



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

# Porthcawl Post



Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter

## Headteacher's Address

I would like to begin this piece with the sad news of the death of Mr Gordon Ebsworth, who was Headteacher from 1971-1988. During his 17 years as Head, he laid the foundations of the successful school we enjoy today. Mr Ebsworth retained a very keen interest in the school and attended our Carol Service and School Show every year. Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing Mr Ebsworth will miss his kind words of encouragement for all at our school.

The All Wales School Categorisation process has been completed. We are delighted to report that we have maintained our status as "A, GREEN", the highest category available. Again, our thanks go to all for this outstanding outcome. We are also delighted to report that in a recent Food Hygiene Inspection, our school canteen was awarded the top rating again, so many thanks to Mr Darran Everall and his fantastic team.



Many of you will have had the pleasure of watching this year's school production of 'Oliver!' The four public performances were sold out, so over 2000 people enjoyed a spectacular success. There were over 100 students involved in the show, and I thank each and every one for their contribution to a great event. The show was arranged and staged by our Performing Arts staff of Mr Joe Smith, Miss Rhian Thomas and Mrs Kelly Poole and the school has a huge debt of thanks to them. The school has a proud tradition of excellence in the field of Performing Arts and this tradition was enhanced by 'Oliver!' 2019.

I would like to thank all the parents who regularly attend our Parents' Evenings. I thoroughly enjoy meeting everyone and I value the feedback we receive. By taking on board the views of parents, we can review, refine and improve the school for all stakeholders.

The school is now beginning to think of the examination season to come. There will be a whole range of additional levels of support for our students. There will be lunchtime sessions, before and after school sessions as well as weekend and holiday sessions! May I urge all the students to take full and complete advantage of the help on offer. The teachers are freely giving of their time, so please

don't waste golden opportunities to get the last pieces of help that are needed. Mr Alan Jones (Headteacher 1988-2002) used to say, "If we paid the teachers by the hour, we couldn't afford them!"

To conclude, one final plea for myself. Would parents please not take the children on holidays in term time. I fully appreciate the allure of cheaper holidays, but the loss of teaching time does have a noticeable negative impact upon performance.

Thank you for your support of our school and I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

**Andrew Slade**  
Headteacher



SPRING 2019

# Student Ambassador Conference



On January the 21st two members of Porthcawl Comprehensive's School Council were invited to a conference in the University of South Wales to discuss and raise awareness for the human rights of children. Sally Holland, the Children's Commissioner, was in attendance in the company of her ambassadors who collectively ran the event. The main aim of the conference was to make sure children are able to learn about their own rights in order to understand their own and help others to utilise theirs.

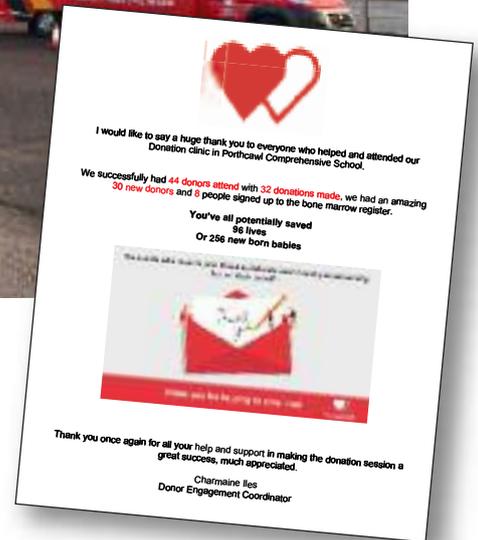
Through different activities we learnt about the articles passed surrounding children's rights and discussed ways in which we could raise awareness here in Porthcawl Comprehensive. We also took part in creative and physical activities to hear different students' voices on other issues they felt needed to be addressed, such as bullying amplified through social media, or additional mental health education in lessons. This is fortunately something pupils in Years 7 to 9 already study in their health and wellbeing lessons here in Porthcawl Comprehensive. Tristyn and I felt the conference was very informative and eye-opening and we will bring the information we received back to the School Council very soon.

Stella Marks 11EC



## GIVING BLOOD

On 13th November, we were visited again by the Welsh Blood Service who set up in the school yard and operated a mobile blood donation clinic all day. Pupils and staff volunteered throughout, popping in during free lessons or break time in order to donate. As it was early in the academic year, many students had not reached the required age of 17 in order to donate, but were keen for the WBS to return later in the year for them to do so.



Mrs Charmaine Iles from the Welsh Blood Service said:

"It was lovely to be at the school yesterday, what amazing pupils you have - they are a credit to the School. I have attached a poster that shows the figures of yesterday's clinic. Please feel free to share. I am sure next time we come we will see more again as more of the students will be 17. I can't thank you enough for your support, we are so grateful to you. Hospitals in Wales need 450 donations daily just to sustain their regular operations. Without your support we could not meet supply and demand. Every donation potentially can save the lives of 8 new-born babies. Thank you so much!"

## Careers

Careers Wales has a website that offers everyone support, information and advice on all aspects of employment, training and education. It offers help and advice with writing a CV and improving interview techniques as well as information about jobs and apprenticeship vacancies. It also has a job matching quiz for both youngsters and adults and useful information about job trends, where these jobs are, and so much more.

Pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive have a username and password for this website, although you do not need one to go on and explore – [www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com). If you would like to have a username and password, please come and see me in my room in D Block.

One area I really encourage you to look at is the job information leaflets. You will find them under:

Tools and Resources / Job Information / A-Z.



If you are not sure what job you want, use the Job Families section and have a look at what jobs are under each of the 4 headings, or complete the job matching quiz.

There is so much information on this site that will help you make good decisions in the future, and I am here if you need to talk things over. So go and explore and see what is out there for you!

Debz Silk - Careers Wales

# Award Winners



## Innovation Awards

Students, teachers and parents from schools and colleges across Wales gathered at the Senedd on the 5th December to find out the winners of the best inventions in the A level, AS level and GCSE categories. We were delighted that out of thousands of A Level candidates, Porthcawl student Stephen Davies was awarded third in the A2 category at the WJEC Innovations Awards. He won £100 for himself and another £100 for the school. Stephen was accompanied on stage by his teacher Mr Mike Evans to collect the award.

The Innovation Awards recognises the very best in creativity and design amongst the many talented students we have in Wales. Encouraging innovation is one of the best ways in which we can ensure a strong, sustainable economic future for Wales.

### In Stephen's Words...

I was delighted and surprised to be nominated by the school for the award and incredibly proud that my A Level Project placed 3rd in Wales in the WJEC Awards, it was an amazing experience to receive this award in the Welsh Assembly. Huge



thanks go to the school, especially the DT Department Mr M Evans, Mr A Edwards and Mr Isaac. This has now led to me studying a degree in BA Product Design at Cardiff Metropolitan University!

I've now also got a personal university Product Design Instagram page that gives a really good insight into what university life and a Product Design degree entails and could possibly help younger students considering a degree in Product Design.

My Instagram handle is: [@sd\\_productdesign\\_](https://www.instagram.com/sd_productdesign_)

Take a look and see if Product Design is for you!

Thank you very much to Porthcawl Comprehensive for helping so much with promoting this product in both the school magazine and Gazette, you've helped me add so much to my portfolio and CV which will be so useful when searching for future employment! Thank you!

Stephen Davies  
Year 13 Leaver 2018



## RNLi Volunteer Ieuan Wins Bravery Award

Following his nomination to the Bridge FM Radio 'Young Achievers Award 2018' which was supported by Bridgend College, Porthcawl's Ieuan Walmsley-Williams was delighted to hear that he had been selected as the winner of the Bravery Award.

Ieuan, a student at Porthcawl Comprehensive school, has been a member of the Porthcawl RNLi lifeboat crew for just over one year and has proved he is deserving of this award on several 'shouts' in recent months. He follows in his father's, Andrew's, footsteps being a fellow volunteer at Porthcawl.

Porthcawl Lifeboat Management Group Chairman, Ian Stroud, said, 'As soon as I heard of the Young Achievers Award – Bravery section I had no hesitation in nominating Ieuan. He has turned up for numerous 'shouts' and launched with fellow crew members to a variety of casualty situations. Amongst some of the casualties that have been assisted when Ieuan has been



on the crew are two girls and a young person and dog, both calls to cut offs by the tide when crew have had to swim on a rocky shore and through surf. Also there was a lady with a dislocated ankle and a male who, during swimming, suffered chest pains. Sea conditions have varied considerably but three to five foot waves do not deter his determination to go to the rescue'.

The Bridge FM Radio Young Achiever Awards took place at the Heronston Hotel and Spa in Ewenny in November and Ieuan was joined by his family for the award presentations. He received his award from Ade Collins, director of Action Doors who sponsored the Bravery section of the ceremony.

Dad, Andrew, said 'It was a very good evening not just for Ieuan's award but to hear so many inspiring stories of fellow young award recipients from the Bridgend area'.

# Dads' Mountainous Efforts Rewarded with JustGiving Award

I was fortunate to be part of a 16-strong team, including Uncles and Grandfathers as well as Dads who set off at the beginning of July and scaled five UK mountains in under 55 hours. We actually did it in 53 hours including traveling time, starting with the mighty Ben Nevis in Scotland, then Scarfell Pike in England, followed by Snowdon, Cadair Idris and Pen y Fan in Wales. This special group of Dads have children with life-limiting conditions or children who have passed away with life-limiting conditions. Sadly, my own son Luca passed away in November 2017 one month after his 11th birthday.

At a glittering awards ceremony in London, the #5in55 Tŷ Hafan Dads' Group was very fortunate and bagged a prestigious fundraising award in recognition of our outstanding efforts to raise funds for Tŷ Hafan, the Sully based children's hospice. We have received the help of Tŷ Hafan's services for the past 9 years and they provide our children with care, comfort and support allowing them to spend what time they have with their families in the best possible way. We continue to be supported as a family.



## What are the JustGiving Awards?

The JustGiving Awards are an annual celebration of all the inspiring people, charities and teams who have used JustGiving to make good things happen. The finalists and their charities joined together at a magnificent ceremony in November where everyone shared their inspiring stories with the world. I had the honour of being part of this event that celebrated the amazing stories of courage, generosity and hope of the JustGiving community. There were tears, tissues and laughter, but most importantly there was inspiration by the bucket load.

From 40,000 public nominations, down to 27 amazing finalists – it was a privilege to share and hear everyone's stories. Our team received the 'Best Fundraising Team' award from fitness guru, Shaun Stafford. Together the finalists inspired over 45,000 donations from over 60 countries, raising a whopping £7 million in total!

## A Huge Thank You

Thank you to everyone who voted for us and also for your generous sponsorship and the support of Bunting Magnetics, Groundsure Location Intelligence, Convey Law, Conveyancing Data Services Ltd and Conveyancing Foundation.

£40,000 – Fundraising

In climbing the combined height of 5,187 metres, we raised a staggering £40,000 for Tŷ Hafan. Co-ordinator Gareth Jenkins, said:

“Many thanks to JustGiving for recognising our Dads' tireless commitment to this challenge, which was amazing and an inspiration to many people...The support shown between the Dads was nothing short of incredible...It empowered them to give something back, sharing experiences good and bad along with combating the isolation they face due to the complexities of parenting a sick child.”

Dad Paul Fears, whose family and son Greg were supported by Tŷ Hafan said: “Every Tŷ Hafan Dad has his own mountain to climb when caring for a child with a life-limiting condition, but we are climbing mountains to support and inspire others.”



## Watch Our Story

To read more about the inspiring finalists that were part of the event please visit:

<https://blog.justgiving.com/here-are-your-justgiving-awards-2018-winners/>

If you would like to watch the Ty Hafan Dad's story, please go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Bz1oWQhgKs>

Many thanks Mr. Pucella (ICT Department)



# Porthcawl Comprehensive School Welcomes Cabinet Secretary for Education – Kirsty Williams

Porthcawl Comprehensive School was delighted to welcome Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams on Wednesday 14th November when she visited to congratulate staff and pupils on achieving the 360 Degree Safe Cymru Award. During the morning, Kirsty Williams formally launched the National Online Safety Action Plan and listened to students about their online experiences. There was also an opportunity for pupils to deliver several presentations representing the work of the Online Safety Committee, Digital Leaders, both teaching and support staff and Governors, who have all been part of this exciting achievement!

Porthcawl Comprehensive School was the first comprehensive in the Central South Consortium to gain this award and only the second in the whole of Wales. The Online Safety Mark looks closely at the work the school has been doing (and will continue to do) in order to ensure that pupils, staff, and all those linked to the school, are as safe as possible when using ICT in all its many forms. The school has worked hard to continue to raise awareness of online safety issues with pupils, staff, parents/carers and the wider community. This is a never ending challenge as social media and ICT changes so quickly and it is difficult to keep up to date with the latest developments.

During the visit, pupils show-cased their hard work which included creating assemblies, designing posters and writing newsletter articles, as well as looking at the more complex issues of policies and acceptable usage agreements.

Kirsty Williams said:

“Nothing is more important than the safety of our young people – whether that’s physical or online. The internet has completely revolutionised education. Just a few weeks ago I launched Wales’s first ever E-sgol project which uses video technology, via the tools available through Hwb, to connect different classrooms. This is the future, but with emerging technology like this, the safety of our learners has become increasingly important.

“Our National Mission makes a commitment to provide all learners with high-level digital skills and we need to make sure these skills are accompanied by the knowledge to use the internet safely. We all have a responsibility to ensure they are safe online and I urge everyone who cares for or teaches children to read this action plan.”

<https://gov.wales/newsroom/educationandskills/2018/welsh-government-steps-up-support-to-tackle-online-safety>





# Charities' Week



Everyone can agree that Charities' Week leading up to Children in Need is one of the most exciting weeks in school every year. And this year was no different! Once again we were able to see a week's worth of teachers getting sponged, being quizzed, dancing and getting competitive – and everyone's efforts meant that we were able to raise over £3000 for our local charities and Children in Need.

The week commencing Monday 14th November started off on a blast – The Sixth Form Auction, at break, was a hit as people were really eager to buy their favourite sixth formers. This was followed by the 'Bake Off' at lunch time which was a fierce but tasty competition between Mrs Carpanini, Mrs Harris, Mr Holt and Mr Hutchison. And of course, it ended in a cake fight!

At lunchtime on Tuesday, one of our new events was held in the Sports Hall, 'Teachability', which involved teams competing in various unknown and difficult challenges from musical rounds to sporty rounds as a real test of everyone's skills. We had four teams - Maths, MFL, PE and the Sixth Form team. The series of challenges ended with a very entertaining obstacle course which, of course, was ultimately won by the PE Department!

On Wednesday, at break time, everyone's favourite Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale was held. To everyone's surprise and to some people's disappointment, the doughnuts were sold out in record time!

During lunchtime the highly anticipated 'Fill Your Guts or Spill Your Guts' was held in the hope of spilling all the teacher rumours- yet another new and

exciting event. The unfortunate contestants were Mrs Callister, Mr Holt, Mrs Strong and Ryan Mahoney-Jones. Of course, if the teachers (and Ryan) refused to answer our questions ranging from 'Who's the worst teacher?' to 'Which teacher would you marry?', we made sure that there would be a painful penalty. The penalties included drinking salmon smoothie, eating jellied pork head, cat food and chicken skin and liver... to name a few!

The event on Thursday break time was one of the popular events we do every year – Leg Waxing. There were many students ready to pay to see the excruciatingly painful yet hilarious show. This was followed by Thursday lunchtime's, 'The Chase'. What started off to be a serious quiz between the English, Maths, History and Technology Department, ended up being a 'Do the Floss and the Hype' contest with a lot of audience participation. To our surprise, the teachers were actually really good at it!





Lastly, we held a non-uniform and sixth form fancy dress day in the effort to raise as much money as we could for Children in Need. As per usual, we had really creative and fun costumes from all the sixth formers - from the Head Team dressing up as Jockeys with inflatable horses to the all-time favourite Toy Story characters. At break time, we had lots of teachers participating in the famous 'Sponge the Teacher' - many students made sure that the teachers including Mr Weatherhead, Mr Stratford and Mr Booth were drenched in cold water! Following this, at lunch, we had the 'Lip Sync Battle' between the D-Block Boys and Mrs Hammerton's Sharks. We had two showings as the Jubilee Theatre was packed as everyone wanted to see the outcome of the competition. Overall, it was a tough battle but the D-Block Boys just about stole the victory with their incredible dance moves and charisma. Well done boys!

Thank you to everyone for participating, donating and enjoying such a brilliant week of fun!

Anna Biju -Head Girl



# The chase



# Ride for ROHHAD Event

On Thursday 20th December 2018 the family and friends of my son Luca Pucella, along with staff and pupils from Headlands School, the 6th Form Interact Group, young people and Father Christmas came together to ride again in his memory.

The group rode along the barrage from Penarth to the Senedd where a single balloon was released by myself, my wife Beth and Luca's sister Sofia.

Back in the school grounds young people released a number of balloons in memory of loved ones they have lost. The day ended with refreshments in the café.

Thank you to all those who rode and to those who also donated. It's simple to make a donation using this link:

<https://www.everyclick.com/lucasrideforrohhad>

Next year's event will take place on Thursday 19th December 2019.

Mr A Pucella





During the month of November several male members of staff put their good looks and any potential amorous encounters with their better half on the line by growing a moustache to raise £780 for the Movember Foundation.

Movember is an annual event to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide. The goal of Movember is to "change the face of men's health." By encouraging men to get involved, Movember aims to increase early cancer detection, diagnosis and effective treatments, and ultimately reduce the number of preventable deaths. Besides annual check-ups, the Movember Foundation

encourages men to be aware of family history of cancer and to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Many of the staff, or Mo-Bros, who got involved have been personally affected by the issues outlined above and hence were motivated to not only take part in what on the face of it is a bit of fun, but also to raise funds and awareness with our colleagues, classes and year groups.

The Mo-Bros were: Mr Slade, Mr A Thomas, Mr L Thomas, Mr Pucella, Mr Short, Mr Holt, Mr Blanche, Mr G Davies, Mr Card, Mr Stradling and myself. These fantastic fellas rocked a variety of Mo-styles

including the Major, the Magnum, the Trucker and a great attempt at the Connoisseur from Mr Davies.

Thank you to all our sponsors for kindly donating, many of whom were our work colleagues, and a special mention must go to Year 7 who raised £60 for the charity.

A great cause and a fantastic amount of money raised, but we were all glad to celebrate December 1st with a close shave.

Well done guys and thanks for the efforts!

Mr Booth



## Food Glorious Food!

If you were lucky enough to see Porthcawl Comprehensive School's production of 'Oliver!' at the Grand Pavilion, you may have noticed that the school Health and Wellbeing Committee was also collecting there on behalf of the Bridgend Foodbank.

Thank you very much to everyone who brought in donations, we were absolutely overwhelmed by support from parents and families connected to school, and from the wider community as a whole. On Tuesday 12th February, Tricia Davies from Bridgend Foodbank came to school to collect the donations. There were so many that far from being able to fit them into her car as planned, they had to be loaded into the back of the school minibus to be taken to the depot in Pyle.

Because of your generosity, our donation of 194.5 kgs enabled the Bridgend Foodbank to feed 41 people three meals a day for three days. Well done to the pupils concerned including Holly Griffiths, Joel Griffiths, Phoebe Jones, Caitlyn Jones, Molly Milligan, Seren Cole, Rhian Lister and Soolee Floyd, and to all the other helpers.

Thank you to everyone for your support.

## Taya Shortlisted for Wogan Fundraising Award



Taya Beechey 8LT started fundraising for Children in Need in November 2017 by busking at every available opportunity in the streets of Porthcawl and Tenby as well as at the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet in Bridgend. She has performed at different venues and events throughout the year, raising money by playing her guitar and singing, finally reaching the staggering total of £2531.65 by November 2018. In recognition of this incredible achievement, Taya was shortlisted for Terry Wogan's Fundraiser of the Year Award, and was also invited along to attend and briefly feature on the BBC Children in Need Show in November.

What a fantastic effort from a quite remarkable young lady! Apparently, Taya is now looking into more charities that she would like to help with her busking, so look out for her next time you are out shopping, and please give generously!

# 6th Form Interact Group Fundraising

You may have heard the term 'Rotary'. You may have been to fetes and local events and seen members or stalls from the Rotary Club - so what is it?

Rotary International is an international service organisation whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.

There are 34,282 member clubs worldwide, and 1.2 million individuals, known as Rotarians who are all part of this group. Rotary started in 1905, 114 years ago.

The first Rotary Club was formed when attorney Paul P. Harris called together a meeting of three business acquaintances in downtown Chicago, United States, at Harris's friend Gustave Loehr's office in the Unity Building on Dearborn Street on February 23, 1905. In addition to Harris and Loehr (a mining engineer and freemason), Silvester Schiele (a coal merchant), and Hiram E. Shorey (a tailor) were the other two who attended this first meeting. The members chose the name Rotary because initially they rotated subsequent weekly club meetings to each other's offices, although within a year, the Chicago club became so large it became necessary to adopt the now-common practice of a regular meeting place. When these four men originally got together their aim was to make a difference to other people, to help those in need of support and to facilitate events that would bring benefit to others.



## Where does Interact Club come into this?

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people aged 12-18. Interact Clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary Clubs which provide support and guidance but they are self-governing and self-supporting. They aim to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. There are many benefits to being part of an Interact Club including:

- Taking action to make a difference in our school and local community
- Discovering new cultures and promoting international understanding
- Becoming a leader in our school and community
- Having fun and making new friends from around the world

We have a 6th Form Interact Group in school who have been busy organising the candy cane sales with personalised Christmas messages, cake sales, Krispy Kreme doughnut sales, quizzes, the 6th Form scavenger hunt and supporting the Ride for ROHHAD event in Cardiff Bay. Pupils get together and meet every Monday in Mr. Pucella's room (G5) and plan events to raise money to benefit charities and local organisations in need of support. Recently they have donated to a number of charities including:

- Velindre
- The ROHHAD Association
- Porthcawl Harbourside Project
- Sandville Self Help Centre
- All Lifeguard Clubs in Porthcawl and local areas

Mr A Pucella



## Harbourside Project – Porthcawl

Credu Charity is currently supporting the Harbourside project in Porthcawl, and is committed to providing learning, educational and employment opportunities for the whole of the community, whilst preserving and developing recreational spaces for future generations. Please see <http://www.harbourquarterporthcawl.co.uk/> for further details.

The Interact group has recently donated £267.69 to help support this project.

# Alice in Wonderland at The Sherman



In December, Year 10 and 11 pupils went to see a production of Alice in Wonderland in The Sherman Theatre in Cardiff. It was an interesting performance which incorporated many of the dramatic techniques we study in GCSE Drama, such as multi-rolling. The set and costumes were the highlight of the performance, as it showed a new and inventive portrayal of the classic tale. Overall, the actors were very talented and engaging – we all thoroughly enjoyed!

Scarlett Jenkins & Carys Mainwaring - Year 11

“Like nothing I’ve ever seen before.”  
- Orla Danahar

“A nostalgic experience.”  
- Kiera Ellis-Stretch

“Bright and colourful theatrical experience.”  
- Erin Thomas-Parker

“Thoroughly enjoyable, loved every minute.”  
- Annalise Traylor

## Theatre in Education

As a Performing Arts BTEC class, we have recently completed our ‘TIE’ assessment. This involves travelling to different primary schools and performing, giving the children a taste of ‘Theatre in Education’.

We performed our own version of the play ‘Sparkleshark’ by the playwright Philip Ridley. It is a story about a young boy named Jake, (played by Patrick O’Neill), who is bullied by most of his classmates and does not really fit in with the crowd. It isn’t until a new girl, Polly, (Elys Davies), sticks up for him, gaining the support of her friends Natasha, (Carys Morgan), who is the typical popular girl, followed by Carol, (Karah Watkins), that they end up participating with the rest of their class mates. This includes the two bad boys, Russell and Shane, (Keighan Dyer and Jack M Williams), and their “Stupid” sidekicks Speed and Buzz, (Meg Morris and Angharad Thomas), along with the “lonely goth” Finn, (Eddy Osborne). They tell a story that Jake and Polly make up to prevent Jake from being hurt by Russell and Shane for writing stories. Eventually, they all become friends through the telling of this story, showing that even though we may be different, we can all still be friends.

We felt this would be a good idea to present to primary schools as younger pupils may feel scared or pressured to ‘fit in’ when it is their time

to move to comprehensive schools. We wanted to let them know that it is not as scary as it seems, and that everyone should make an effort to be kind and make new friends. As a class we all really enjoyed doing this project and it is definitely one of our favourites so far. We went to many different primary schools including Nottage, Trelales, West Park and Mynydd Cynffig. The Year 6’s thoroughly enjoyed our comedic performance and agreed that they understood the meaning behind our performance.



# Oliver!



This year the school took up the production 'Oliver!' for the annual school show. Following last year's 40th anniversary performance of 'The Phantom of the Opera', and all the years prior to that, the show had a lot to live up to. It took place from the 23-26 of January and didn't fail to impress.

'Oliver!' is a traditional musical, packed with family favourites for everyone, so it was no wonder that the show was a complete sell-out every night, where the audiences gave the cast a standing ovation every performance.

The musical takes us through the hardships of the Victorian era through the eyes of a young boy, Oliver, (Matthew Neeson), who was kicked out of the workhouse for asking for "more" by Mr Bumble (Patrick O'Neill). The show opens in the workhouse with the classic 'Food Glorious Food' sung by the KS3 children, who opened the show with a bang. We were then introduced to Mr and Mrs Sowerberry, (Keighan Dyer and Carys Morgan), at their funeral parlour, where they enjoyed laughs from their comical performance of 'That's Your Funeral'. Matthew Neeson stole the hearts of the audience with his rendition of 'Where is Love' and we saw the harsh way Oliver was treated by Mrs Sowerberry, the worker Noah Claypole (Evan Davies) and Charlotte (Meg McCloy). They all showed the gritty reality of the class system at the time, as did Mr Bumble.

As Oliver escapes the harsh life at the funeral home, he bumps into cockney crew member Jack 'Dodger' Dawkins (Dylan Bridge) who lifted the audience's spirits with the rousing number and classic 'Consider Yourself'. Dodger gives Oliver a new sign of hope as he introduces him and

the audience to Fagin (Jack M Williams) and his gang (KS3 boys). Fagin gives Oliver a new insight into life as he shows him the ropes of how to make a living through petty crime with the popular number, 'Pick a Pocket'. We also meet the charming and wonderful Nancy (Megan Morris) who wooed the audience with 'It's a Fine Life' and 'I'd Do Anything'. The act ended on a bang with the faithful song 'Be Back Soon' where Oliver leaves with the gang on his first job, where he gets caught.

In Act 2 the curtain comes up to a strong opening with "Oom - pah - pah" involving the whole chorus, in an upbeat and entertaining rendition. At the end of the song, we see the first appearance of Bill Sykes (Will Foskett). He entered the scene as a menacing and intimidating character with his raspy voice and fierce facial expressions. He then sings the threatening song "My Name" where we learn for the first time how much his character is feared. Soon afterwards, we find out that Oliver didn't make it back after his first job, as Dodger comes back to tell Fagin that he has lost him. Bill then forces Nancy with his powerful manner to go and fetch Oliver from Mr Brownlow before he tells anyone anything. We then meet the kind-hearted Mr Brownlow and Mrs Bedwin played by Jamie Harrowing and Carys Rosser-Stanford. Both took their own unique interpretation of their characters and definitely expressed their kind nature to the audience. Mrs Bedwin then sings the reprise of "Where is Love" nearly bringing the audience to tears for the second time.



*'...the show was a complete sell-out every night, where the audiences gave the cast a standing ovation every performance.'*



Oliver!



We were then introduced to the Street Sellers played by Scarlett Jenkins, Lucia Brown, Carys Mainwaring, Beci Senior, Millie Stables, Annalise Traylor and Ed Neeson. "Who will Buy" is arguably the hardest song in the show with all its different parts and harmonies and our cast definitely did it justice. Nancy and Bill then capture Oliver and bring him back to Fagin in a very underhanded way. Then all hell breaks loose over a £5 note that Oliver brought back and in the reprise of "It's a Fine Life" we see Bill's anger growing into what he might do next. In Fagin's song "Reviewing the Situation" Jack created a comical feel to the song that gave it a light-hearted tone behind the dark truth of what he was saying. Back in the Workhouse, Mr Bumble is complaining about his two-week marriage to Mrs Bumble. When she catches what he is saying, a childish argument between the two breaks out, and Mr Bumble storms off at the end of it. Old Sally then enters the Workhouse with Oliver's dead mother's locket that she stole from her. This catches Mr and Mrs Bumble's attention bringing the two back together to go and fetch Oliver from Mr Brownlow, as they see the money that they could get from it.





# Oliver!



*The entire 'Oliver!' cast massively enjoyed doing the show and hope that everyone who came enjoyed it even more than we enjoyed doing it!*

We then go to the finale where we see the tension between Bill and Nancy as she tries to get Oliver back from him. We then see Bill's anger escalate to the point that he beats Nancy and leaves her to die on top of the bridge. Mr Brownlow finds her, calls for help and Bet (played by Eddy Osbourne) sees Nancy, and instantly knows that it was Bill who killed her. Bill then enters again with Oliver and threatens to kill him. One of the gang reacts quickly and shoots Bill on the spot. We then see Mr Brownlow get Oliver back, which is a positive, and light- hearted ending to the intense show.

The entire 'Oliver!' cast massively enjoyed doing the show and hope that everyone who came enjoyed it even more than we enjoyed doing it!

Jack Williams & Patrick O'Neill - Year 12





## 'Rage' at the RWCMD

As a group of Drama students we went to see a production of 'Rage' in the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. It had all of us on the edge of our seats throughout the entire play. It was very hard-hitting as it addressed many issues in society such as racism, drinking culture and identity. It took us to a whole new mind-set and made us much more aware of the type of culture we live in. The actors were extremely talented, especially when giving their character monologues which were very engaging and emotional. As drama students I thought that it was very good for us to see some of the techniques that we have been learning about being put into action such as multi-rolling and direct address.

*"It touched a nerve I didn't know was there."*  
Orla Danahar - Year 11

*"A deeply emotional and interesting theatrical experience."* Lucia Brown - Year 11

*"It was class. I thought it was amazing!"*  
Jack Williams - Year 12



## Drama Trip to see 'Road'

On Monday 3rd December, GCSE and A Level Drama pupils went to see a production of 'Road' by Jim Cartwright in the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The plot line examined the lives of different people living on the same street.

The scenes were quite short and moved along at a fast pace. What made the play interesting was that it was performed in Promenade Staging, meaning that we moved around the set while watching the scenes. This was a new experience for most of us and definitely created a closer intimacy with the actors and the audience. Overall, we enjoyed it and the experience will help many students in the future.

Carys Morgan - Year 12



*"I liked the set and stage design."* - Elys Davies, Year 12

*"I found it inspirational as I'd never seen a production like it before."* - Eliza Barrett, Year 13

*"It was intense and very different to anything I'd seen before and I thoroughly enjoyed it!"* - Sophie Price, Year 13



## Porthcawl Girls Sing at The Vine Church

On the 16th of December we visited The Vine Church to sing in their Christmas Concert. It was a great opportunity to do something for the community and see other groups perform among us, like Brynteg School. One of the best parts about the event was that we got to choose the songs that we sang which meant we could try some new songs as well as singing some that we had done in the past. We chose 'Bululalow', which we had performed in our school's carol concert in 2017, and 'Noel' which we had never done before. Brynteg also sang 'Noel' which was fantastic, as we did different versions of it, so the audience saw that it could be performed in different styles. The Mayor also attended the event which was exciting for us and made us eager

to perform as well as we could. This event helped us get closer to other singers in the school and hence led to other opportunities, such as singing in a charity event for Young Carers on Friday 8th February. For that, we chose songs that we love to perform and it was fantastic to get to sing for a good cause. You will hear more about this event in the next magazine.

Millie Stables & Annalise Traylor - Year 11

*"I really loved singing in the Young Carers charity event, it was a great experience for all of us!"* - Erin Thomas-Parker

*"Singing at The Vine Church was a lot of fun and allowed us to become closer as a group."* - Elys Davies



## Year 7 Expressive Arts Showcase



On the 7th December, the whole of Year 7 performed an Expressive Arts Showcase, celebrating work undertaken in the first term in their Art, Drama and Music lessons. The event was a great success and the standard of work produced was extremely high. There were a number of awards given out on the day!

### Winners

Art Award: Most Promising Artist – Wil Morgans

Drama Award: Most Stage Discipline – 7X4

Drama Award: Most Creative – 7Y1

Music Award: Best Original Arrangement – 7Y2

Music Award: Most Rhythmic – 7X4

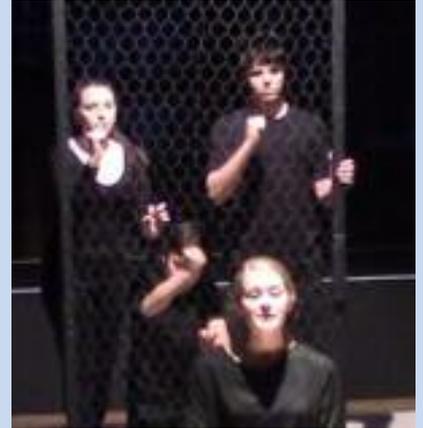
“It was fun and exciting to see what my friends in other classes had been doing.” Beau Abraham – Year 7

“It was fun and I really enjoyed performing in front of everyone.” Steffan Jenkins – Year 7

“It was fun to work as a group and have a project to work towards.” Ffion Thomas – Year 7

# Year 11 GCSE Drama Devised Practical Exams

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 stimulus we had to work with was Banksy's picture 'Balloon Girl' and each group presented their work using a range of theatrical styles from Physical Theatre to Brechtian Theatre.



“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

“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



## Year 12 Theatre Trip and Workshop

On Tuesday the 29th of January 2019, the Year 12 Drama class went to see Splendid Theatre Company's reimagined production of 'The Oresteia,' a play about the ancient Greek myth of King Agamemnon and Queen Clytemnestra. They also participated in a Brechtian workshop after the production in order to help them with their Unit 1 Devised Project.

The play tells the story of King Agamemnon, who sacrificed his daughter to avoid the wrath of the Gods. After Agamemnon did this he went to fight in the war of Troy for 10 years, and upon his return his wife, Clytemnestra, killed him and Cassandra, his slave he had brought back from Troy. Clytemnestra's son and daughter, Orestes and Elektra, plotted Queen Clytemnestra's death to avenge their father and Orestes eventually killed her after 8 years in hiding. Orestes and Elektra were tracked down by the three furies who attempted to bring them to justice for the murder, but ultimately, Orestes and Elektra escaped judgement and Orestes was crowned King.

The play was performed by three talented actresses who played all of the characters in the piece, telling the story

from multiple different angles. This was very useful for the pupils as they were shown how to effectively portray multiple characters in the same piece. The pupils also felt very engaged as a lot of audience interaction was used.

The workshop the pupils participated in afterwards helped them to improve their Unit 1 Devised Projects. The pupils were asked to perform a variety of 'Episodes' in the style of German Practitioner 'Berthold Brecht,' which is one of the practitioners the pupils study at AS Level. They also had the opportunity to ask the actors questions about the piece and style of acting, which helped to further their knowledge and understanding of this style of theatre.

Overall, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed both the performance and the workshop and felt that they gained a lot of new valuable knowledge and resources in order to further develop their skills in the subject.

Keighan Dyer – Year 12

"It was a very engaging performance and I thoroughly enjoyed parading with the fantastic ladies on the stage!"  
Carys Morgan - Year 12

"It was a take on Brecht that I hadn't seen before and we've incorporated some of their techniques into our reinterpretation piece."  
Carys Rosser-Stanford  
Year 12

"Both the performance and workshop were engaging, and I feel that I have flourished and blossomed as both an actor and a human being as a result!"  
Jack Williams - Year 12



## Paper Birds Production of 'Thirsty'

As a class, we have to watch at least three pieces of theatre throughout the year to help us and give us inspiration for our written exam at the end of the year. One of our favourite pieces so far was a piece called 'Thirsty' by a theatre company called Paper Birds. It is based on our nation's love affair with alcohol. 'Thirsty' weaves together real booze based confessions collected from a 'drunken hotline' and hundreds of questionnaires answered by young and old. From nightclubs to working men's clubs, house parties to dinner parties, Thirsty replays the memories from the happy hours to the early hours. This performance took place in Neath Port Talbot College.

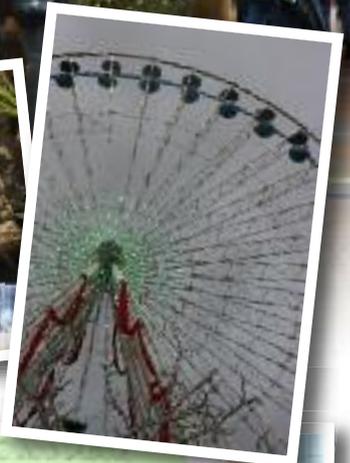
Paper Birds tour original political verbatim theatre and run workshops and projects with schools and communities. The production was quite similar in the style to the theatre company Knee-high; this production style tells stories and creates theatre of humanity from an epic and tiny scale.

As a class, we thoroughly enjoyed watching this piece of theatre as we felt that it really inspired us for our practical exam in March. We also got to experience a different type of performance that was filled with laughter, sad moments and an excellent representation of how alcohol can have an effect on today's society.

Year 13



## French Trip to Lille Christmas Market



On December 7th French students from Years 9 to 13 (as well as some of Porthcawl's finest teachers), went to Lille on a two-day trip to visit the wonderful Christmas Market and fantastic Euralille. Leaving very early in the morning, we travelled to Dover to take a very bumpy ferry ride all the way to Calais. We arrived in Lille at 3 o'clock and headed straight for the Euralille; a huge, bright and busy shopping centre. After some shopping, we checked into our accommodation which was a futuristic and modern youth hostel with the building in the shape of a 'heptahedron'. The interior was incredible with a mix of people staying and visiting. We then got a bite to eat before teaming up for bowling in a local bowling alley to end the night. The next day we visited the wonderful Lille Christmas Market in the beautiful Place Rihour, where we could browse stalls and practise our spoken French. With ferris wheels in the background and the smell of Belgian waffles in the air, we had a lovely, picturesque and sunny afternoon. Before we knew it, it was time to head back home after a busy but brilliant weekend away. A big thank you to Mrs Morgan for arranging the trip and to all the staff for all their help too. Merci beaucoup!

Stella Marks - Year 11



## Teaching French culture outside the classroom! Year 12 French class enjoying a bit of French culture and gastronomie making crêpes!





# Future Chef Regional Final

On Wednesday 13th February, two pupils, Max Slaughter Year 10 and Mackenzie Jenkins Year 9, represented Porthcawl Comprehensive School in the regional finals of Future Chef. The Welsh finals were held in the impressive 'Classroom' Restaurant based in Cardiff and Vale College, where students get first-hand experience of working in a fully functioning restaurant learning and serving high end gastronomy.

Our young chefs had the added pressure of having to, at short notice, organise and bring all the equipment and ingredients needed for the competition. This, accompanied by the fact that there was no lift and 5 storeys of stairs to contend with, made for a challenging start. Due to the delay, the competition started late. Our boys were composed and professional, and after a quick briefing the competition began.

The 6 competitors from all over South Wales had one and a half hours to prepare a 2 course menu of their creation, within the set budget of £10. Three chef judges observed, asked questions and scored the contestants throughout. The pupils remained calm and focused during the cooking process, working cleanly and efficiently.

After one hour of cooking, the chefs were able to start plating and sending out main dishes. One by one the dishes arrived, followed swiftly by the desserts. The standard was exceptional and it was clear to see the judges would have an extremely difficult decision to make.



Both of our finalists came out of the kitchen with smiles on their faces (and a couple of matching blue plasters!) It was a busy clean down. The waiting seemed to take forever... finally, the judges were ready to give their verdict. You could see by their faces it had been no easy task choosing between these talented chefs.

All of the young chefs received a certificate for taking part, and then it was time for the announcement of the winner. One of the judges said 'They were awesome, every one of those dishes, especially the desserts, were outstanding, and they should be very proud of themselves!' Another said 'I have been judging this

competition for 15 years and the standard just keeps getting higher and higher'.

Our very own Mackenzie Jenkins won the competition and was presented with a Future Chef Regional Winner's plate and a set of chef knives. He will now go on to the national finals in Westminster College and have a two-day all expenses paid trip for him and his family. Whilst there, he will gain further experience in the kitchen learning from the best chefs in the business. Huge congratulations to both competitors who really did our school proud!

Ms Cook



# When European Club meets Bake-off!

The result is a Traditional French “La Galette des Rois” (The Kings’ Cake) - made of puff pastry and marzipan and eaten during the month of January to celebrate the 3 wise men.

It was a tough lunch hour for everyone on the judging panel!!

## Senior Maths Challenge

Sixth Form Maths students had a chance to enter the very testing Senior Maths Challenge in November. The students attempted the 90 minute challenge in their 60 minute lunch break making it even more of a challenge!

There were 6 entries this year and awards go to 3 of the students.

A very big well done to Likto Chung and Jamie Harrowing who both get a Bronze Certificate with the same mark and therefore come in Best in School for Year 12.

Conor Farrell John was the only Year 13 student to give the challenge a go and therefore gets Best in School for Year 13.

Thanks to the other Year 12’s for giving the challenge a go and better luck next year!

*Have a go at this sample question from the Senior Challenge:*

The positive integer 2018 is the product of 2 primes. What is the sum of these two primes?

- A) 1001 B) 1010 C) 1011 D) 1100 E) 1101

## Gardening and Eco Club News

Porthcawl Garden Committee and Eco-club are proud to announce they have come second in Bridgend College’s competition to design a wildlife garden. Well done, everyone!

Miss Raine



## Language Workshop at CCFC



Our trip to Cardiff was an incredible experience! We enjoyed the language workshop by Cardiff City Football Club Liaison Officer. It has made us enthusiastic about learning languages and has allowed us to think more positively about our futures with languages. The opportunities of having a language at GCSE are immense and endless. We enjoyed learning about world languages and their cultures. We also had a session in Chinese Calligraphy writing!

Nous sommes allés à Cardiff pour une journée de langues. C’était au stade de Foot de Cardiff. Nous nous sommes bien amusés et c’était vraiment intéressant et merveilleux!

David Morgan & Saul Williams ~ Year 9



## A Winter's Tale

A Level English students visited Stratford-Upon-Avon in December for a tour of Shakespeare's birthplace, a couple of lectures on the great bard and spot of pre-Christmas shopping; we gave the cat cafe a miss though!

Miss Raine



## CODE CLUB DVLA Code Challenge

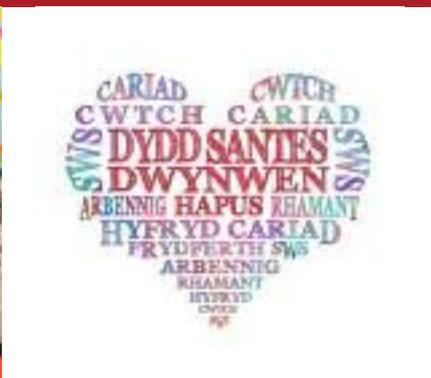
Members of our Code Club in school recently entered the DVLA coding challenge. They had to develop an interactive game using the Scratch programming language. We were very fortunate to receive a letter on Thursday 31/1/2019 to inform us that we were runner's up and had won £400 worth of Robotics goodies for our club. No doubt we will be exploring these Robotic kits this term!

Code Club runs every Tuesday lunchtime in G5.

Mr Pucella



# Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen / St Dwynwen's Day



St Dwynwen's day (January 25th) is the day that we celebrate love in Wales! Santes Dwynwen is the Welsh Patron Saint of Love and to celebrate Welsh people traditionally send cards, buy flowers, have a romantic meal and spend time with loved ones. Years 7, 8 and 9 heard the story of Santes Dwynwen in assemblies, and in lessons Year 7 read the story of Santes Dwynwen and designed cards for their friends and family to show them how much they mean.

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

Dwynwen was so upset that she could not marry Maelon that she begged God to make her forget him. After falling asleep, Dwynwen was visited by an angel,

who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maelon and turn him into a block of ice.

God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen. Her first wish was that Maelon be thawed; her second that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers; and third, that she should never marry. All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life.

## Porthcawl Comprehensive School Remembrance Day Commemorations 2018

On 11th November 1918, the guns fell silent on the Western Front, marking an end to what became known as the "War to end all wars". We recognise the importance of this centenary anniversary and wish to remember and commemorate those who lost their lives for the freedom that we enjoy today.

*The following events took place throughout the week to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War:*

Tuesday Lunchtime – 1.45 pm – D5 – Discussion of poetry from the First World War.

Wednesday Lunchtime – 1.45 pm – D5 – Screening of Peter Jackson's "They Shall Not Grow Old".

Thursday Lunchtime – D5 – History Club – all new members welcome.

Friday morning – Remembrance assemblies to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Friday Lunchtime – 1 pm – D5 – Discussion of stories from the First World War.

In addition to these events, a remembrance board was displayed in D Block from Wednesday morning onwards. This allowed pupils and staff to pay their respects to those who lost their lives in the Great War and in the subsequent conflicts that have followed.

All staff and students were welcome to attend any of the events throughout the week for this important period of reflection.





# Carol Service

Well done to all the 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 again. The evening was a great success and had a variety of performances from the pupils of PCS, displaying the wonderful talent that we as a school have to offer the community. BTEC Performing Arts students and staff made their way down to the church to set up for the evening performance that would take place in front of many proud parents, families, staff and local residents of Porthcawl. Everyone involved put in an extensive amount of time and effort into rehearsals for the service.

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 "Christmas Lullaby", which sounded magnificent, combined with their candlelit entrance. The harmonies in this piece were difficult, however the girls worked extremely hard learning their parts and sang effortlessly.

It was lovely to have our flute ensemble back this year to treat us all with a "Christmas Medley", led by our woodwind peripatetic Ms Bryant. This year we have had a phenomenal amount of talented flautists, and the formation of this group was to celebrate these talented musicians. Ms Bryant also led our fantastic PCS Orchestra, which sounded incredible and played brilliantly showing the talent we have here at school.

Our Senior Choir impressed us again this year with their stunning performances of "You Will Be Found" and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year". The choir worked extremely hard on the harmonies in both pieces as they had to learn these songs alongside their commitments to our school production of 'Oliver!'. Mr Powell was so pleased with their commitment and passion to perfect their performance.

Junior Choir, led by Mr Powell, showcased another fantastic performance. It was great to see so many new members in the choir from Year 7. They performed two difficult pieces, "O Holy Night" and "That's Christmas to Me". Mr Powell was incredibly proud of the choir's hard work and dedication.

Our string ensemble and PCS Concert Orchestra, led by Mrs Williams, gave wonderful performances yet again this year. They definitely left us all feeling extremely festive with their closing performances.

As a school and department we are blessed to have so many talented young students to be able to perform at events like this and also have so many passionate teachers, who put so much into making the service a success.

The Music Department





## Christmas Tree Festival

Once again Porthcawl Comprehensive School took part in the annual Christmas Tree Festival Concert at All Saints Church. The Technology Department provided a tree and pupils from the Music Department performed. The audience was treated to Millie Fry on the flute, our Strings Group accompanied by Mrs Helen Williams, and our Senior Girls' Choir conducted by Mr Jon Powell. We would once again like to thank the Porthcawl Rotary Club for inviting us to this lovely concert.

## Rotary Young Musician Competition

Rotary Young Musician Competition 2018-2019 took place at All Saints Church Porthcawl on Wednesday 5th December, with five of the competitors coming from Porthcawl Comprehensive. The audience were treated to a wide variety of music and instruments and the standard of playing was very high indeed. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Altogether, seven talented instrumentalists took part from the Bridgend area including our own Millie Fry (Flute), Rebecca Coleman (Clarinet), James Clear (Piano and Organ), Grace Clear (Piano) and Isaak Cronje (Piano). We are so proud of all of their performances and were delighted to hear that Isaak and James were joint third and Grace who is only in Year 8, came a fantastic second. We would like to thank the Rotary Club for continuing to invite our musicians to take part, giving them such a warm welcome and providing them with this excellent opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

This year there was only one vocalist and so the young lady from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, automatically went through to the next round, it would be lovely to see some of our singers taking part next year.



## Imogen Delivers String Masterclass



Imogen Kent, a past pupil of Porthcawl Comprehensive School, visited the department during the Autumn Term. Imogen is now studying her Master's degree in Music at Cardiff University. She visited the school to deliver a masterclass for current pupils studying the violin.

Imogen worked with the higher graded violinists individually to improve technique and performance skills. Imogen also worked with the school String Ensemble during her lunchtime. It was a very beneficial experience for the Porthcawl pupils and a very enjoyable day for all.

# ICT Transition

## Technology and Art Transition

The Art, Design and Technology Department welcomed pupils from our feeder Primary Schools in January for a fun packed morning of activities delivered by staff. The department opened the door to West Park, Nottage, Newton and Porthcawl Primary Schools who attended the transition activities along with pupils from out of catchment schools in the area. 193 pupils attended. The department provided opportunities for pupils to learn and develop practical skills by making a laser cut key ring with an engraved Porthcawl Comprehensive School logo and personalised with vinyl initials cut out using a vinyl cutter. They also had the opportunity to make pitta bread pizzas and learn about food hygiene. Art staff delivered an Aboriginal art lesson where pupils created templates of hands decorated using Aboriginal painting techniques. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities and had products to take home to show their parents. They also enjoyed a homemade cookie and squash and got to know the staff in the department making the transition from Primary School to Secondary a smoother experience.



Pupils from year 6 both local catchment schools and primary schools from out of the area thoroughly enjoyed their ICT transition where they enjoyed being introduced to coding and using the Scratch programming language. They were a bit overwhelmed as some of them were welcomed and taught by 'Buzz Lightyear' (aka Mr. Pucella) as year 6 visited during our Children In Need day. We look forward to seeing them in September. Thanks, Mr. Pucella (ICT Dept).

# Science Transition

Early October saw the arrival of our very enthusiastic local primary schools and a large number of out-of-catchment pupils for their first Science transition. The pupils were given the huge responsibility to find out who had kidnapped our Headteacher Mr Slade! After reading the ransom note and making predictions about which Science teacher appeared to look the most guilty (I told you it wasn't me!), the pupils were very excited at the prospect of using the Bunsen burners and could not wait to get started.

The experiments involved flame testing, producing a red cabbage indicator, chromatography and microscopy. A number of 6th Form pupils were on hand to help with any challenges the pupils faced and also to answer any questions they had on life in PCS. The pupils demonstrated excellent Science skills and took the investigation very seriously. I must say, there are definitely some budding forensic scientists amongst our Year 7 next year...some of the suggestions were very creative, it was very clear that we had some 'CSI' fans! Keep up the good work!

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



# Newton Primary School



It has been a very exciting term in Newton Primary School for the pupils in Year 6. As part of our Cornerstones topic 'Mods & Rockers', we have studied the life and times of the 1960's. We hired a specialist DJ and travelled back in time to a very enjoyable 60's themed disco. We also hired a live singer to familiarise us with the music and brought in a professional dancer to help choreograph popular dances from this era.

Pupils looked at the impact of 'The Beatles' on popular music and culture, writing interviews and biographies of famous people from the 1960's. The pupils looked at the different genres of art from the time and designed their own 'Pop Art' inspired by the work of Andy Warhol. We also focused on the American moon landing in 1969. Each group took responsibility for their own learning and used iMovie to film a documentary to explain the significance of the event. Our pupils played the parts of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and other scientific experts during the filming.

The highlight of the topic was when the pupils hosted and performed their own 1960's style talent show! We had some tremendous acts including singers, dancers and musicians. We allowed our pupils to be creative contributors and express their own ideas through the medium of their own choice. Our next topic is entitled 'Summer Camp' where pupils will take to the outdoors to create their own camping experience!

Our pupils continue to embrace the new curriculum in an enjoyable, meaningful and enterprising manner. We are delighted to maintain our status as a Green Category school.

Henley Jenkins - Year 5/6 Teacher

# Nottage Primary School

On the 5th and 6th February, Years 5 & 6 at Nottage Primary went on a residential trip to London. It started with waking up at 6am, getting to school at about 6:30am and being given bright green hats. Later when we got on to the coaches, we were put into ten beautifully organised groups. The journey was 3 hours and 45 minutes, half way through we stopped at the services and each had a hot drink and a doughnut.

We arrived at about 10:45am and went straight to the London Eye. There was a little queue but soon we were nearly at the top of the Eye, looking down at the city from above. This took 30 minutes and then we were picked up by the bus and taken to Pizza Hut. The pizza was delicious and all of us had too much!

Before long we were back at the hotel, preparing to go to the Rainforest Café. There were 3 different meals to choose from; chicken bites, pasta or a burger with drinks. The food was amazingly tasty. Eventually we were picked up by the bus again and taken to the Lyceum Theatre where we watched the Lion King. In the interval we were given delicious ice-cream. After the mind-blowing performance we travelled back to the hotel.

The next morning at the crack of dawn we were woken up by a knock on our door. Everyone got dressed swiftly and went downstairs for breakfast. The coaches arrived at about 10:30am and we were taken to our first destination of the day, which was the place we were all waiting for - Kidzania. Here, the children were grown-ups for the day and there were lots of different jobs for us to try. It was amazing! Finally, it was time to go to our last destination of the whole of the trip, afternoon tea at the Melody restaurant - it was delicious!

After everyone had finished their sweet tea and cakes, the 12 teachers and children went outside and started playing games and talking. At about 5pm the bus driver came to get us. We were in the bus for a couple of hours then the teachers came round taking our orders. Eventually we got to the services, had a meal and got a toy and then we were on our way back to school. We arrived home at 9.00pm. Everyone had so much news to tell and we all had a massively good talk about London the very next day.

Jemima Dutton, Jamie O'Keefe and Keira Powell



# Porthcawl Primary School

Our school is a happy place where children come first. We want all our children to lead full and rewarding lives as valued community members which is why we encourage them to take on additional roles.

Our school ambassadors lead regular Rights Respecting School Assemblies and develop home tasks. Our Eco Committee ensured we were the first Bridgend School to receive the Platinum Eco Award renewal. Through Gilgal Church, they have made links with a new school in Uganda and are also working with Sea Quest and Keep Wales Tidy on a Porthcawl Litter campaign. Our school council have organised charity events for Children in Need and NSPCC. They have compiled the school rules, updated the behaviour policy and worked with the community committee on the new surgery time capsule. Our Criw Cymraeg held a school mascot competition, lead Welsh assembly each Wednesday and have just begun running a Welsh fruit shop. Our Digital Leaders are coding experts and have made games for other children to use.

Representatives from each group make up the 'The Super Squad' which provides feedback to governors every term. Involving children in all areas of school life is great fun and teaches them that we can all make a real difference!

Jo Rowley - Headteacher



# West Park Primary School



## Blwyddyn Newydd Dda pawb!

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 'Incredible Oceans' hook day, Sea Quest came into school and we became 'Marine biologists' for the day. We learnt how to dissect a squid and found out all about this wonderful sea creature. What a great hands-on experience for us all. Did you know that squids have three hearts and that they can change colour to protect themselves?

Transition to the comprehensive continued with an ICT lesson before Christmas where we learnt about coding and had the opportunity to write our own codes to control a robot. This term we attended an Art and Technology morning. We all enjoyed making pizzas and 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 Oliver! 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 not surprised that your production was a resounding success. Congratulations to all the staff and pupils involved!

# Sport ATHLETICS ROUND UP

## Welsh Athletics Indoor Regional Championships



### December 2nd ~Day 1

Having represented Wales in the Summer, Evan Jones 10MS went on to win Gold in the 200m at the Welsh Athletics Indoor Regional Championships. Evan is now in his first year of two in the U17M age group, so winning Gold competing against boys a year older is quite an achievement and he ran the fastest time of the day across all age groups.

Eleni Jones 9RB also won Gold in the 200m in the U15G age group, running it in 27.16 seconds and smashing her PB. She has showed such strength and resilience during the last year, her determination certainly paid off in this race.

### January 6th ~Day 2

On the second day of this event Evan and Eleni ran the 60m sprint and both smashed their PBs. Evan won Gold in a time of 7.20 seconds, placing him as 9th in the UK and Eleni received Silver in a time of 8.44 seconds, narrowly missing out on Gold by 0.03 of a second.



## Welsh Athletics Junior Championships 2nd - 3rd February

At this prestigious event in Cardiff, Evan won U17M Bronze in the 60m and Silver in the 200m. Eleni gave some gutsy runs and came 4th in the 60m, narrowly missing out on Bronze and won Silver in the 200m, smashing her new PB, which is now 26.70 seconds. Nia Clatworthy of Year 11 also competed in this event and had a very successful championship, taking Bronze in the U17 800m and Gold in the 1500m. Many congratulations to you all!



## Sofia's Swimming Success



In December 2018, Sofia Chayka swam in the Welsh National Winter Championships. She took part in three U12 finals and won 3 medals - 2 Gold and 1 Silver. These were all won with her best stroke of Freestyle.

## Wales Basketball

After a successful week in Massachusetts at the prestigious Red Auerbach Basketball Camp, Ewan Hall 9AL and Connor Whitney-Embleton 9EH were selected to represent Wales at Basketball in the Under 14s age group.

Following in the footsteps of his older brother Max Hall 7OT was selected to represent Wales in the Under 12s category in the same sport.





## Welsh Record for Lifeguards

At the end of January, Penybont Surf Life Saving Club Youth Y15 Boys gained 2 gold medals in the Annual Welsh Stillwaters Competition in Swansea. They actually beat their own Welsh records, having already broken them last year in the 4x50 medley relay and the 4x25 manikin relay.

Team members are all pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and are: - Osian Phinnemore, Joseph Ezard, Dylan Wisden and Finley Taylor. Here they are pictured with their mascot Terrence the Turkey.



## Gymnastics

### Welsh Tumbling News - Ayla Tumbles to Victory

The end of December saw Ayla Farnworth, a Year 9 pupil, crowned the Welsh Tumbling League Champion in age 12-13 for 2018.

This is a new competition that was introduced by Welsh Gymnastics in 2018 and involves three competitions throughout the year for all tumblers in Wales, where points are earned on placings. Ayla first competed in Cardiff at the beginning of the year taking the gold medal, she then competed in Haverfordwest, again taking the gold and then the final competition involved a long trip up to Caernarfon in North Wales in December where she was crowned the overall champion of the League for 2018.

Ayla currently trains in Carmarthenshire School of Gymnastics for approximately 3 hours up to 5 times a week so it's lovely to see all her hard work pay off and we look forward to what she will achieve this year.

### Mid Glamorgan Schools Tumble and Vault Competition

Porthcawl pupils had a successful day at the recent Tumble and Vault event in Merthyr Leisure Centre. In the U19 individual category, Morgan Thomas (Year 10) won Gold and Romilly Danahar (Year 10) took the Bronze medal. These girls have qualified to compete in the Welsh Finals in Cardiff in March and we wish them every success.

The U14s did themselves proud by coming 4th in the team competition, so well done to Megan O'Leary, Mollie Tweedy, Millie Cull and Rose Munro.

## Porthcawl Showjumpers Gallop to Victory

Porthcawl Comprehensive School's first showjumping team took first place in their very first competition.

The new team; Rose Kembery (Year 7) riding Espranza, Grace Strong (Year 10) riding Cooper and Ellie Graham (Year 11) riding Johnny Valentine enjoyed a well - deserved

win at their very first outing in the British Showjumping Just for Schools League.

The trio all jumped double clear rounds as they competed against schools across West Wales. Porthcawl are now seventh in the league and will compete at the Finals in Chepstow in March.





# Winter Games 2018



Results of interest to individual HOUSES

1ST	<b>Morgannwg</b>
2ND	<b>Gwynedd</b>
3RD	<b>Powys</b>
4TH	<b>Dyfed</b>

WINTER SPORTS RESULTS 2018

House	Girls	Boys	Overall	Points	Girls Points	Boys Points	Total
<b>EMLO</b>	13 [28]	10 [24]	12 [24]	6	23 (32)	18 (24)	<b>41</b>
<b>GAWNEDD</b>	11 [15]	12 [24]	15 [24]	18	23 (43)	33 (43)	<b>56</b>
<b>MORGANNWG</b>	14 [27]	15 [27]	17 [27]	14	29 (54)	31 (54)	<b>60</b>
<b>POWYS</b>	11 [28]	12 [25]	7 [25]	12	21 (30)	19 (30)	<b>52</b>

In Arctic weather conditions, the annual schools house competition went ahead, and was a great success. Pupil 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.





## Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships



Several pupils were invited through a selection process to represent Glamorgan Valleys at the recent Welsh Schools X Country Championships in Brecon. The weather conditions were great for running and the pupils who attended did themselves, Glamorgan Valleys and Porthcawl Comprehensive School proud. Their commitment and enthusiasm were faultless. Some exceptional personal performances came from;

**Anna-Rose Merchant (Year 7) - 1st**

**Abi Davies (Year 9) - 3rd**

**Nia Clatworthy (Year 11) - 5th**

Credit should also be given to performances by Luke Wyatt, Emily Cox, Carys Griffiths-Cole and Eve Hickman. Sadly John Munro was unable to finish the course due to injury.

Abi and Nia have now been selected to represent Wales in the International event to be held in Ireland, we wish them both every success!

Miss Davies

# Pupil Achievements

Many congratulations go to the following:-

**Mollie Prance** Year 8  
Coach's Player of the Year for Ogwr Hawks Girls' Rugby

**Mollie and Megan Prance** Years 8 & 9  
Been filming for a feature length film "Odin's Abomination" with Eagles Eleven Productions

**Izabelle Morris** Year 12  
Selected for U18 Glamorgan County Junior Golf Squad

**Carys Griffiths-Cole** Year 7  
Swim Wales Winter Championships (December) – 200m Freestyle - Bronze

**Ewan Hall & Connor Whitney-Embleton** Year 9  
Selected for Wales Basketball (U14)

**Max Hall** Year 7  
Selected for Wales Basketball (U12)

**Nia Clatworthy** Year 11  
Selected for Welsh Team (U17) for London Mini Marathon  
Welsh Indoor 1500m Champion (U17)  
Represented Wales Cross Country Team in Liverpool (U20)

**Abi Davies & Nia Clatworthy** Years 9 & 11  
Selected for Welsh Schools' Cross Country Team to compete in Ireland in March

**Sofia Chayka** Year 8  
Swim Wales Winter Championships (December) – 2 Gold & 1 Silver – Freestyle U12

**Ryan Mahoney-Jones** Year 13  
Selected for Ospreys U18 Squad – Rugby

## Instrument exams

Huge congratulations to all our musicians at Porthcawl Comprehensive School 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 and extracurricular activities. Remember to update your music teacher on any success that you achieve or see Mr Powell so that he can update his records and publish your achievement in the next Porthcawl Post! Diolch, Mr Powell.

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade
<b>Samuel Weaver</b>	Year 8	Flute	Grade 4 - Distinction
<b>Olivia Geddes</b>	Year 10	Violin	Grade 7 – Merit
<b>Libby Geddes</b>	Year 8	Alto Saxophone	Grade 2 - Distinction
		Piano	Grade 2 - Merit
<b>Amy Hollyoake</b>	Year 11	Piano	Grade 6 - Distinction
<b>Daisy Richards</b>	Year 9	Flute	Grade 2 - Distinction
<b>Rebecca Coleman</b>	Year 13	Theory	Grade 5 - Pass
<b>Kate Evans</b>	Year 8	Violin	Grade 2 - Pass
<b>Sophie Edwards</b>	Year 11	Violin	Grade 6 - Merit

### 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](mailto:pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk)

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