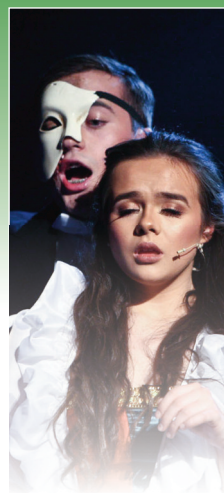


Welcome to the second edition
of the **Porthcawl Post** for
the school year 2017-2018



Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Spring 2018

Headteacher's Address



"Green A" this is how the Welsh Government has categorised our school. "Green A" is the highest category a school can be placed in and naturally, we are delighted. Reaching the top category has taken much hard work from the learners, their teachers and parents and carers. The academic good news continues as we have received an exceptional set of results from the November GCSE examinations. I do not wish to publish % figures at the moment as some learners still have to sit their papers. What I will state quite clearly is that our core results (English and Maths) will be the best our school has ever recorded and they will break local records.

As I write this piece, the school show is still fresh in our collective memories. Words fail me to describe the quality of the show; I feel I have run out of superlative adjectives! Put quite simply, the show was wonderful and magnificent, and I do hope that you were able to see the extensive local press coverage. As you will remember, this was our 40th consecutive school show, an unrivalled record in the area. The production of "Phantom" ran for five sell-out performances, thus well over 2000 local people enjoyed our show. This simple fact begs the question, "What other school production plays to 2000

people?" Very few, if any! This year we especially enjoyed welcoming back past staff to the Friday performance and it was fantastic to see so many familiar faces. We even had 4 Porthcawl Comprehensive School Headteachers together, which was a rare moment indeed! Mr Gordon Ebsworth was in situ when "Oliver!" our first school show took place at the Pavilion and was Head from 1971 – 1988, Mr Alan Jones 1988-2002 and Mr Kenny Dykes 2002 – 2012.

Four 'Heads' are better than one!



It may appear rather peculiar but we are already planning for September 2018. In January we held a very successful Year 12 Induction Evening. Early indications suggest a very large return to school which will add to and strengthen our most vibrant Sixth Form. In a similar fashion, our Year 6-7 transition programme has carried on. I am delighted that so many families from outside our catchment area have applied to join our school. Should anyone have a query about joining Year 7 or 12, then please contact Mrs Sloggett or Ms Crook respectively at school.

I regularly tell learners that "ambition is critical", and they can achieve great things if they try and try. With this idea in mind, I can inform you that Laurence Hunt of Year 13 has been offered a place at Magdalene College, Cambridge to study Medicine; a tremendous achievement. It was wonderful to celebrate a variety of successes across the school in our recent Annual Awards Evening. As usual, this was a very well supported event and further news of individual triumphs will follow in the next magazine.

I feel that our school is in a very strong position currently. The success we are enjoying is a reflection of the hard work of the learners and teachers, but also reflects your steadfast support for us. At present there is a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Please send any expressions of interest to me in writing.

As always, I look forward to meeting you over the next few months.

Andrew Slade - Headteacher

Luca loses fight with rare condition

Our son Luca sadly lost his fight with his rare condition called ROHHAD syndrome which only affects 75 people in the world. ROHHAD stands for rapid-onset obesity with hypothalamic dysfunction, hypoventilation and autonomic dysregulation. It is a rare, life-threatening syndrome that affects the autonomic nervous system (which controls involuntary actions like breathing and your heartbeat) and the endocrine system. Luca died at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff in the early hours of Saturday 25th November after suffering a hyponatraemic seizure two days earlier. Luca was just 11 years old and had a "zest for life", he was diagnosed at 2 ½ but in his short life he led a full life.

ROHHAD meant Luca had a host of health problems including repeated respiratory and cardiac arrests, which left him in intensive care. Luca also had to use a ventilator at night to support his breathing and had a 1:1 nurse to monitor him during the night. Despite taking medication and self-administering his growth hormone injection, nothing ever got Luca down. He enjoyed swimming or doing tae kwon do, gymnastics and drama.

Luca, who has a sister Sofia, 9, attended Maes yr Haul Primary School in Bridgend until September 2016 when his health deteriorated. After a period in hospital he started at Headlands School in Penarth in May, which is run by Action for Children, as they were better able to care for his complex needs.



Support

The support we have received over the last few months has been overwhelming. We have been hugely supported by family, friends, our workplaces, pupils and the wider community. The sheer number of people at the funeral service demonstrated how much Luca was loved by those who knew him. The tribute song "I'm the King of the Swingers" sang by the Stagecoach troupe group (which involved some of our own pupils from Porthcawl Comprehensive) was a very fitting send off for Luca. We would like to thank everyone for the donations we received for Luca's chosen charity "The ROHHAD Association". We received contributions from Porthcawl RFC, local businesses, hospitals, collection after the School Carol Service, the 6th Form Interact Group and Luca's charity bike ride "Ride for ROHHAD" which took place in Cardiff Bay with children, friends and family from Headlands School, Penarth.

The support really has helped us through a very difficult time. Because of the love and devotion Luca received from his family and those around him he was able to pack a great deal of happiness into his eleven years, and that is something to be thankful for. In mourning the loss of a potential future let's not

forget what he achieved in the past, and the love and joy and laughter that he has brought to so many lives, and the wonderful effect that he had on just about everyone that met him.

Organ Donation Saved 3 Other People

My wife Beth and I have always donated blood. About two years ago Luca and our daughter Sofia came with us to the blood donation session in the Community Centre in Brackla. They were both very interested in the process and finding out how our blood can help other people. We talked about blood donation, bone marrow and organ donation. Luca agreed that they were all very worthwhile and agreed that if we can help people whether we are alive or have passed away then we should.

His parting gift was to give the amazing gift of life to a known three people with the potential to save others pending further tests. Luca's kidney and pancreas went to a woman in her 40s from Manchester, his other kidney went to a man in his 30s from Cardiff and his liver was donated to a teenager in London. Luca's heart valves can also be used and are stored for up to 10 years.

CHARITIES

Over the years we have been involved with many charities including Noah's Ark, Ty Hafan, Y Bont, Make a Wish, Air Ambulance, 2Wish Upon A star. Many of you may remember that Luca opened the Ty Hafan charity shop with Elvis in Porthcawl. He also started the first ever Rainbow Run in Porthcawl town. Luca also won the Child of Courage category at the Bridge FM Local Hero Awards and appeared on Children In Need in 2015.





My Next Challenge

– Ty Hafan Dads #5in55 Challenge

Following discussions with Ty Hafan, a new event has recently been launched, the #5in55 challenge from 4th - 7th July 2018. This will involve a group of Ty Hafan dads walking the 5 highest mountains in Britain in 55 hours. (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, Snowdon, Cadair Idris and Pen y Fan).

Climbing a combined height of 5,187m and covering over 36 miles in total this challenge is about the dad's pushing themselves, inspiring others, making friendships and proving once again that our dads are stronger together. It is more than just a group of men climbing mountains, it is about showing others that no matter what the odds, no matter what obstacles lie before you, that you can accomplish anything. This is a group of dads who regardless of their current destination, are walking the same journey in life, and now want to walk together to inspire others and themselves.

'Every Ty Hafan dad has his own mountain to climb when caring for a child with a life limiting condition but ours are climbing mountains to support and inspire others.'

If you would like to donate to this cause please send your donation into the school or please go to

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pucella>

Thanks again for all your support.

Angelo, Beth & Sofia Pucella



If you're not in school, you cannot succeed!



This is form 8AL, the Attendance Cup winners for November 2017 with an attendance of 94%. We were very shocked to win the cup, but very proud that we did!

Remember, "Every lesson counts, every school day counts."

School Committees



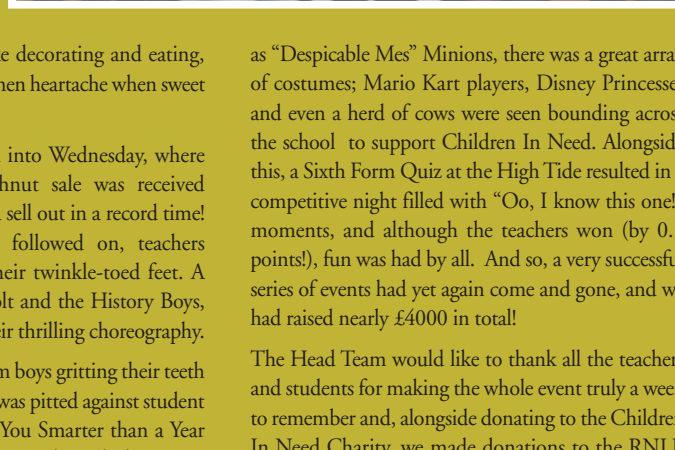
The school is really pleased that as well as our School Council, this year we have a number of other pupil committees, including 3 sub-committees. Our Health and Wellbeing Committee has been working on assemblies to deliver to their year groups on the importance of staying hydrated during the school day, as well as looking at the wide variety of food available from the school dining areas.

Following on from obtaining a £200 grant for our committees, the Eco-Committee will shortly be launching collections for the local food banks, look out on Facebook and twitter for more information.

Mike Clarke, local councillor has been in to school to visit the School Council. He wants to find out what there is for young people in the area and what can be improved. The School Council is in the middle of thinking of some ideas for him, pupils are asking their form reps and we will report our findings to him in due course.



CHARITIES WEEK



November had come around again and that meant one thing in the calendar at Porthcawl Comprehensive; Charities Week was upon us! The Head Team had been working hard since the beginning of the school year to create entertaining events and shows in order to support amazing charities, both local and national.

During the week of the 13th - 17th this tradition, which ended with Children In Need on the Friday, took place all over the school, and both teachers and students enjoyed taking part.

The week commenced with the annual auctioning of Sixth Formers, who kindly gave their day to the younger years, who made eager bids for someone to do their legwork (and homework) for the day. Lunchtime resulted in an hour filled with enthusiastic miming and dancing in "Lip Sync Battle", with impressive appearances from the Modern Languages, Performing Arts and History Departments. Day two was filled with fun, yet messy antics in "The Great

British Bake Off" with cake decorating and eating, resulting in firstly triumph then heartache when sweet treats were destroyed.

The cake theme continued into Wednesday, where our Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale was received incredibly well by all, with a sell out in a record time! "Strictly Come Dancing" followed on, teachers dazzling the crowd with their twinkle-toed feet. A house favourite was Mr Holt and the History Boys, who entertained all with their thrilling choreography.

Thursday saw the Sixth Form boys gritting their teeth at leg waxing whilst teacher was pitted against student in a tense showing of "Are You Smarter than a Year Seven?" Finally teachers were put through their paces in "I'm a Teacher, Get Me Out of Here!" where things got messy very quickly when baked beans were brought into the mix.

On Friday, a non-uniform and fancy dress day took place for the whole school to get involved, and whilst it was amusing seeing the Head Team milling around

as "Despicable Mes" Minions, there was a great array of costumes; Mario Kart players, Disney Princesses and even a herd of cows were seen bounding across the school to support Children In Need. Alongside this, a Sixth Form Quiz at the High Tide resulted in a competitive night filled with "Oo, I know this one!" moments, and although the teachers won (by 0.5 points!), fun was had by all. And so, a very successful series of events had yet again come and gone, and we had raised nearly £4000 in total!

The Head Team would like to thank all the teachers and students for making the whole event truly a week to remember and, alongside donating to the Children In Need Charity, we made donations to the RNLI, Follow Your Dreams Technology Club, Action on Hearing Loss, PSPA, Macmillan, Trinity Church Vulnerable Adults Group, Sandville, Girlguiding, Porthcawl Stroke Club and Velindre.

Thank you all!

Alice Webber - Assistant Head Girl



Lunch Time SHOWS





FANCY DRESS



BBC
Children
in Need



Festive Fairtrade 2017

After months of planning, Mrs Felton and her Fairtrade team organised a Christmas Fairtrade stall in the school library. The stall included a range of Fairtrade items such as clothes, food and accessories. Along with that, in a separate part of the library, the Fairtrade team also organized a free chocolate tasting stall. The chocolate used was Fairtrade Divine chocolate and the clear winner was milk chocolate orange.

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Barron our school Librarian for letting us have access to the school Library and hold our event there. We would also like to say thank you to everyone who bought items or made a contribution to Fairtrade and we are happy to announce that we made £126 that was given to Sustainable Wales and a full donation tin for Fairtrade.

We are now planning an Easter store and will be looking to sell a variety of Fairtrade chocolate and gifts.



Winston's Wish



Winston's Wish is a charity that supports children and young people after the death of a parent or sibling – the most fundamental loss they will ever face.

Sadly this year, thousands of children faced their first Christmas without Mum or Dad. Year 8 decided to make it their wish to support these children throughout the festive season, and into the new year. In the two weeks before Christmas, we decorated the reception windows with all of the beautiful stars. Thank you Year 8.

To Wish Upon a Star, Year 8 decorated their stars with memories, dreams, wishes or art in return for a small donation towards the charity. By taking part, we hope to provide bereaved children and their families the

tools to not only help them during what can be an incredibly difficult time of the year, but also to face the future with confidence and hope, and lead full and flourishing lives.





The PHANTOM *of the Opera*



This year's annual school production was 'The Phantom of the Opera'. This was PCS's 40th annual school show and we were grateful to be part of this amazing production.





“40 years of Theatre Productions and definitely The Best of all Time !!”

Phantom of the Opera has been running on the West End for 30 years. It's one of the best musical theatre productions of all-time, with an amazing score by Andrew Lloyd Webber. It tells the story of an opera ghost who settles in The Paris Opera House, who falls in love with a soprano and dancer Christine Daaé. The story shows how Christine is stuck in the middle of a love triangle with Raoul. The phantom ghost causes mayhem within the opera house, exploding chandeliers and killing many of the protagonists, in order pursue his love.

The lucky pupils played five performances of Phantom at the Grand Pavilion - all sold out - and it gave the four lead actors, James Evans-Jones (Phantom), Megan Morris (Christine Daaé), Lucy Vinen (Carlotta Guidicelli) and Jack Williams (Raoul), such a professional and an unforgettable experience. With an extra show, there was an even larger audience to perform to and with a standing ovation every night, we couldn't have wished for better. We saw hugely varied audiences, from primary school pupils, to parents, many past staff and pupils, and even H from Steps! In total there

were over 80 people in the cast and over the rehearsal process; friendships and memories were made that will last a lifetime. In addition to this, many of our school pupils made up the orchestra, playing an incredibly challenging yet exceptional score of music, and they certainly did it such justice!

We feel incredibly lucky to have been part of such a technically professional production. We were able to use an electronic boat on stage and had unlimited amounts of dry ice, all added extras which made this production even more entertaining. Of course, it wouldn't be Phantom without a chandelier, and what a chandelier it was! It was equipped with flashing lights and pyrotechnics making the Phantom's presence even more real. The technical process was interesting and certainly a long one, ensuring everything was set correctly and of course, making sure that everyone could be seen. However, we know these would have come at a cost, and we are very grateful for the funds and effort put into providing us with such incredible props.





“Phenomenal show. Unbelievable standard for a school production. A bright future awaits the talented cast. Well done all”

The week prior to the show was spent at the Pavilion, where the cast, crew and staff spent long hours ensuring the production was perfected. During the week we all had moments of doubt as to whether we could pull this off, but evidently it all came together in the end. The Sunday before saw one of the most exciting moments of the rehearsal process, the band call. Over 25 musicians and the whole cast squeezed into the stage door at the Pavilion and the musical magic filled the room. Mrs Giles led these musicians and was remarkably calm and collected. Before this, we'd only rehearsed with a piano and, on occasion, very few members of the orchestra. So suddenly having 25 musicians in front of us was very exciting indeed and perhaps slightly daunting for some. However, after a successful band call, we couldn't wait to have the musicians back with us for the show days. We cannot thank the orchestra enough for their efforts, they really made the show and we couldn't have done it without them and their incredibly skillful playing.

Visually, turning 2018 school children into a 1900s opera chorus wasn't going to be easy, however with the help of Leiza Davies and Mrs Thompson and the Textiles Department, it seemed effortless. Their time, energy and commitment to the show was second to none and every detail was perfected; from the Phantom's mask to chorus girls' skirts - everyone looked phenomenal.

Of course, none this would have been possible without the un-ending work and support of our exceptional teachers. Mrs Poole for her direction, Mrs

Giles for her musical direction, Miss Thomas for her choreography and Mr Smith for his set design and production management. The extra hours; after school, lunchtimes, weekends and holiday time that the staff have put into this production is tremendous, and they have all been so selfless throughout the whole process. All with one common goal; to provide us with the greatest experience in producing the best show yet, and we feel that we certainly succeeded. We cannot thank the teachers enough for their kindness, help and endless support throughout the show, we are so grateful.

It'll be very strange next year to sit on the other side and watch the show after so many years of being involved. However, we're also incredibly excited to see what next year brings, as the talent in the school continues to thrive. Having said that, it'll be interesting to see not only what happens next year, but to see what is in store for the next 40 years of hugely successful PCS productions.

Thank you so much to every single person who contributed to the show in whatever way, we are so appreciative to everyone who helped make our 40th anniversary production of 'The Phantom of the Opera' such a huge success and something we are all so proud to have been a part of.

Thank you again to Malcolm Nugent who took these wonderful photographs of the show for us all to share.

Lucy Vinen and James Evans-Jones

(AKA Carlotta and the Phantom)





Here are some comments left on social media after the show-

“Brilliant show!! Not many schools in the UK that could do that”

“Amazing absolutely amazing. Huge accolades to all”

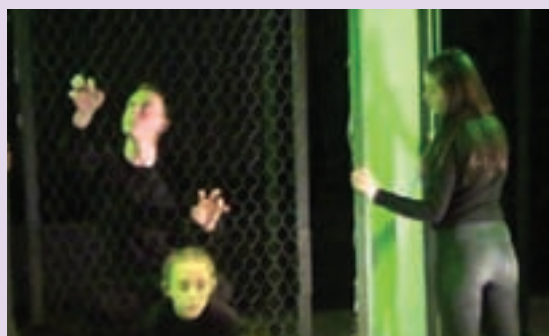
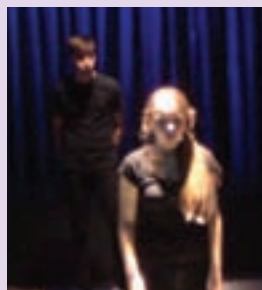
“What an amazing show. The professional and amazing singers on this show, was just like a west end production. Everyone involved should be so proud of this production. Take a bow. What a performance. Goose bumps”

“Oh my word overwhelmed by this performance worthy of the West End - goosebumps in abundance . Hard to remember that these were school performers and not professionals. I want to come again tonight”

“Went to see this show last night and it was outstanding. Like a London Production. Well done you made our evening. Thank you”

Year 11 GCSE Drama Devised Practical Exams

November 2017



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

“I really enjoyed the experience and it has helped to develop my skills as an actor” Eddy Osborne

“Challenging, but hard work makes it worthwhile” Olivia Fowler-Baker

“It was a long and challenging rehearsal process but the final piece was rewarding and something to be proud of” Carys Rosser-Stanford

“I got the opportunity to learn about lighting and how choice of colour effects atmosphere” Tyler Davies

“It definitely gave me more confidence” Danie Collins

Theatre in Education

BTEC Performing Arts



This year the BTEC Performing Arts Group decided to depart from the popular pantomime performance which normally tours the primary schools, in order to experiment with a new drama performance, 'Theatre in Education'. The pupils, along with the teachers, produced a lesson plan full of warm up exercises, games, scenes and performance elements. As a group, they decided to approach the project with a 'Disney' theme around it, in order to appeal to the target audience of Years 5-6 and spark their imagination.

Each pupil took leadership of one section of the lesson and thoroughly enjoyed sharing their theatrical skills with others. The group conducted a trial run in West Park, which went extremely well as all pupils thoroughly enjoyed and made impressive progress by the end of the session.

"I really enjoyed taking part in this project and would love to do something similar to this again!" Meg Morris – Year 12

"I thoroughly enjoyed performing to younger years and teaching them the skills that we use in drama every day" Angharad Thomas – Year 12

"I found the experience of the project worthwhile, as I learned new skills and enjoyed working with the Year 12 on a completely new topic" Rebecca Adams – Year 13

"I really enjoyed the 'Disney' themed movement piece we designed and performed; I can't wait for whatever's next!" James Grandon – Year 13

Thérèse Raquin - Visit to Chapter Arts Centre

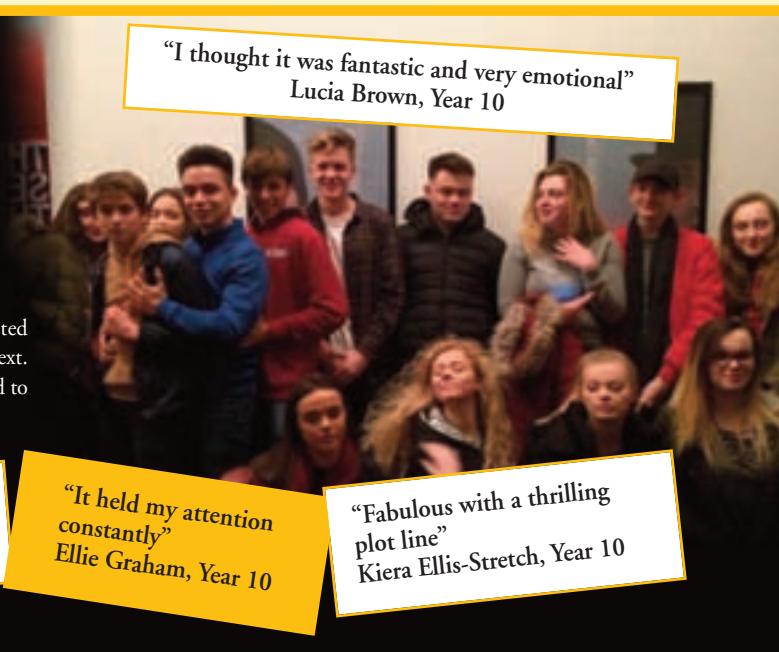
On the 28th November, a number of Drama pupils visited Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff to see 'Thérèse Raquin' an AS text. The play tells the story of a young woman, unhappily married to her first cousin by an overbearing aunt.

"I thought it was fantastic and very emotional"
Lucia Brown, Year 10

"I loved the set and it helped me to understand the term naturalism in Drama"
Erin Thomas-Parker, Year 10

"It held my attention constantly"
Ellie Graham, Year 10

"Fabulous with a thrilling plot line"
Kiera Ellis-Stretch, Year 10





Future Chef



After school on the 18th October, the Future Chef Competition held its school heats. Our task was to create a main course for 2 people costing no more than £7 and to be cooked in an hour! It was an amazing event and two outstanding future chefs came out on top. They were Mack Jenkins in Year 8 and Fin Hemsley in Year 11. They both cooked amazing dishes! Fin made a Jamaican style burger, homemade bun and wedges. Mack made pasta from scratch, accompanied by meatballs, in a delicious tomato sauce. These two brilliant cooks went on to the second round of the Future Chef Competition which was held in Bridgend College on January 12th.

From the point of view of being one of the contestants, the competition had an amazing atmosphere to cook in and it was fantastic to be surrounded by excellent cooks from all years. The Future Chef Competition is a great way to show off your talent to some awesome teachers. I made satay chicken with noodles, served in a lettuce cup; Mrs Thelwell-Davies said it was delicious!

Although I didn't get through, there is always next year! In the competition I was surrounded by brilliant cooks, but I was also surrounded by my best friends Alisha and Seren, who did brilliantly in the competition as well.

Alisha said "All the cooks did very well and the standards were really high, the winners' presentation was amazing and they deserved to win with the outstanding food that they cooked. It was such a good time and an amazing experience I will not forget!"

Next year I hope more people will take part because it is a chance that not many people will get.

Imogen Hopkin - Year 8



Future Chef Competition Mentoring and Training

at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club

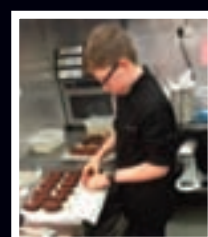
Finley Hemsley (Year 11) and I, Mackenzie Jenkins (Year 8) both won the school heats of the Future Chef Competition, and because of this, we had the opportunity to cook at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club's 5 star restaurant.

The Golf Club has one of the top private dining facilities in the UK. The dining room offers fantastic panoramic views of Rest Bay, Swansea Bay, the 18th green and the opening hole.

On the evening, we were helping the Head Chef prepare the dinner for a party of 24 people from a golfing society. We were asked to roll up our sleeves and help the Head Chef prepare and present the three course meal. This included a smoked salmon starter, fillet of beef with double mushroom ragout and potato dauphinoise main course and apple and rhubarb Penderyn Crumble for dessert.

Both Fin and I plated and presented the meals, and had a great experience learning how a professional kitchen and qualified Chef works. We hoped to have a chance to go there again as part of our preparation for the Regional Competition taking place at Bridgend College in January.

Mackenzie Jenkins - Year 8



Return to Royal Porthcawl

As hoped, Mack and Fin returned to Royal Porthcawl to continue their mentoring as part of the Future Chef Competition. Royal Porthcawl works in conjunction with the Future Chef Competition mentoring aspiring chefs in readiness for the 2nd stage of the competition which for Fin and Mack was on the 12th January 2018.

Both young chefs have learnt many new skills and can see for themselves the exciting potential of working in such a fantastic, fast paced environment.



E-Safety for Year 9



As part of our ongoing work on online safety in school, we were fortunate enough to have a visit from PC Nick Williams. He came to PCS to implement part of the police support programme offered to schools, and came to talk to Year 9 pupils about the dangers of sexual exploitation.

"In assembly we learned about sexual exploitation and who to call if someone was harassing me or who to tell if someone I don't know tries to contact me."

Abi Rounce 9ME

"This morning a Police Officer came in and spoke to us about child exploitation and mentioned that many people online pretend to be someone they're not."

Sam Mainwaring 9ME

E-Safety Committee



Last year, the school became only the second comprehensive school in Wales to achieve the South West Grid for Learning 360 Degree Online Safety Award. But we aren't stopping there! In order to continue with this work, the school's committee last term visited local primary schools to deliver assemblies on how to keep safe online. We hope they enjoyed them and learnt a little bit more about being safe when using the internet and social media.



Senior Maths Challenge Results

Over 82,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Senior Maths Challenge with the top 10% getting Gold, the next 20% getting Silver and the next 30% Bronze.

Two pupils out of the 11 that sat the challenge received a Bronze certificate. Congratulations to:

Year 12 Marcus Fish

Year 13 Lloyd Mortimer : Best in school

The Senior Maths Challenge is run by the UK Mathematics Trust (a registered charity whose aim is to improve the education of young people in Mathematics) and is supported by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. It is aimed at Year 12 & 13 students.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- One of the following numbers is prime
A) $2017 - 2$ B) $2017 - 1$ C) 2017 D) $2017 + 1$ E) $2017 + 2$
- The teenagers Sam and Jo notice the following facts about their ages : -
The difference between the square of their ages is four times the sum of their ages.
The sum of their ages is eight times the difference between their ages.
What is the age of the older of the two?
A) 15 B) 16 C) 17 D) 18 E) 19

Fieldwork in Geography at A Level

The new A Level course now has four days of fieldwork built into the course which is great as it gets us out of the classroom, collecting data in all different environments and weather. Be prepared it could be a lovely day, or you could be blown to bits and get soaking wet- but that's Geography for you.

We used the Field Study Centre in Margam, which is great to help you plan your work and collect the data. We have had some fab days out – down Pwll Du beach, in Bishopston, to look at evidence of long-shore drift and then another day in Cardiff Bay. Here we looked at the regeneration of the area to see who it was all for – the locals or people like you and me.

In Year 13 we went with Mrs Mackey to Cardiff looking at possible ideas for our investigation after a swift coffee and cake to help us plan out our ideas.

As part of our A Level investigation we were all allowed to choose a topic of our choice, devise our own questions about the development of physical or human factors in the changing world and choose where and when we go. It meant we could further research something of interest to us and how it impacts the economy, the environment and people.

This gave us another opportunity to learn more about the world we live in. Although it was hard work at times and we had to hit deadlines, it has been very enjoyable and has resulted in many of us deciding to continue with Geography in university."

Hannah Ashton and Jenna Blake
Years 12 & 13



Fieldwork at GCSE



GCSE Geography gets you out of the classroom and on fieldwork for two days. This year we went to the river Ilston in the Gower. It was a really hot and sunny day so a great opportunity to get in the river to collect data but also to cool off! It was good fun in groups, measuring the width of the channel and the greatest depth, as well as measuring how fast it was flowing. We did this at 4 different sites. After a hearty lunch we were then treated to an ice cream in Shepherds or a MacDonald's on the way home.

We also completed a second day in September in Cardiff. This was hard work as we had to count pedestrians at different points, as well as carry out an environmental quality survey and measure the wind speed. Good fun and interesting. We also

questioned people on what they preferred: the traditional streets or St Davids 2? What made the day was that because we worked well, we had free time during our lunch break - a great shopping opportunity.

Wonder what you will do or where you will go next year?

Year 11

Domesday Book

In History this year we have been learning about Britain in Medieval times. We have focused a lot on William the Conqueror and his invasion of England in 1066. An interesting part of this has been finding out about the Domesday Book, which was completed in 1086. The book was a great survey of England and Wales, as William needed to find out what people owned, in order to find out what they owed him in tax. The real book is now kept in the National Archives in London but we had the chance to create our own books. This was an exciting task and it also helped us understand how important the Domesday book was in history. Although it wasn't much fun for the people at the time, as it brought doom and gloom to their lives!



Thanks to the hard work of our students, the Gardening Club has won a £1000 grant from Tesco Bags of Help!

We are planning to buy a polytunnel with the money to shelter our crops from the worst of the weather and grow a whole new range of fruit and vegetables. Hopefully these will be used by the school canteen and enjoyed by both staff members and students.

We are also starting an exciting new project with History Club, growing vegetables for them to use in their WW1 recipes.

We welcome new gardeners. Just turn up on a Thursday!

Gardening Club will be on every week this year both in the Thursday lunch hour and after school until 4.30.

Any donations of seeds or edible plants would also be gratefully received!

History Club Meets The First Minister

The Wilderness Allotments (part of Bridgend County Allotment Association), was recently recognised for its community work across Bridgend County Borough with two awards. The prestigious International Allotment Award, issued by the Council of Europe and a Green Flag Community Award from Keep Wales Tidy.

First Minister Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM took the opportunity to learn more about the awards when he was the guest of the Association on 8th December at an informal event hosted by Trinity Care and Support at Trinity Church Porthcawl. Refreshments included a range of delicious cakes made by Margaret Minhinick, (Director of Sussed and Sustainable Wales).

Also in attendance were Cara Wheatley, Isobel Comley and Daisy Richards (Years 7 & 8), and Mr Shutt from Porthcawl Comprehensive School's History Club, who are working on a project about growing and cooking allotment produce during the Great War. By using local allotments, the History Club aims to grow and cook allotment ingredients that were typical in recipes during World War One.

As a guest at the event, Mr Jones learned about the role of the History Club's initiative in terms of their contribution to the community. Mr Jones was recently quoted in his article in the Seaside News – describing the visit as “inspirational”.





The Poppies are piling in!



Mexican Day of the Dead



I have enjoyed learning about the Day of the Dead in RS. It is so interesting to see how different cultures celebrate life. I also enjoyed making my skull and decorating it, as the skulls helped me to capture the joy and happy memories people associate with their lost loved ones.

The topic gives me a better understanding of how and why the Day of the Dead is celebrated and how people deal with the loss of their loved ones in different parts of the world.

Alina Biju ~ Year 8



Teenage textile enthusiasts from Porthcawl Comprehensive School have been busy sewing dozens of fabric poppies for a vibrant commemorative installation which will take centre stage at Wonderwood Wales in April this year.

The poppies sent to Wonderwood Wales will be strung together with others from all over the UK to form an amazing 'Curtain of Poppies' to commemorate the end of the First World War. 'Curtain of Poppies' organiser Jane Veevers is encouraging schools, groups and individuals nationwide to help reach the total of 887,858 that would be required to commemorate each person from the UK who died serving their country.

Their "big poppy sew" is the first community textiles project that Porthcawl Comprehensive School has got involved with. Laura Thompson, Head of the Technology and Art Faculty, says: "There are currently 31 pupils who have contributed to the making of poppies through our new Year 7 Textiles Club, which was set up this year by two sixth form girls for their Welsh Baccalaureate community challenge. We've made a few hundred so far; we are hoping to make 2000!"

"We thought it would be an interesting project to take part in as it started off the basic skills of sewing

a button or a felt circle onto fabric. This has built up to a few of the girls gathering the poppy using a running stitch to create a unique 3D shape. As well as improving basic sewing skills, the project has been a great opportunity to discuss the soldiers during WW1 and how they served our country. It has honoured us to contribute to such a thoughtful and creative piece of art. Our school History Club are helping out, too; they are also working on a centenary project.

"It's great that so many pupils are keen to make poppies and 15 teachers have also joined in, spending their lunchtime socialising whilst making poppies."

Mrs Thompson is hoping to attend Wonderwood Wales 2018 at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells with a bus full of pupils keen to see the culmination of their efforts!

Jane Veevers is delighted with the enthusiastic support she has received from Porthcawl Comprehensive School, and also from knitting and craft groups, WIs and community groups across Wales. She is keen to galvanise even more support from today's community of knitters, sewers and craft makers to recreate the united determination of the women at home during World War 1, who "did their bit" to support the troops overseas by knitting gloves, scarves, balaclavas and socks.



The 'Curtain of Poppies' will be a highlight of the annual showcase of wool and natural fibres, Wonderwool Wales, which takes place on April 28 and 29, 2018.



The 'Curtain of Poppies' will then become a travelling exhibition and is already booked to go to the National Wool Museum of Wales and Powys County Council Offices. Alongside the installation, The Royal British Legion will have a stand and collect donations. Wonderwool Wales is also inviting monetary donations in support of this project for the Royal British Legion.

Website: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Wonderwool-Wales-Curtain-of-Poppies>. To find out more and to find the patterns for the textile poppies visit www.wonderwoolwales.co.uk/show-events/curtain-of-poppies.html



Language Club



Language Club is a great place to explore new languages, play games and have fun. We look at languages such as French, Spanish, German and even sometimes Polish. Recently we have been using the IT room and playing Kahoot, we have also been looking at creating our own Kahoot game during the club sessions.

We have competitions for baking and in September we made a traditional chocolate French cake it was very good and the winners were Courtney Bartle and Harriet Williams from Year 8. Well done girls! Our club is run by Madame Morgan on a Monday lunchtime in P28 - bring your lunch if you like. Come and have fun everybody is welcome.

Bethan Owen - Year 8



Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen St Dwynwen's Day

St Dwynwen is the Welsh Patron Saint (nawddsant) of Love and on January 25th every year, Welsh people traditionally celebrate love (cariad). In the same way that St Valentine's Day is celebrated, Welsh people send cards, buy flowers, have a romantic meal and spend time with loved ones. We celebrated this custom in school by asking Years 7 and 8 to read the story of Santes Dwynwen and design cards and post them to their friends to show them how much they mean.

Welcome to our German Friends



On the 20th December we had two visitors from Hannover, Germany; Mr and Mrs Luhr, the parents of our Learning Support Assistant, Miss N Luhr. Mr and Mrs Luhr had never been to a British school and were very interested in what it looks like.

They were very impressed by the students' manners, and loved the feeling that the pupils' uniform gave them, they felt it was a feeling of unity and belonging. Comparing the grounds to schools they know in Germany, they really thought it is a very nice and fortunate school with its large grounds, especially the swimming pool, which was a facility they really thought we were lucky to have.

They really enjoyed meeting and talking to the groups of Year 12 and 13 language students. Both groups had very good German skills, and it was excellent practice for them to use their German with native speakers. Mr and Mrs Luhr would like to thank Mr Slade for making this visit possible, and also for the lovely lunch they enjoyed in the AS department.

Miss N Luhr - LSA

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

Christmas Carol Service 2017

Well done to all pupils and staff who were involved in the success of the Carol Service again this year. It was a very festive evening being so close to Christmas, and the high standards were praised by many audience members once again.

We were fortunate to welcome the audience with the uplifting sounds of the Brass Ensemble led by Mr Gray, playing traditional carols preceding the service. The Senior Girls opened the service with a beautiful processional piece 'Balulalow', which sounded magical, combined with their candlelit entrance. The harmonies in this piece were very challenging; however the girls learnt them effortlessly!

Wind Band then went on to perform 'Fantasia on God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' and 'Christmas in 3/4 Time' under the direction of our peripatetic Brass teacher Mr Simon Gray. Both pieces evoked the Christmas spirit with some of our most loved Christmas tunes. The newly renamed PCS Orchestra (for pupils of all abilities) has gone from strength to strength this year, and the level of instrumental talent is so impressive. What an incredible sound they made! Led by Mrs Bryant, PCS Orchestra performed a delightful arrangement of 'White Christmas' and contrasted this with 'Celtic Christmas', a slightly different style and a quirky 'spin' on the usual Christmas sound.

It was lovely to see our newly formed Flute Group perform a Christmas Medley in this year's service, again led by the peripatetic Woodwind teacher Mrs Bryant. This year we have a phenomenal number of talented flautists, and the formation of this group was to celebrate these talented musicians.

Mr Jefferies, our Guitar teacher led the guitar ensemble with a funky version of 'O Holy Night', combined with parts of 'Don't Let The Bells End'. Pupils from Year 7 through to Year 13 were involved and Rhys Lloyd and James Powell wowed the audience with their technically demanding guitar solos!

Senior Choir impressed again with their expressive performances of 'Diamond Bright' and 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'. It was a challenge to learn material for the carol service alongside the intense rehearsals for Phantom of the Opera, but Mrs Giles was so pleased with all the hard work that the choir had put in to learning the complicated harmonies, especially for 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas', and was so proud of their moving performances.

Junior Choir, led by Miss Thomas, stunned the audience with their Christmas inspired version of 'He Lives in You' from The Lion King. This piece was linked to Year 7's Expressive Arts topic of 'African Adventure'. Junior Choir were accompanied by Katie Pickett and Emily Childs on Percussion (Year 12) along with Mr Griffiths on drums. It was so impressive to see so many pupils in Junior Choir this year, and they made another fantastic sound with their second piece 'Ring out the Bells'.

Thank you to the readers, and the staff who put so much time and effort in to prepare extracts and performances, including the comical Junior Drama 'Christmas Gravy' written by Mrs Davies and led by Mr Smith. Year 8 certainly enjoyed this performance when it was performed for a second time on the last day of term. Well done to the creative Year 8 pupils for a very entertaining delivery of the piece!

The Senior Drama 'Peace has Come' coordinated by Miss Hardwick, told the traditional Christmas story through music and movement. The modern music that accompanied the performance was so fitting and the message 'Peace has Come' was reinforced with the creative use of placards. Again, well done to all pupils involved in what was a very enjoyable performance!

String Group and Concert Orchestra, led by Mrs Williams gave wonderful performances yet again this year! String Group performed 'The Bells of Christmas' accompanied by Laurence Hunt on piano. Concert Orchestra captivated the audience with a toe-tapping



arrangement of 'It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year', leaving everyone feeling very Christmassy indeed!

A huge 'thank you' once again, to all our wonderful peripatetic staff for their hard work and support this year. We are so grateful for your assistance in leading and supporting ensembles, as well as providing the pupils with first class tuition. Thank you also to the many other staff members who were involved or supported this school event.

A special mention must go to our talented Year 13 pupils. As this was their last carol service at PCS it was particularly special to hear Mitchell Davies, James Evans-Jones and Lucy Vinen perform 'Silent Night', beautifully harmonised as a trio. Laurence Hunt accompanied the congregational singing again this year, but sadly for the final time with the carol 'O Dawel Ddinas Bethlehem'. We are so lucky to have a talented organist here at PCS and we hope to encourage other pupils to follow in Laurence's, and indeed his older sister, Alexandra's footsteps! A little birdie has told us that Laurence has an apprentice look out for the next pupil that might be accompanying the carols next year!

The Music Department





Christmas Tree Festival 2017

It was a pleasure to be asked to perform in the Rotary Annual Christmas Tree Festival again this year. Every year we look forward to seeing All Saint's Church beautifully lit with Christmas tree fairy lights to kick start the festive season.

This year we started the festivities rather early with the Christmas Tree Festival Concert on Thursday 30th November!

Our lead principals from Phantom of the Opera, James Evans-Jones, Meg Morris, Mitchell Davies and Lucy Vinen performed 'Let it Snow', 'O Holy Night' and 'Silent Night'. Flute Group made their debut performance with a medley of Christmas Melodies led by Mrs Bryant, and Laurence Hunt gave a flawless performance of 'Heather on the Hill' on saxophone.

It was lovely to hear such glowing feedback from many audience members, as many expressed that PCS was represented by 'truly professional performances'. A very proud moment!

Well done to all the pupils who represented the school at this event.

The Music Department

'Tosca'



On the 7th February Mrs Giles and Miss Thomas took pupils from Years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form to the Wales Millennium Centre to watch the dress rehearsal of Puccini's Opera, 'Tosca'. It was a fantastic experience for pupils to see and hear great music and acting from the company of the Welsh National Opera. 'Tosca' was in three acts and lasted just under three hours. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thank you to the Welsh National Opera who provided the trip free of charge. www.wno.org.uk

Rhianwen & Naomi Keirl ~ Years 13 & 11

Carol Singing at Middleton Court

Well, we've been rather busy this Christmas!

On Monday 4th December, a small group of singers visited Middleton Court in Porthcawl to sing carols for the residents. It was a fantastic evening, and such a lovely experience to see the joy that this gave to so many. Most of them sang along for the entire time!

We were very grateful to receive a kind donation from the residents that evening. We thought that there was one clear charity that we wanted this donation to be given to, and that was the Rohhad Association in memory of Luca Pucella.

Thank you to those pupils who spent their evening carol singing. You made a big difference to many people and helped to spread the Christmas spirit!



MUSIC AWARDS

This year, the Music Department have given end of term awards to celebrate the display of outstanding commitment, dedication and hard work of pupils within extra-curricular activities. Pupils can be nominated for awards when they show impeccable punctuality and attendance, as well as a high standard of performance ability or a noticeable improvement in their skills. We have also awarded pupils for general qualities, such as the 'Music Personality of the Term' and 'Lifetime Contribution' awards, where a pupil may help out with several activities or simply continue to show good citizenship by being organised and a positive role model to others.

Nominations were given by Mrs Giles, Miss Thomas and all the peripatetic teachers for several different categories and the winners were announced on the last day of term following the Carol Service. There is now an 'Awards Board' in P22 where the awards are displayed so make sure you look next time you are rehearsing!

Well done to those pupils who received the awards for the Autumn Term!

JUNIOR VOCALIST OF THE TERM:

■ Maria Lynn and Scarlett Osborne

SENIOR VOCALIST OF THE TERM:

■ James Evans-Jones

PCS ORCHESTRA

INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE TERM:

■ Samuel Weaver

PCS CONCERT ORCHESTRA

INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE TERM:

■ Matthew Pugh

BEST NEWCOMER:

■ Isabel Appleton

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD:

■ Rebecca Adams

MUSIC PERSONALITY OF THE TERM:

■ James Powell

Winners for the Spring Term 2018 will be announced in the Spring Concert in March, so keep up your attendance and commitment to rehearsals and you may be the next winner of an award!

The Music Department

Visits to School

The Foster Carers' Charter

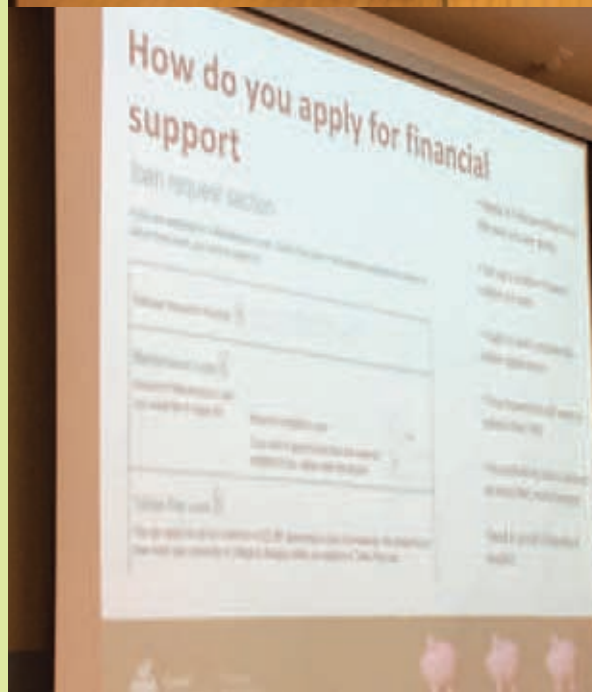
One of our school Governors, Ms Anna Morgan, is currently working with The Fostering Network (www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk) on a Welsh Government funded project to produce a version of the Foster Carers' Charter for young people who are currently in care, and their families. These leaflets will help explain what carers, families, and most importantly young people in care, can expect from the services around them.

In order for these leaflets to be accessible to children of all ages, Ms Morgan came in to school to consult with some of our pupils who have contributed considerably to the development of the Children's Charter that will be published later this year.

We are really proud to be involved in this work!



Student Finance Evening



On 7th February, James Brennan from Cardiff Metropolitan University came to talk to students and parents of Year 13 pupils about the way that Welsh students are funded throughout their further education, the long term impact on them, and all the things they need to do between now and September.

The evening was very well attended and was extremely beneficial as this year group will be the first to experience the significant changes in the structure of their funding.

Legal and General Visit



Approximately 60 Year 10 Business Studies pupils took part in a Legal and General workshop. The workshop was set up to help them become financially aware for the future. The event was organised to give pupils a practical experience of making real life decisions. Pupils put their numeracy skills to the test to calculate income tax, wages, energy bills and pensions. The interactive activities made the tasks fun for pupils and the groups were very competitive when taking part in the competition. As Business teachers, we were impressed with the level of knowledge pupils displayed throughout the session. Well done Year 10!

Mrs James / Mr Booth

"Aim High"



Visit from St Peter's College

Dan Pugh-Bevan left Porthcawl Comprehensive School with three A Levels in Music, Philosophy & Ethics, and English Language & Literature. During his time at school he participated in music ensembles at school, county and national level, Bridgend Youth Council and the UK Young Parliament, and volunteered as an assistant beach lifeguard. He was admitted to study Music as an Organ Scholar at St Peter's College, a constituent college of the University of Oxford. He currently works for St Peter's College as their Schools Liaison Officer.

'I was delighted to be provided with an opportunity to return to Porthcawl Comprehensive School. This school provided me with a wealth of opportunities both academic and co-curricular that have set me up for life. If you enjoy learning you will enjoy Oxford. When I studied there I was taught in small groups by world-leading tutors. I had lots of fun both during term time and during the extremely long holidays; the three terms last for

only eight weeks. St Peter's College provided a base for me to develop academically and emotionally; it is a diverse, caring, and accepting environment. With some of the most generous bursaries of any UK university, Oxford University is a place where people are encouraged to flourish, irrespective of their socio-economic background. Aim high, take the initiative and use your time in school carefully.'

And what the pupils thought...

"Dan was very clear and really helped me understand the application process for Oxbridge. The section on the personal statement was, for me, the most useful aspect" Anna Bijou

"Really helpful; information on personal statements was very useful" Jamimah Cook

"Incredibly useful and helpful. He really helped to make it clear about what Oxford does and doesn't require" Max Williams

Thinking of applying to Cambridge University? Go for it!



Just before we broke up for the Christmas holidays, we had a lovely visit from two girls who left us last Summer, who have gone on to study at Cambridge University. Lydia Pickett, (Medicine at St Catharine's College) and Alex Hunt, (Veterinary Science at Pembroke College) talked to a range of pupils about the application process and life as a student at Cambridge itself. The message from the girls was to "Go for it!" and follow your dreams, and they gave pupils lots of useful hints and tips about the application process.

Thanks so much girls for coming back to see us and sharing your experiences. We are also delighted to report that Laurence Hunt in Year 13 will hopefully join his sister at Cambridge next year where he has been offered a place to study Medicine at Magdalene College. We wish him, and all our other pupils, the very best of luck with their forthcoming exams.

Bready, Steady, **BAKE!**



On the 26th November, two ladies from Warburtons Bread, came to teach Technology pupils how to bake bread. It was a fantastic morning where pupils learnt how to knead, shape and bake their own bread! It was a really enjoyable session for the pupils, learning new skills and getting to try their own creations.

Thank you to Cheryl Howells, Angela Sumbler and everyone at Warburtons.



Young Carers Assemblies



Thursday 25th January 2018 was Young Carers Awareness Day. The aim of Young Carers Awareness Day is to identify and raise awareness of the 700,000 young carers across the UK who are caring for a sick or disabled family member. By raising awareness it is hoped it will help them to get the support they desperately need. To help with this aim the school was delighted to welcome Rhian Bennett from Action for Children into school to take assemblies for Years 7 through to 11.

Here are some facts about Young Carers in schools:

- There are over 370,000 carers in Wales
- There are approximately 1,374 young carers in Bridgend
- The average age of a young carer is 12
- Young adult carers miss on average 48 school days a year because of their caring role
- Young adult carers were four times more likely to drop out of college or university than students who were not young adult carers



News from the Primary Schools

News from **Newton Primary**

During the Spring term Years 5 & 6 have been studying another exciting unit from the 'Cornerstones' topic resource. The title of the topic was 'Gallery' and we focused on developing the children's artistic and creative skills. The unit culminated in an open day where the pupils planned, organised and led their own art and sculpture gallery event for other children and parents to enjoy. They made arrangements to create their own artwork and display it effectively. They successfully sold their artwork, and working in small groups, used their numeracy skills to calculate the profit made.

We also visited Cardiff Museum in order to study

professional art pieces and see how they were displayed. The pupils were given the opportunity to be inspired by artists such as Monet and Renoir. They also participated in a sculpture workshop and created their own designs.

The children also enjoyed the technology and humanities transition events, but the most memorable experience was being invited to the school's matinée performance of 'Phantom of the Opera'. It was something special and the range of talent continues to amaze.

Mr Henley Jenkins
Newton Primary School



News from **West Park Primary**

The Autumn term ended on a high at West Park Primary with our wonderful Christmas Carol Service, performed in All Saints Church, Porthcawl. It provided us with a unique opportunity to sing and retell the story of the First Christmas in front of our parents and grandparents.

As part of our 'Shine Day', we learnt about 'space junk'. We discovered the dangers of space junk left in space and designed robotic machines to collect the junk. Some of us even made Lego machines and wrote our own code to control them. We really enjoyed the day; becoming engineers and scientists to solve a real life problem.

Cycle Wales spent a week with Year 6, showing us how

to ride safely on the roads. They explained how to turn correctly at junctions and how to signal to inform drivers of our intentions. We all had the opportunity to complete level one of the cycling proficiency test.

Transition to the comp has continued with an ICT lesson before Christmas where we learnt about coding and having the opportunity to write our own codes to control a person. This term we attended an Art and Technology morning. We all enjoyed making the paper aeroplanes and testing which design was the best. We discovered many interesting facts about symbols in the Art lesson and continued this work back in our school.

We all really enjoyed our most recent transition visit

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





News from Nottage Primary

Year 6 pupils at Nottage Primary School have been learning important life lessons in applying for a position on the school's first race team. The pupils completed a written application form and prepared up to a five-minute presentation on the application questions.

The selection process was conducted by: Mr Owen (Deputy Headteacher), Ms Foster (Admin Manager) and Thunder Road's Marketing Team, one of whom video messaged the school with the final team selection.

The car engineers have been busy building the chassis of the GreenPower Goblin Car; the design team have been researching aerodynamic shapes, while the Press and Marketing team have been busy interviewing the team members and starting the Team's Blog.

The school will be competing in the GreenPower South Wales Race on June 9th 2018. Nottage Primary would like to thank their business partners, Thunder Road and Bridgend Motor Factors for their support in this project.

News from Porthcawl Primary

Our school is such a busy and exciting place that it is always difficult to decide what to write about!

We are very enthusiastic about our new twinning project which was arranged by our Eco Committee. It will help raise awareness of global citizenship and make new friends. With the help from Phil and Kath from Y Pont, we have been twinned with a school in Mbale, Uganda. Two teddies, Dylan and Dafydd, (dressed in Welsh clothes) have spent the day in our school, having their photographs taken in different classes. Dylan and Dafydd are taking the photos to Mbale later this month and hopefully will bring new photos back!

As a lead school for Literacy teaching, we have just welcomed teachers from across South Wales to observe our teachers and children working on Visual Literacy. Visitors are always impressed by the enthusiasm of our children and the high quality of their writing. We are extremely proud of our children and it is a pleasure to share our expertise with other schools.

Jo Rowley
Headteacher





Art & Technology Transition 2018

Art & Technology hosted the 2018 cohort of Year 6's for morning sessions recently. Here are a few comments from some of the West Park pupils.

"I loved the art because we learnt so many interesting things about symbolism and what it means to us." Romy

"I was so excited for this transition and my hopes were definitely not let down. My experience was positively amazing. The teachers were so helpful and kind and the activities were so creative, I loved them." Poppy S

"I loved the activities we did and the teachers we met. Thank you for the experience, it was really fun. We all co-operated and worked together. Thank you." Nayyer Hopkin

"I really enjoyed the art lesson it was fantastic, it was a really good experience and I really loved the biscuits as well." Reuben Stroud

"I was really astonished by the art as it was very creative and fun to do. Ps tell the students all their art is amazing!" Dylan Bridge

"I really enjoyed making paper airplanes because it makes your brain work and they are planes you have never made before." Callan Long

"Today we made paper aeroplanes and it was as fun as sky diving. It was a great experience at Porthcawl Comp, we baked with Mrs Thelwell-Davies. At break we had a huge cookie and squash. Finally we ate beautiful rocky roads, cakes and cookies with our parents." Colby, Jake, Oscar and Freddie, Coed Hirwaun.

"This was my favourite transition day because I like to bake and cook. It was a challenge making the paper aeroplanes. I thoroughly enjoyed this transition day and I can't wait for us to come in Year 7. Thank you Porthcawl!!!" Dylan Thomas, Sage Taylor, Antonio Zeleski



SPORT



Year 7 Hockey and Netball

This year, several Year 7 pupils have been attending netball and hockey after school. Netball is on a Thursday and hockey is on a Tuesday. The first season for both of these sports has been very successful. Both the netball and hockey teams have made massive progress since the beginning of the year. Every week, we learn new skills and have fun at the same time. All of the hockey and netball girls should be very proud of themselves. We have recently had some new members and would also welcome any more.

Isobel Evans ~ Year 7



Emily signs up for Mercer University

On Wednesday 8 November, Porthcawl girl, Emily Stradling signed up for a Basketball scholarship at Mercer University in the United States at her old school, Porthcawl Comprehensive. Whilst she was back in school, she met up with her parents who both teach at Porthcawl Comprehensive and members of the school basketball teams. Emily played five seasons at Porthcawl Comprehensive School under head coach, her father, Andrew Stradling.

"Being offered a scholarship is such an amazing feeling and one I feel very privileged to have. Basketball has long been a sport close to my heart but my parents have always emphasised the importance of gaining a great education as well. Playing basketball has definitely been of huge advantage to me at this time when people my age are looking to apply to university because it has added yet another string to my bow and made me stand out. A full scholarship anywhere would have been unbelievable but simultaneously being able to carry on growing as a player in the sport I love is simply something else."



Athletics Update

Evan Jones won Gold and Joe Kimpton won Silver in the U15s 200m in the Welsh Athletics Indoor Junior Open & South/East Wales Regional Championships in Cardiff on 3rd December. This was Joe's first indoor race and he ran it in a brilliant 25.33 seconds. Evan completed his race in a time of 23.50 seconds, absolutely smashing his PB of 24.69! Apart from winning Gold, Evan got the title of the fastest male competitor across all age groups for the day. His time was faster than any of the U17s that competed!

The Year 9 boys' success continued in the Welsh Athletics Indoor Junior Open & South/East Wales Regional Championships in Cardiff on 6 January where Evan Jones won Gold and Joe Kimpton won Silver in the U15s 60m. Evan completed his race in a time of 7.45 seconds and Joe completed it in 7.72 secs.



Urdd Secondary National Swimming Gala



A number of Porthcawl Comprehensive School pupils took part in the Urdd Secondary Schools National Swimming Gala on January 21st at Cardiff International Pool.

The following pupils represented the school after qualifying from the heats in Ynysawdre Pool last November:

Boys: Tristyn James, Luke Wyatt, Finley Taylor, Jacob Barnett, Matthew Davidson, Drew Howells

Girls: Angelica Davies, Abigail Davies, Tegan Davies, Sofia Chayka, Eve Hickman, Bethan Morgan, Hannah Davidson, Chloe Wyatt, Meg McCloy, Emily Cox

There were some excellent results which were as follows:

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

■ **Tristyn James**
200m Individual Medley - 3rd

■ **Tristyn James**
100m Butterfly - 3rd

■ **Abigail Davies**
200m Individual Medley - 3rd

■ **Hannah Davidson**
100m Freestyle - 6th

■ **Hannah Davidson**
100m Backstroke - 5th

RELAYS

■ Years 7 & 8 Boys - Freestyle Relay - 2nd
Tristyn James, Luke Wyatt, Finley Taylor, Jacob Barnett

■ Years 7 & 8 Girls - Freestyle Relay - 1st
Sofia Chayka, Angelica Davies, Tegan Davies, Abigail Davies

■ Years 7 & 8 Girls - Medley Relay - 1st
Sofia Chayka, Tegan Davies, Eve Hickman, Bethan Morgan

■ Years 9 & 10 Girls - Freestyle Relay - 3rd
Hannah Davidson, Chloe Wyatt, Meg McCloy, Emily Cox

■ Years 9 & 10 Girls - Medley Relay - 3rd
Hannah Davidson, Chloe Wyatt, Meg McCloy, Emily Cox

Winter Games



Results of interest to individual HOUSES

Dyfed

1st in the Rugby
1st in the Football
1st in the Netball
3rd in the Hockey

Gwynedd

3rd in Rugby
2nd in the Football
Joint 3rd in the Netball
4th in the Hockey

Morgannwg

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

Powys

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

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

As in previous years the old adage 'You have to be in it to win it' was borne out as the houses that were most strongly represented generally tended to go on and win.

However, everyone who took part should be very pleased with

their efforts and whilst there was a dominant house and a clear overall winner all games were very competitive.

Every single pupil who took part needs to be commended for how organised and committed they were to their house and their team mates.

A special mention needs to go to the student helpers on the day. Year 10 and 11 GCSE pupils and Year 12 and 13 A Level pupils helped organise fixtures, officiate games and helped keep time and scores.

Pupil Achievements

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Jonathan Munro - Year 10

Selected for U15 Boys Club of Wales Football Squad. Playing against Boys Clubs of Scotland May 6th 2018

Mali Perry - Year 7

Selected for U13 Girls' Basketball Wales

Libby Scott, Leah Samuel - Year 9

Selected for U14 County Netball Squad

Amy Bradbury - Year 11

Selected for U16 County Netball Squad

Lucy Evans - Year 11

Windsurfing GB training Squad

Nicole Williams - Year 7

Member of Revolutionise Dance School Team that competed in National Semi Finals in Blackpool - January 2018

Penny Sinclair - Year 11

Represented Wales in Karate Championships in Portugal in November

Tom Tweedy - Year 8

Selected for an all-expenses paid trip to visit LA Galaxy with combined U13 and U14 team for Swansea City FC

Musical Success

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

Rhys Lloyd	Year 8	Electric Guitar	Grade 8 Distinction
Samuel Weaver	Year 7	Piano	Grade 3 Distinction
Rebecca Senior	Year 10	Harp	Grade 5 Merit
Cerian Trookes	Year 11	Violin	Grade 4 Merit
Trent Francis	Year 9	Violin	Grade 5 Distinction
Daisy Richards	Year 8	Flute	Grade 1 Distinction
		Piano	Grade 1 Merit
Anousha Cronje	Year 8	Oboe	Grade 5 Merit
Isaak Cronje	Year 10	Bassoon	Grade 4 Merit
Mollie Gilbert	Year 9	Flute	Grade 2 Distinction
Jamie Harrowing	Year 11	Oboe	Grade 6 Distinction
Olivia Pownall	Year 11	Flute	Grade 7 Distinction
Carys Richards	Year 8	Piano	Grade 2 Merit
Beth Pickett	Year 9	Trumpet	Grade 5 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

All pupils are able to access the support of a trained counsellor in school. Any pupil who feels they would benefit from speaking to someone independent of school, family and friends can do so by speaking to their Form Teacher, Head of Year, Student Support Staff or Mrs Sloggett.

