I want to study Dietetics in university and eventually specialise in Nutrition Therapy/ Psychology. I love fitness, my friends and family and my dog Seren.

# My time at the Hay Festival - Emily James

During Last Year, I had the opportunity to take part in the Beacons Project which was part of the Hay Festival. I was chosen as one of twenty, ten for each half of the week, to attend events and creative writing workshops.

During the four days, I attended talks by Margaret Atwood and Michael Morpurgo as well as one to one sessions with Owen Sheers and Jenny Valentine that covered a range of topics such as feminism and university. It was extremely valuable to hear about the processes that these authors go through whilst writing their novels. Margret

Atwood, in particular, was extremely passionate when discussing how when writing you must discover a voice that belongs to you. In addition, her view on society and historical context and wanting to bring that awareness to the forefront was extremely admirable and inspiring. In addition, there were stimulating talks about education and the adolescent brain as well as the controversial opinions of Germaine Greer, which inspired a series of group discussions. The one to one sessions that I part took in with Owen Sheers and Jenny Valentine were extremely informative about voicing our opinions when it comes to

important issues that impact our society and our future. Owen Sheers spoke passionately about the nature of feminism, in response Laura Bates' letter "I Wish". His own letter to the future, "The Men You'll Meet" described a need for men to be a part of the conversation in order for the future generations to continue to remove gender equality.

This was an experience that I'll never forget and I am looking forward to attending the Festival next year as part of the Youth Council and having the opportunity to run events like the ones I attended.

Emily James Year 13

# **Transition**

# Eurosition Song Contest!

In September, we celebrated European Day of Languages by inviting Year 6 pupils for their first transition event. Pupils were split into teams to represent their country in the 'Eurosition Song Contest' and they really rose to the challenge!

Each team had two hours to learn a song in the language of their country and perform some winning dance moves! After a well-earned break and the chance



to fill up on a pain au chocolat and some squash, pupils gathered in the Jubilee Theatre for the eagerly anticipated performances.

Team France kicked off the celebration with an energetic performance of Kids United's 'Mama Africa', followed by Team Germany's schnaptastic rendition of 'Schnappi das kleine Krokodil'. Then the mantle fell to Wales, with 'Franz o wlad Awstria' and with



their harmonious voices, the Year 6 pupils did not let Wales down. Lead Judge, Miss Painter, rightly named Wales as the Champions of Eurosition, before the winning team got to take to the stage for the final time, with their winning performance. Thanks to all Year 6 pupils for their excellent participation, Year 6 teachers, Sixth Form vocal coaches and choreographers, and to all the canteen staff for the delicious refreshments.



### Music Transition Day 2018

On Thursday 14th June 2018, the Music department hosted their Music Transition Day for Year 6 pupils to experience musical activities at PCS and take part in a mini concert at the end of the day. It was great to welcome nearly 100 Year 6 pupils and we certainly discovered that we now have some budding musicians with us in the current Year 7!

All pupils worked tirelessly throughout the day, preparing for the concert after school. It was amazing to see what was achieved in such a short space of time! We were so fortunate to have a choir, orchestra and guitar group perform during the concert at the end of the day, and even managed to feature some confident soloists within their performance of 'This is me' from The Greatest Showman.

Well done to all involved including the older PCS pupils who set a fine example to the younger pupils throughout the whole day.

A huge 'Thank You' to our peripatetic staff for joining us for the transition and for their continued support and dedication to developing young musicians at PCS.

It was great to receive such valuable feedback from pupils and parents who attended, saying how much they enjoyed the experience and the concert. We look forward to seeing many of the pupils perform in our future concerts starting with the Carol Service on Thursday 20th December 2018!

The Music Department











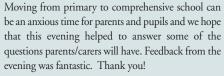


# Year 6 Open Evening



On Wednesday October 3rd the school was once again delighted to throw open our doors to over 200 Year 6 pupils and their parents/carers. The weather was kind and pupils and parents were able to explore the school, meet all our staff and chat to many of our current pupils who had volunteered to help out on the evening. Year 12 and 13 did a fantastic job as tour guides and were able to share their experiences and knowledge with our visitors.







Year 6 pupils had already enjoyed celebrating European Day of Languages with us and have since taken part in Science and ICT mornings. There are lots of other events planned for the coming year -Technology, Humanities, Music and the school show

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





## School Clubs and Projects



### Black Death History Homework

For our History homework we decided to sing a song about the black death because it was different and fun. We started by picking a song that we liked the beat to and we started writing our own lyrics, the rest of us were creating a routine for our performance. We decided on the song 'I bust the windows out your car.' Once we had the routine ready, we taught it to the rest of the group. In our spare time, we rehearsed it before we performed it to the rest of the class. Once we performed it, Mrs Hammerton sent us to Mr Slade to perform it to him. Because he liked it, he decided to put us in the Porthcawl Post!

Seren Protheroe, Scarlett Osborne, Isabella O'Brian, Maria Lynn, Leon Hamilton and Cameron Thomson Burke

### Languages Club News

Bonjour! Guten tag! Bore da!

My name is Olivia Kirby and I attend Languages Club every week with Madame Morgan in P28. At the club, we do many things, for example the French Bake Off where we bake cakes and enter competitions to win prizes. We also often go to the ICT room and learn more about languages on game websites such as Quizlet and Kahoot.

On the 26th of September, it was European Day of Languages and me and others did an assembly about the importance of learning languages.

On the 28th of September, Year 6 language transition took place at PCS and it was a morning filled with fun! Year 6 was split into 3 groups (French/German/Welsh) and had to learn a song and dance routine in order to compete against each other. The winners were the Welsh team! Da Iawn! And well done to the language staff too who taught the dance moves!

# Code Club – DVLA Code Challenge

During the Summer term and the first part of this Autumn term we have been completing our competition entry for the DVLA Code Challenge. This year's Code Challenge from the DVLA enables interested pupils to develop their problem solving, communication and teamwork skills, as well as improving their knowledge of computer programming in a fun and innovative way. There is also the chance to win thousands of pounds of IT equipment for their schools or groups. The DVLA presented a number of different programming scenarios and as a group we had to select one. Options available included themes based on the Fire Service, Air Ambulance, Police - Tarian Rocu, STEM, Incredible Oceans and The Army – MOD. Our group decided on the Incredible Oceans theme.



From all the ideas created by the group only one could be put forward. Poppy Shingler and Enzo Lipley (Year 8) created a game based on the Incredible Ocean theme. In addition to developing the game they also had to create a promotional two-minute video to showcase what they had made.

### Theme - Incredible Oceans

Killer whales are searching the sea for fish to eat, but instead they are encountering plastic everywhere. Build a game that tackles the problem and helps the killer whales survive.



Name of the Game - A Whale of a Time Software Used

- Scratch Programming

Their game has been shared online and you can find it and play it using the following website.

Link to Game

https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/224754750/

We wish them all the best with their entry. If you want to learn to code and develop animations, then please come along to Code Club on a Tuesday lunchtime in G5.

Thanks Mr Pucella (Code Club)

### You're Hired!

On Thursday July 12th Year 8 were challenged to become the next Apprentice. In groups we had to pitch our business ideas to 7 judges who were willing to invest in our product. Many groups pitched their ideas with confidence and tried their best, but only 3 groups were successful. Well done to Tacco who came first place and to Joy Toys and Whiplash who were joint second. Other than that, there was a prize for the best entrepreneur. I was really surprised to win the best entrepreneur award because it was challenging as the other competitors were incredible. I would like to thank the English Department and the 7 judges for making it an amazing event.

Alina Biju - Now Year 9





### FAIRTRADE

Every Friday at breaktime in P13 there is a Fairtrade Stall, where we sell chocolate, crisps, flapjacks, cans, cookies etc. The stall is run by 2 Year 10 pupils.





Daily News Porthcawl School

14/07/18

LOS £0.45

rou cant blend in when you were born to stand out!'



In the summer term the year seven pupils at Portheaw! Comprehensive School studied the book 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio. It is the moving and upfiting tale of August Pullman, 'Auggie' who becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade.

Our Year 7 pupils studied this story during their English classes then started a Quadruple Literacy Project on it within their Welsh, French and German classes. They recorded their work in a blue booklet that was filled with many fun, exciting activities and tasks. The buzz of excitement from Year 7 pupils demonstrated the pupils' enjoyment of the tasks and the

They studied tenses and language patterns discovering that the three languages were similar and that many of the language patterns linked which helped with understanding language structure even more.

The pupils had great fun working collaboratively on the tasks set, using dictionaries in different languages. Some of the language patterns and vocabulary were quite challenging however through working as a team the pupils were able to figure out the tasks.

Overall, the pupils felt that the most enjoyable task, was taking part in the 'treasure hunt' where the children had to decipher who each character of the story was by using their newly acquired language of the story.

guage skills and of course watching the film at the end of the project!



Written by Ella Matthews



The Gardening Club would like to say a massive 'Thank-you!' to the caretakers, staff and fantastic Year 10 students who worked so hard to build and furnish the polytunnel, paint the shed, re-make the raised beds and put up trellises in the school garden. It looks brilliant. THANK YOU!









### Humanities DCF Project - Congratulations to Year 7!





Pupils were involved in a project to research the Geography, History, Religion and Culture of Mexico. All pupils were timetabled into IT suites for humanities lessons running over a twoweek period. Pupils worked in teams and presented their findings to their humanities class. The winning group from each class was then put through to the final. We held two finals - X and Y All finalists presented to their peers within their band and the standard was fantastic. It took courage to stand up and deliver in front of a large audience, especially within the first four weeks of starting comprehensive education. I am looking forward to our next project and seeing the development and progress made by PCS pupils.

I would personally like to thank everyone involved for the successful delivery of the project. #TakemetoMexico

Mrs James - Head of Humanities



Restart a Heart Day is now a worldwide event. It is a yearly designated day of action, with the aim to teach vital life-saving skills to as many people as possible. Last year in the UK alone, more than 195,000 school children were taught CPR. This year the target is over 200,000

On 16th October, Porthcawl Comprehensive School participated in Restart a Heart Day for the third year running and once again did brilliantly. The school now has 180 more potential young life savers in Year 8 to add to the hundreds that were trained in previous years. Well done!

Thank you to Helen Williams for enabling this much valued day to go ahead again this year. Also a big thank you to all the volunteers; First Responders Roger and Celyn, Paramedic Liam, Policewoman Sarah, Eleri Williams, Dr Craig Williams and past pupil, Dr Georgina Evans.







### Spelling Bees buzzing after word challenge

Three top spellers from Year 7 made their way to Cynffig Comprehensive School last term to compete in the Bridgend Secondary Schools Spelling Bee Competition. Three pupils, Scarlett Osborne, Amelie Symmons and Kate Evans, practised for weeks until they could spell some of the very toughest words. The pressure was on as they took to the stage to battle it out against all the other secondary schools in the county.

The ace team got down to the very last four competitors, but came unstuck on the extremely tricky word, 'bureaucracy'. Congratulations to the girls and thanks go to another ace speller Poppy Shingler who stood in as reserve, and to all the parents who provided support and a taxi service!

Mrs Kembery English Department



On 12 October we were visited by Suzy Davies AM who came to school to talk to pupils about the things that really get them interested in politics and will make them turn out and vote. She was met by the Head Boy and Girl and senior staff and spent an hour with Year 12 pupils in the Jubilee Theatre chatting and taking questions. Afterwards, she joined the head team for their weekly meeting in in the Conference Room. She was very interested to hear about the election process for the head team and all the charity work that they do.



# #5in55 – Mountain Challenge







# Every Dad has his own mountain to climb

Between 4-7th July, myself and a group of intrepid Ty Hafan dads, supported by uncles, brothers and staff, climbed five of the tallest mountains in the UK in under 55 hours!

The group scaled Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England, and Snowdon, Cadair Idris and Penyfan in Wales, to help raise money and awareness of Ty Hafan, while spreading the message that Dads Matter! Climbing a combined height of 5,187m and covering over 36 miles in total, this challenge was about the dads pushing themselves, inspiring others, making friendships and proving once again that our dads are stronger together.

More than just a group of men climbing mountains, it was about showing others that no matter what the odds, no matter what obstacles are in front of you, that you can accomplish anything. This is a group of dads who, regardless of their current situation, are walking the same journey in life and wanted to walk together to inspire others and themselves.

There was no doubt that taking on a challenge that combined the national and Welsh 3 peaks Challenge was going to be hard, but then all of us faced tougher challenges every day. As dads and uncles of children with a life-limiting illness or having lost children, we have to overcome hurdles on a daily basis, of which many are emotional. And that's why we wanted to take on such a ridiculous challenge. Excuse the generalisation, but dads and men are not great at expressing their emotions. Maybe it is society or just genetics, but us men are supposed to be the strong ones, taking care of our families and protecting them against any harm. But when your child has a life-limiting illness, you can't. That power of protection is snatched away. However, there are things that we can do. Like pose naked for calendars, play bubble football and climb mountains. Being able to do something, whilst highlighting the difficulties dads face, and hopefully raising some money for the amazing Ty Hafan that helps us care for our families, actually helps.

There is no denying that the challenge was tough, but I feel that I have made friends for life. 16 of us walked the mountains and I had a chance to walk alongside everyone at some stage. There were some difficult moments, where we had to help each other through the pain barrier, but there was never any doubt that we would do it. There are so many highlights. The boys sitting on a jetty and splashing their feet in Loch Lomond during a rest break on the way up. Eating sausages at 3:00am in the morning as we prepared to climb Cadair Idris. Standing together in a circle, with arms linked, on the top of Cadair Idris as we all held a minute silence to think about our families and all the other families that have been supported by Ty Hafan. I could easily list many more. What we, as a group achieved was something special. Not just completing the #5in55 challenge but being there for each other. The challenge was a huge success in raising awareness of the challenges dads face, the awareness of Ty Hafan as a charity and in helping





to raise much needed funds in order for Ty Hafan to continue to provide support to our families. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who was involved in this incredible challenge.

The Dad's Group at Ty Hafan is something special. It is a fantastic support network for dads of children and young people with life limiting illnesses. As dads we are brought up to be the strong protector of the family; but when you have a son or daughter who is seriously ill, you soon discover that you need help and support to help you care for your loved ones. Ty Hafan provides that wonderful support.

It was a physical challenge, but when I look back at what my own son Luca had to go through, nothing can compare to the challenges he faced with his ROHHAD illness. It was the same for every member of our group. That is what inspired us and made us all determined to complete this challenge. It is very sad news but two dads from our group have lost their child since completing this challenge. However, I am sure they are very proud of what their dads have achieved.

To date, through the 5in55 event we have raised £36,722.21, and have been nominated for the JustGiving Awards 2018. From 35,000 nominations, we have been narrowed down to the last 24 finalists, which are divided into different categories. Further news of how we get on to follow in the next magazine. In the meantime, if you would like to sponsor us and support Ty Hafan please go to:

https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/t yhafan/fiveinfiftyfive

For those that attended the Pro Fitness circuits/Crossfit training for Ty Hafan on 5th May: for 55 minutes effort, we raised £156.85.

Also for those that took part in the Sixth Form 5 a-side league for Ty Hafan, we raised £115.66. Thank you!

Mr A Pucella

# **SPORT**

### Abigail Davies - Triathlon

On Saturday 7th July, Abigail competed in the IRC Welsh Triathlon qualifier in Bala. She came 1st in the T3 category and in doing so, qualified to represent Wales in Triathlon for the 3rd successive season. She went on to compete in Mallory Park in Leicester on Saturday 15th September as part of the IRC British Under 20's Festival.

On the same weekend in July, Abigail competed in the Welsh Open Water Championships in Bala. She came 1st in the Under 13's category swimming the 2km course in a time of 28 minutes 30 seconds. In doing so she qualified to compete in the British Open Water Championships at Rother Valley in Sheffield on Monday 30th July.





### **Athletics News**

The following pupils took part in the Junior Mid Glamorgan Athletic Championships on 6th June. They all did exceptionally well, with the majority of events fielding at least 38 competitors.

Megan Froley - 5th 800m (Year 9) Joe Kimpton – 2nd 100m (Year 9) Evan Jones - 1st 200m (Year 9)

Great achievements by all. Evan went on to compete in the Welsh Athletics Junior Championships on Sunday 24th June where he took Gold in the U15s 200m sprint. He ran it in 22.86 absolutely smashing his PB once again. This now ranks him 1st in Wales and 7th in the UK, within the UK target of 22.90.

## Ellie McCloy represents Great Britain at Surf Lifesaving

In terms of Surf Lifesaving, Ellie has had the most outstanding year. All her hard work has paid off and she is double Board and Iron Champion in all three major championships – the Welsh, GB's and most recently the Europeans which were held in Ireland. In Ellie's own words...

In November, I am off to Australia, with the huge honour of representing Great Britain at the Lifesaving World Championships and I can't wait! Amazingly, 3 pupils from PCS are travelling with the team; Marcus Fish and Sarah Davidson coming as part of the Boat Crew. Up until recently I have competed for both Rest Bay and Wales, but this year I have been able to add to this by competing for Great Britain at the European Championships in Ireland where I became European Champion in both the Board Race and the Oceanwoman events.

This became possible following a series of trials in May and June 2018, where I was selected to race in a team of 6 boys and 6 girls at both the European and World Champs. Representing GBR at the World Championships of my sport



is an absolute dream come true for me. Having won European titles this year, I'm super excited to learn more about my sport and race against the best of the best, as the competition will undoubtedly be harder with the Aussies and Kiwis on the start line!

If you are interested in following my progress all information will be on the GBR high performance lifesaving Facebook page.

Ellie McCloy ~ Year 13

### X Country Success

15 pupils took part in the Glamorgan Valleys X Country Championships, held at Newbridge Fields in October. As a group they were outstanding with some exceptional performances witnessed on the day.

#### Year 7

Anna-Rose Merchant - 1st Carys Griffiths-Cole - 10th Millie Cull - 25th

Lewis Morgan - 10th Alfie Smallman - 13th Finlay Cannon - 25th

#### Years 8 & 9

Abi Davies - 2nd Eve Hickman - 7th Tegan Davies - 18th

Luke Wyatt - 1st Tristan James - 13th

#### Years 10 & 11

Nia Clatworthy - 1st Chloe Wyatt - 2nd Hannah Davidson - 5th Jonathan Munro - 9th



The top 8 in each age category will be selected on merit for the county team in February and places 9 - 12 will be selected from South Wales Schools results and nominations.

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

Miss Davies



Nia Clatworthy ran for Wales in the Schools' Internationals in Scotland during July.

### Girls' South Wales Regional Cross Country Championships

Porthcawl was well represented at the above championships at Newbridge Fields in October. Girls from the 3 age ranges competed in what turned out to be a huge event attended by 45 schools. As always Porthcawl pupils did the school proud, not only with their behaviour but the 100% effort given by all.

Performances particularly worthy of note are as follows;

### II19

Nia Clatworthy 1st Chloe Wyatt 6th

### U15

Abi Davies 7th
Emily Cox 24th
Ellie Evans 40th
Tegan Davies 42nd

Over 200 pupils competed in this race.

### U13

Anna-Rose Merchant 2nd Eve Hickman 4th Carys Griffiths-Cole 35th

300 pupils competed in this race.

Miss Davies

### Boys' South Wales Regional Cross Country Championships

The boys travelled to Pontcanna fields, Cardiff, Tuesday 23rd October to compete in the South Wales Regional Cross Country Championships.

After an exciting journey along the M4 we finally arrived at our destination. It was sunny, dry and crisp, ideal for the competition.

The combined 8 and 9 year group ran first. Three boys Elliot Bennet, Jake Turner and Luke Wyatt faced the challenge. Out of a field of around 250 athletes our boys did very well. Elliot finished 64th and Jake 76th. Special mentions must go to Year 9's Luke Wyatt who came 5th overall and was the first Year 9 boy to cross the finish line.

Year 7 and 8 ran next with Dan Whittaker, Kieran Jones, Ashton Davies, Finlay Cannon Oscar Davies, Jake Davis, Alfie Smallman and Gil Smith running for Year 7. Sam Taylor-King, Harri Nicholas and Trystan Davies represented Year 8.

Again the boys did very well in a field of around 300 runners with special mention going to Trystan Jones 34th, Finlay Cannon 75th and Dan Whittaker 81st.

The afternoon was a fantastic opportunity to compete against athletes from all of South Wales and the Valleys.

Mr Card



Once again, over 350 pupils deserted their classrooms and made their way on board seven coaches travelling down the M4 motorway to Swansea University Athletics Stadium. All who were fortunate enough to attend Porthcawl Comprehensive School Sports Day 2018 bathed in the warm summer sun and were treated to some exceptional performances. Our athletes ran, jumped and threw in athletic events ranging from the 100m to the 1500m, the long jump to the shot put. The standard of competition was unparalleled this year as was the enthusiasm and endeavour on display in often seating temperatures.















In Tristan James, Eve Hickman, Sofia Chayka and champions; Tristan was 1st in both the 400m and long jump and 2nd in the 100m, breaking the 400m year record, which had stood for 14 years. Isobel recorded two excellent wins in the 300m and shot for the much coveted Victrix and Victor Ludorum (the awards given to the female and male athletes respectively who accumulate the most points for their house on Sports Day). Other female athletes in contention for the Victrix Ludorum included Abi Davies, who dominated the middle distance events in Year 8, with two phenomenal victories in the 800 and 1500m, whilst also having enough energy to win the long jump. Annalise Kavannagh, twin sister of with two firsts and a second. Her efforts were and a commendable 2nd in the 100m. However once was a very clear winner and this year the Victrix Ludorum went to Eleni Jones of Year 8 who amassed an outstanding 26 points, winning both the 100m and 200m for her house in year record breaking performances and a debut winning performance in the high jump. A very well deserved accolade for an outstanding young athlete.

The Victor Ludorum was once again hotly contested with many boys once again just missing out on the coveted award because they only managed to do two events. Rex Ezard, Joe Ezard, Ethan Griffiths and David Ridsdale all won two, with the later achieving redemption from last year's stumble in the 100m with a well-earned victory in the Year 10 boys' version of the event. Last year's Victor Ludorum Evan Jones was also in contention producing two of the most 'eye popping' performances of the day as he smashed two of the longest held school records in taking the Year 9 boys 100m and 200m titles. Both records had stood for over 25 years. It was such a pleasure to see him at sports day even though he was preparing to race in the Welsh Schools Championships. Unsurprisingly Evan was to go on and be crowned Welsh School's Athletics 200m champion the following day. But even his points total was

overhauled by Will Jarman of Year 8 who showed great versatility on the day and the value of entering three events by winning the javelin and achieving a 2nd in the 1500m and a third in the triple jump. However even this valiant effort by Will was eventually bettered by the multi-talented Tristan James who is this year's Victor Ludorum. He amassed a tremendous 24 points for his house with a record breaking run in the 400m, a 1st in the long jump and a hard fought 2nd in the 100m. A fantastic achievement from a pupil who was still only in Year 7. We look forward with much anticipation to watch how Tristan's athletic journey unfolds.

All day long we were treated to some of the best school's athletics seen at sports day for many years. However, more importantly the endeavour and positive attitudes on display were even more pleasing. We hope everyone enjoyed the experience and will be ready and willing to step up to the plate again next year to represent their house. Everyone concerned was a credit to the school.

In the final shake up for the Sports Day House Competition the results are as follows...... In reverse order

4th	Powys	622 pts
3rd	Dyfed	672 pts
2nd	Morgannwg	751 pts
1st	Gwynedd	797 pts
	•	_

### Points breakdown by year groups

Year 7	D	G	M	P
	198	174	225	172
Year 8	D	G	M	P
	157	245	191	167
Year 9	D	G	M	P
	182	230	202	164
Year 10	D	G	M	P
	135	148	133	119
Overall	D	G	M	P
	672	797	751	622

















GIRLS' WINNERS

### **TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

### Monday 16th July – Wednesday 18th July 2018

Since the inaugural year, 2007, the PCS Tennis Tournament is a prevalent event in the school calendar. Attracting over 200 entries both male and female from Years 7 to 10, it is as popular as ever.

At court side, Year 10 Welsh Bacc. pupils were responsible for planning fixtures, officiating, recording results and coaching pupils. The response to tennis, as always, was magnificent, culminating in a well organised and supported event, with pupils producing an excellent standard of play on the courts. More importantly, players of all abilities had the opportunity to participate, have fun and improve their tennis skills.

In the Senior Boys' final, Matt Greenwood, as top seed and thankful that Harley wasn't in this year's tournament, won his first title. He beat Rhys Morgan in a competitive game that Rhys just couldn't get going in. An excellent runner up though, and a great a game.

Ben Pownall, after his first round defeat to Matt Morgan, went on an unbeaten run to win this year's plate competition in the boys' tournament beating Spencer Morgan in a good final match.

The final of the Year 7 competition was a tight game and could have been won by either of the 2 finalists, but allrounder Trystan James found form in the final 2 games to win 7-5 against Roddy Evans.

In the Senior Girls' final, Annie Williams had a tough draw having played No 1 seed and previous winner Ffion Masters in the quarter final. She kept up her good form and met Ellie Martin in a great girls' final pairing. Ellie couldn't match her semi-final form and Annie eventually won 6-4 in an excellent final and shows the high standard of girls' tennis in the school.

In the Girls' Plate final, the athletic Nia Clatworthy overcame the challenge of Year 8 Katie Sinclair to take the title.

The Year 7 Girls' winner was Rozee Lewis who beat Stella Shirley in a final that was played at a really good standard for Year 7 and will definitely be two players to watch out for in the future.

### **Doubles Results**

In the Mixed Doubles Final Matt Greenwood and Harriet Shroll beat Cameron Beale and Elli Martin in a tie break (7-2)

### HALL OF FAME

**BOYS' WINNERS** 

2007	Richard Tuck	Sidney Rogers				
2008	Lee Arrowsmith	Bethan Price				
2009	Hayden Lau	Bethan Price				
2010	Jacob Prosser	Robyn Wilkins				
2011	Matthew Johns	Laura Mackey				
2012	Josh Bell	Olivia Norris				
2013	Jak Robbins	Demi Grant				
2014	Harley Stephens	Emily Stradling				
2015	Harley Stephens	Elise Thomas				
2016	Harley Stephens	Ffion Masters				
2017	Harley Stephens	Anni Martin				
2018	Matt Greenwood	Annie Williams				
Year 7 Winners						
2007	Joe McCarthy	Robyn Wilkins				
2008	Matthew Johns	Laura Mackey				
2009	Liam Webb	Allie Young				
2010	Jak Robbins	Amy Williams				
2011	Nathan Jones	Courtney Lewis				
2012	Brandon Cooper	Emily Stradling				
2013	George Rossini	Kit Cronin				
2014	Harley Stephens	Cherrise Lau				
2015	Lucas Hoven	Ffion Masters				
2016	Alex Williams	Bethan Wilson				
2017	Christian Barrett	Polly James				
2018	Trystan James	Rozee Lewis				

### RESULTS - BOYS' TOURNAMENT

1/4 FINAL		SEMI FINAL		FINAL		WINNER
Matt Greenwood Morgan Roach	6 1	Matt Greenwood	6			
Elliot Watkins Oliver Gardner	0 1	Oliver Gardner	1	Matt Greenwood	6	
Cade Pearce <i>Ben Pownall</i>	3 5	Chris Johns	2	Ben Pownall	6	
Chris Johns <i>Blake Jones</i>	6 <b>0</b>	Ben Pownall	5			Matt Greenwood
Cameron Beale Gabe Lacey	6 <b>0</b>	Cameron Beale	1			Ben Pownall
Ben Pearce Spencer Morgan	5 5	Cameron Beale	1	Rhys Morgan	0	
Lewis Audsley  Ehren Osborne	2 3	Rhys Morgan	6	Spencer Morgan	3	
Rhys Morgan Niall Thomas	6 5	Niall Thomas	3			Plate Competition

1/4 FINAL		SEMI FINAL		FINAL		WINNER	
Ffion Masters  Lucy Griffiths	5	Ffion Masters	4				
Polly James Tegan McGlynn	3	Lucy Griffiths	3	Annie Williams	6		
Annie Williams <i>Maisy Corthine</i>	5 0	Annie Williams	6	Katie Sinclair	0		
Eleri Williams <i>Katie Sinclair</i>	0 3	Katie Sinclair	4			Annie Williams	
Pippa Harrowing <i>Nia Clatworthy</i>	2	Summer Evans	4			Nia Clatworthy	
Summer Evans Rozee Lewis	5	Nia Clatworthy	4	Ellie Martin	4		
Abi Street Seren Roberts-Brown	1	200		Nia Clatworthy	6		
Ellie Martin Orla Danahar	5	Ellie Martin Seren Roberts-Brown	6 0				Plate Competition







# Trips

# GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT West Coast Tour 2018





Our journey began at the end of a long hard term of exams so it was great to get this trip started and be on our way to Gatwick.

We took off early in the morning and after a long flight landed in Los Angeles. Boarding the bus with Mario our patient driver, our first stop was Venice beach for a quick drink and ice cream and then off to Farmers Market in Santa Monica for a bite to eat. Leaving here en route to the hotel in Downtown Disney we stopped to do the 'Walk of Fame', take in the Kodak Theatre and the Kraumann's Theatre and spy the Hollywood sign up in the hills.

Bleary eyed and very hot and sticky we checked into our hotel and walked to Downton Disney to start getting into that holiday mood and prepare ourselves for a day of thrills and spills at Disney the next day.

Disney was hot, crowded and fun but unfortunately we had to leave this place the next day and we travelled through the Mojave Desert on Route 66 through Seligman and on to Williams for our second hotel. I don't think any of us have experienced heat like this before - 52 degrees in one place. So hot that we had to look out for rattle snakes under the toilets and we had to eat our ice creams and lollies in the service station otherwise they would have all melted before our eyes.

After dining in Cruisers we set off the next morning to the Grand Canyon National Park. Stopping firstly in the amazing Monument Valley where we were treated to a jeep safari- dusty and rather bumpy but amazing with the Navaho Indians. The afternoon was more leisurely, rafting on the river Colorado in the Glen Canyon. Ice cold water and boiling hot temperatures. After the Bright Angel trail the next morning, some of us went up in the sky in helicopters to take in the wonderful sites of the canyon. I don't think any of us have seen anything like it before, or will again.

That was the geography over- now we descended on to Las Vegas- WOW what a place! Bright flashing lights, noisy, glitzy and let's not forget- hot! Our hotel was different – let's say! But it had a pool to cool us down and then we hit The Strip. After some food in Buba Gump's, the brave ones amongst us queued for New York, New York rollercoaster to be swirled and tumbled in the night sky. Back to the hotel late at night, we viewed the amazing light show at the hotel Bellagio and literally fell into bed.

After a good night's sleep, the Hoover Dam loomed and an afternoon of shopping to spend our dollars. This night we hit the strip on the other side after a visit to the Stratosphere World Buffet and Freemont Street. Quote of the night 'What is going on?' a

quick stop in the Venetian hotel to see the gondolar and then it was pack and bed, ready for a long journey to San Francisco.

On our way to San Francisco we shopped till we dropped in Barstow – bargains galore! I've never seen so many shopping bags being stuffed in the hold above our seats in the bus and Mrs Mackey reminding us all of the weight of our cases coming home!! Oh well we will face that in the airport.

After an over- night pit stop in Fresno we arrived to the fog and cloud of San Francisco – freezing coldthe jumpers, coats and jeans were out in force. Where had the sun and heat gone? Where had the Golden Gate Bridge gone? We knew it was there because we had crossed it, but you couldn't see it because of the fog. Oh well maybe tomorrow. Union Square shopping, the tram ride and refreshments later, care of Bupa Gump's, ended in a mass spur of the moment flash mob following the expert choreography of a homeless man in Fisherman's wharf. Good fun and preparation for the hike up Lombard Street. This tested your fitness.

Our last day was here - packed bulging cases in the bus, we caught the ferry to Alcatraz. What an amazing place and well worth a visit but then it was Oakland's airport and home. Eleven days of amazing sights and experiences. Thank you.



# Year 8 visit Techniquest in Cardiff Bay





On the 26th September, the Year 8 pupils of Porthcawl Comprehensive School went on a trip to Techniquest. It was a fun day that required the application of our maths skills that we had been taught in our lessons.

On arrival, we had the opportunity to wander around the exhibition floor to explore different activities and tasks. After that, we split into two groups to begin our focused tasks. Activity one was all about 'problem solving'. We were given a booklet filled with activities that we had to solve. These included measuring chairs, reverse goggles, measuring the volume of a cube, which we had to construct first with large shapes of different designs. Another activity was answering maths calculations to find the music to a song to play on the tubular pipes; the song was 'London Bridge'.

Later we went into a maths classroom to learn about how to use maths in our daily life outside of school and for our future. A Cardiff University lecturer told us all about her job and how it involved a great deal of mathematics. She showed us a PowerPoint explaining the various ways maths is used in the real world. After that we completed a quiz where we had to guess the percentage or price change of jobs over the years that required maths.

Our final activity was visiting the theatre globe where we were shown a variety of 'maths magic' tricks. The main topics covered were probability and fractions. We had the opportunity to win prizes and interact with one another. Our favourite game was when the Techniquest teachers used a process of elimination to find the dates of our birthdays.

Overall, we all had an interesting and useful day where we learnt to apply various types of maths to real-life situations.

Ella Matthews, Ellie Lau, Eve Hickman, Finty Kehoe, Alys Jones, Grace Clear and Seren Cole - Year 8

# Paris 2018









In May, the Languages Department ran a trip to Paris. We met the bus at 10pm for the overnight journey — everyone was in pyjamas, including the teachers, and some people were wearing onesies! After flooding into the services for a late night stop, we arrived in Dover to take the ferry across the Bristol Channel.

In Paris we went to a mall and bought some gifts and sweets for the way back and got a chance to practice some Français! Then we visited 'La Tour Eiffel' and went up to the second floor where we had a lovely view of the city. After that we went on a boat tour down the River Seine. From the boat we could see many famous monuments like 'le musée du Louvre' and 'la Cathédrale de Notre Dame'. On the final day we went to Disneyland Paris where it mostly rained, but we had a great time on the rides before getting the ferry home.

Once back home, we got awards and I got one for being the heaviest sleeper on the whole school trip! Special thanks to all the teachers that came and those who organised the trip.

Enzo Lipley 8JS



# Pupil Achievements

### Many congratulations go to the following:-

**Grace Meredith** 

Year 13

Grade 7 Ballet - Merit (Silver Medal)

Royal Academy of Dance

**Anousha Cronje** 

Year 9

Grade 4 Ballet - Merit

**Elen McCloy** 

Year 13

Selected for GB Lifesaving Team for World Youth Lifesaving

Championships 2018

European Champion – Board Race and Oceanwoman Events

Marcus Fish, Sarah Davidson

Selected for GBR Lifesaving Team - Boat Crew

ear 10

Evan Jones Year 10
Welsh Athletics Junior Championships U15 Winner - 200m

Mid Glamorgan Athletics Championships U15 Winner - 200m

Selected for Wales in Triathlon at the IRC Championships in Leicester 15-16 September.

Selected for Glamorgan Valleys County Netball U14

Isobel Evans

Year 8

Selected for Glamorgan Valleys County Netball U14

Carmen Lynch

Year 10

Selected for Glamorgan Valleys County Netball U16

Anni Martin

Year 12

Selected for Glamorgan Valleys County Netball U18

Year 10

Volunteering for the Local Authority Netball HUB workforce team

**Libby Mumford** 

Qualified for U21 Kent & Masters Quest National Championships on horse, Saraton Seashell

Steve Davies Year 13 Leaver Winner of Innovation Award for A Level DT Project

Details to be announced by WJEC 5 December at the Senedd by

Tal Juliff-Jones

Year 9

British Mounted Games - U14 Pairs Champion 2018

**Lucy Vinen** 

Year 13 Leaver

Dilwyn Evans Music Award

### Instrument exams

Congratulations to all musicians that have sat grade exams over the past term! Well done for showing excellent dedication to practising and preparing for these examinations on top of your normal lessons. Remember to update your music teacher on any success that you achieve or see a member of the Music Department so that they can update their records and publish your achievement in the next Porthcawl Post! Diolch.

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade
Isaak Cronje	Year 11	Piano	Grade 6 Merit Grade 6 Clarinet Distin Four Counties Orchestr
Anousha Cronje	Year 9	Piano	Grade 4 Pass Four Counties Orchestr
Samuel Weaver	Year 8	Theory	Grade 3 Distinction
Isabelle Hone	Year 11	Flute	Grade 5 Merit
Stella Marks	Year 11	Flute	Grade 5 Merit
Issy Hemington-Gorse	Year 8	Clarinet	Grade 2 Pass
Millie Fry	Year 13	Flute	Grade 7 Pass
Poppy Shingler	Year 8	Violin	Grade 1 Merit
Freya Owens	Year 8	Violin	Grade 2 Pass
Phoebe Roach	Year 13	Violin	Grade 6 Merit
Sophie Edwards	Year 11	Theory	Grade 5 Pass
Efa Morris	Year 8	Guitar	Grade 2 Distinction
Scarlett Osborne	Year 8	Guitar	Grade 2 Distinction
Asher Williams	Year 10	Bass Guitar	Grade 4 Distinction

### PARENTS/GUARDIANS

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

pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk

