

WELCOME TO THE
SECOND EDITION OF THE
PORHCRAWL POST
FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR
2022 - 2023

Porthcawl Post



Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter | Cylchlythyr Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl

Headteacher's Address

It is a great pleasure to write my first introduction to the Spring edition of the Porthcawl Post. At the time of writing this piece, I have been the Headteacher for six weeks and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone across the school community. My introduction has a strong curriculum and learning focus, as from September 2023 we will adopt the Curriculum for Wales. This means that Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will start the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl' – something that we are very excited about! Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is evolving. For some time, faculties and departments across the school have been working collaboratively to create a cohesive curriculum for the pupils at our school. Over recent weeks, I have enjoyed watching this work develop and I am very grateful for the time and commitment demonstrated by our staff – a sincere thank you!

There is so much to talk about and share. We are in the process of planning learning activities, developing assessment approaches, and creating progressive

cross-curricular skills experiences. We continue to develop our curriculum as a 'progress model' where the knowledge and skills we want our pupils to learn is incrementally built upon. We have spent time planning the fundamental characteristics that make each subject in the curriculum at Porthcawl unique, and we have been busy mapping out the core concepts that run throughout each subject area. Quite simply the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl!' The very best learning, skills and experiences designed for the young people in our community.

In addition, we have been working with teachers from our feeder primary schools to strengthen a continuum of learning to support pupils as they move from primary to secondary school. We look forward to our cluster relationships strengthening year-on-year.

We have also been working closely with our pupils to create our 'Curriculum Vision'. We have considered: "What are the aims of our new curriculum?" and "What do we want our new curriculum to achieve?"

At Porthcawl Comprehensive School our curriculum vision is: **'A curriculum that provides all pupils with the knowledge, skills, experiences and desire to thrive in the adult world'.**

We have also engaged in group discussions with our pupils to create the new 'Porthcawl Purposes'. These purposes alongside our Curriculum Vision are the very foundations of everything that we do.

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Headteacher's Address

They embody all the things we want our learners to experience, develop and become, and central to all of this is 'Learning'. All staff are working very hard to prepare the very best learning experiences for your child and I am very much looking forward to seeing our pupils flourish in our new curriculum from September 2023. Mr Aldridge has provided more information about the new curriculum in this edition of the newsletter.

As I mentioned in my January letter to parents and carers, last November, most Year 11 pupils sat their Mathematics GCSE. I am delighted this group did so well with the A* - C grade rate of near 80%. An incredible 42% of grades achieved were A*/A - an outstanding achievement!

This year group, like so many has experienced significant disruption during their secondary school education and these achievements are testament to their hard work and effort.

Well done to Year 11 and of course, the Mathematics Faculty. I would like to personally congratulate our pupils on their outstanding achievements - I look forward to the Summer successes!

Currently we are preparing for two very important school events, the Eisteddfod and our Presentation Awards Evening. Both events bring our community together and share talent, success and achievement.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Year 11 Options and Sixth Form Open Evening in January. Attendance at this event was excellent, looking at our option returns received we are expecting over 170 pupils to join our Year 12 in September 2023 - fantastic news! Choosing subjects and progression routes is such an important time in school and I have enjoyed speaking to many pupils about their plans and intended next steps.

The Drama and Music departments have recently staged Footloose - what can I say? Numerous evening performances, a matinée and regular sell outs! It was my first production as Headteacher, and I was completely blown away by the talent on show - Wow! I am so proud of everyone involved. Tradition, talent and the associated standards of excellence; there is no better feeling! I should like to thank the cast, teaching staff, parents and support staff for their efforts. Your work ethic, talent and commitment is something to behold - I have been so impressed. The show was an outstanding success and I am already looking forward to next year. My sincere thanks to the cast and crew, Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, Mrs Giles, Mrs Poole and Mr Llewelyn.

As is school custom and practice, during this term, further updates and important information will be shared via the Sims app.

To end, in the Autumn term I had the opportunity to speak to parents and pupils at our Year 6 Open Evening and it was lovely to see so many families in attendance. I have enjoyed speaking with Year 6 pupils during their recent transition visits and I look forward to meeting more pupils during the future transition events planned. We welcome pupils from our four main feeder primary schools of Newton, Nottage, Porthcawl and West Park and several pupils from different primary schools across Bridgend.

I wish you all the very best and I look forward to sharing our future success.

Kind regards, M Stephens - Headteacher



6th Form Interact Charity Group

Each year members of the Sixth Form organise activities/events to raise money for different charities. They heard that Miss Gould was running the Snowdon Marathon to raise funds for Tenovus Cancer Care. Through cake sales and the recent Christmas Candy Cane Santa messages, the group raised £100.

A cheque was presented to Ms Gould who will pass it on to Tenovus Cancer Care.

Thanks to everyone who helped out. Mr Pucella

FOODBANK

Sadly, over 14 million people live below the poverty line in the UK and the need for Foodbanks is increasing further with the cost of living crisis. The network of UK Foodbanks strive to promote long-term change and at present, they provide emergency food and compassionate, dignified support to people locked in crisis. Our students were therefore delighted to do their part by organising a collection of much needed donations which they delivered to our local Foodbank centre. Thanks to the Sixth Form organisers and to Slater Cummings, Osian Williams, Eloise Wyatt and Sienna Jenkins who helped with the collection.

We were also pleased to donate £600 to the Foodbank after a collection was held at the end of our Carol Service at All Saint's Church on 22nd December.



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week 2023

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is an annual event where the whole of the UK comes together to focus on achieving good mental health. Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is a moment for everyone to reflect on mental health, tackle stigma, and learn how we can create a society that prevents mental health problems from developing and protects our mental well-being. It has been vital in growing public understanding of mental health and how mental health problems can be prevented. Porthcawl Comprehensive School strives to create a safe environment where each individual feels comfortable to talk about their problems.

This year, Children's Mental Health Week was the 6th - 12th of February. Each year there is a theme and this year was 'Let's Connect'. The theme is all about making meaningful connections for all, during the week - and beyond. Statistics show that people thrive in communities and having connections is vital for mental health. When we have positive and healthy connections in general, we are happier as it gives us times of the day to look forward to. When we lack these positive social connections, often we can sometimes feel lonely and isolated - which can negatively impact our mental health.

According to the NHS, 1 in 6 children have a probable mental health illness in the UK. This staggering amount is incredibly dangerous as it affects masses of children on a daily basis. Identifying poor mental health and providing appropriate support and treatment is essential for children and young people, as half of all mental health conditions start by the age of 14. Without appropriate care, there is a risk that

conditions continue into adulthood. Since the beginning of the pandemic, disruptions to school, home and social environments have affected many of the support systems young people rely on and may have worsened their mental health and wellbeing, with the potential to impact their later life. The UK has suffered a 60% increase since 2017 in mental health problems. As a result, many children need the extra support and are unable to get the help they need.

Young Minds (a charity) help young adults and children; they provide tools for people who are currently struggling. They also offer support to parents and caregivers as it can be very difficult to correctly care and support your struggling child. They aid children to regain their voice and to help them speak up about their issues. Young Minds provides information and advice to the younger generation; however, websites like CAMHS help children who are struggling to cope with everyday life. Similarly, to Young Minds this organisation also targets children. These websites help many people on a daily basis, they provide safe spaces for teenagers to communicate their feelings and are extremely essential to stop the staggering rates of mental illnesses. Within school there are also multiple places where you can talk to people from Tŷ Enfys, teachers and even your friends. However, we realise that many people aren't comfortable with this and therefore may want to seek advice and help online anonymously.

Year 10 Wellbeing Ambassadors



Odd Sock Day

We held Anti-Bullying Week in school and on Monday 14th November, pupils and teachers were encouraged to wear odd socks to support the message. This was to represent that we are all unique and individual and we are celebrating that people are all different. Assemblies were also held across the school to reiterate the message.

Mrs Bishop





Charity Week



To raise money for our annual Charity Week, the Head Team set up break and lunchtime events for pupils to watch and take part in, such as 'Sponge the Teacher' and the 'Lip Sync Battle'. Due to hard work and dedication, we managed to raise £2500 throughout the course of the week. This will be divided between our three chosen local charities - RNLI, Y Bont and Sandville - with £1000 of the proceeds also going to Children in Need. On the 18th November, sixth formers wore fancy dress to help further raise money for the cause - there were some great costumes, and everybody had a lot of fun. It was amazing to see so much enthusiasm from all the teachers and students who participated. A big Thank You for all of your donations and support!

Head Team





BALLROOM DANCING ASSEMBLY

Sophia Rotmanova demonstrated her dancing prowess to her classmates during an assembly. Year 8 pupils thoroughly enjoyed her dance routine.

Sophia started dancing at 3 years old. At first, she danced folk dances and then moved to another city because of the war and began to dance ballroom dances from the age of 6. At the very beginning of her career she danced solo, then later found a partner and danced with a partner. She trained hard and there were a lot of competitions and practice.

Sophia says "I try very hard and work on my mistakes. At the moment, I have been dancing for 7 years. I also go to big and small tournaments. I was at the World Championships in Dance. I really like to dance and I will try to win the world championship."



Mrs Kembery, her form teacher said... She was A-MAY-ZING

SCHOOL GARDEN

Since September 2022 approximately 15 students in 4 groups have been enjoying the school garden area. Untouched for a good few years, now after a lot of effort, fun and hard work it is beginning to look cared for and is being enjoyed. The students are learning new skills in using garden equipment, planting, pruning, watering, working as part of a team and so much more.

Over the Christmas week they made driftwood Christmas trees and Christmas wreaths. We all had great fun and produced some stunning work. School have invested in the purchase of some much-needed equipment and outdoor workwear and we have also had a donation from a local business giving us assorted garden tools.

As Spring is approaching the team are looking forward to growing many different vegetables, fruits and flowers and are hoping to have a couple of Open Garden days to welcome all for a look around and to sell some of the produce. Now that the garden has the equipment to get active, we now are looking for help in sourcing: peat free compost, bamboo canes, seeds and plants. Any donations would be very gratefully received.



Layla Vigus – “It’s a relaxing place to be and I like planting things”

Finley Williams – “I like learning about plants - it’s relaxing!”

Tia Jenkins – “It’s fun and calming”

Joe Hancock – “I like it and love tasting the food we make”



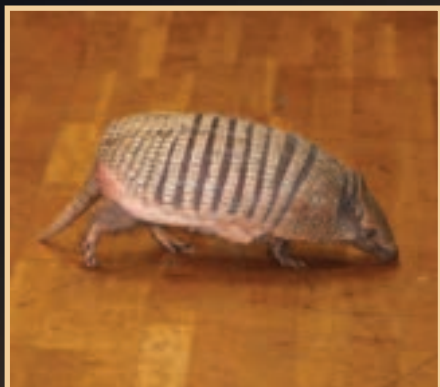


Close Encounters of the Animal Kind

In November 2022, Years 7 and 8 were given the opportunity to sign up for a workshop held by 'Animal Encounters'. The workshop was on 'Adaptations'. Our pupils were able to interact with animals such as meerkats, a three banded armadillo, a bearcat, a blue tongue skink as well as an amazing python.

Phrases such as 'This is so awesome' and 'Aww! He is so cute' were heard throughout the auditorium when the pupils were given the opportunity to hold the animals. They found the whole experience extremely enjoyable and left the workshop with smiles on their faces!

Mrs Sugunendran



French Trip to Lille Christmas Market



On the 2nd December 2022, the languages department took us on a trip to the Lille Christmas Market in France. We arrived at school on the 2nd and then left on the bus at around 11am. Shortly after we arrived at Dover, we boarded the ferry to take us to Calais. For the last part of our journey, another coach took us to the hostel where we were going to stay. The next morning we woke up early to go to laser tag. We split into teams, each teacher had their own team. After that we travelled into the city centre and did some shopping. We looked around the Christmas market. There was a big Christmas tree and many pretty lights. After we had all met up again we walked to a restaurant. We had a traditional French pizza to share between each of the tables. Then we walked to the bowling alley where we spent the rest of the evening. Finally after a long day we went back to the hostel. The last day was mainly spent travelling back but we also stopped at a supermarket to buy French snacks and souvenirs for our families. After a long journey home we arrived back at school.

Jemima Dutton - Year 10

French Bake-off January 2023

Every January in France, we celebrate the New Year with "La Galette des Rois" (The King's cake). It is a traditional marzipan cake made with puff pastry. Again, the competition was fierce with some beautiful tasty cakes to judge. Someone had to do it! Mrs Marshall and myself tasted them all and after deliberating, here are the results:

1st place: Robyn Davies and Alanna O'Keefe (8HR). Excellent pastry, excellent filling, lovely cake shape.

2nd place: Natia Weaver-Setal, Carmen Rees and Arina Romanova (8HR). Lovely presentation, nice marzipan.

3rd place: Madison Tandy (8ME). Lovely marzipan and pastry.

A massive well done to all of you for trying this tasty recipe!

Next month: Crêpes! Ready? Get cooking!

Madame Morgan



Christmas Card



Thank you for all of the fantastic Christmas cards from Years 7 and 8. We had lots of lovely entries for our first Christmas card competition.

Winners were... Logan Mowforth, Darcie Phillips and Emily Jordan.

Dydd Santes Dwynwen yn yr Adran Gymraeg 2023



Ar ddydd Mercher Ionawr 25ain we celebrated Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen yn Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl. It's a day to celebrate love (dathlu cariad). Pupils were encouraged to create their cardiau to send to that someone special or a ffrind yn yr ysgol. It was a pleasure to see many pupils posting their creations in our post box and a huge diolch yn fawr to blwyddyn 8 who helped organise and distribute the cards around school. Well over 100 cards were made and posted.

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 Year 7 to read the story of Santes Dwynwen and design cards and post them to their friends and family to show them how much they mean.



Debating Success

Congratulations to our debating team of Romy Francombe, Ella Verderame, Wil Morgans and Tammy Igbenchi who have achieved more success by winning Round 2 of the ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition. They will now go through to the final for the region. They fought against schools with a phenomenal level of skill, and schools that have been entering these competitions for many years. However, Stanwell and Cardiff Sixth Form College were no match for our students. We are very proud of their achievements, particularly as this is their first debating contest. Our debating group, 'Speak Up Speak Out' are looking for your support to build these skills lower down the school! If you are interested in developing your command of the spoken word, please get in touch with Mrs Mahoney.

Speech and Language Links Programme!

A number of pupils in Tŷ Enfys have recently started working on our new speech and language links programme. This is an exciting new programme that aims to support pupils' speech, language and communication skills! This new tool focusses on 5 different areas of learning, following instructions, understanding social language, concepts, processing information and complex sentences. Pupils from Years 7-9 are already on their way with the new projects that are designed to support communication and help to build confidence in understanding language!

Pupil feedback has been very positive already with comments like;

'This has helped me to breakdown instructions and understand what I have to do'

'This new programme is fun and helps me to understand what to do when I have difficult sentences to work out'

'I enjoy the different projects we do each week and love the problem solving!'

'This has helped me to understand what I need to do in lessons with active listening!'

We look forward to continuing to deliver this fantastic programme to many more pupils as we know language and communication is the key to success!

Mrs Price - Tŷ Enfys



Raising Awareness of Poverty



All around the world poverty is a major issue which has only got worse since Covid despite government actions to eradicate the problem by 2030 there has been no major change. Poverty can affect anyone as circumstances can change instantly Latest figures show that at least 1/3 of children in Wales are living in poverty. Children are said to be living in poverty if they live in families with an income below 60% of the median income. Poverty can have a devastating effect on a child's life chances, having a negative impact on their education, health and overall wellbeing. Their future housing and employment prospects can also be negatively impacted upon.

Due to the covid pandemic and the rising cost of living, more people are living in poverty despite working at least one job. This leaves many people to decide whether to eat or turn their heating on. A survey conducted by Loughborough University in 2020 stated that at least 75% of children living in poverty were living in households with at least one working adult, this percentage is said to have increased even more. Recent figures show that 45% of households in Wales are only able to afford the basics in life with very little extra money left. In July last year the Bevon foundation, which helps tackle the problem of child poverty, did a survey of 1,112 people to provide an insight into the major issue that poverty has become. From this it is estimated that 57% of families have cut back on electricity, heating and water, 51% cut back on clothing, 45% cut back on their transportation costs and 39% of families cut back on their food shopping. Despite these factors predominantly affecting adults, the effects also impact children. It can affect their relationships with peers, mental health and how they are as people overall.

Due to child poverty being such a global problem there seems to be no way to help. However there are small things as individuals that can be done. For example, raising awareness (even if it is just talking to other people about it), donating food and clothes and even the simplest thing - being kind to those around you as you never know their circumstance.

To find more information on poverty in Wales, you can look at the Welsh Government website and to find more information about the global impact of poverty you can look at UNICEF's website.

Sioned Owen



Poverty

Poverty is a huge issue that people have tried to tackle globally for many years and it has remained a huge issue. Poverty has put millions of people in pitiful situations that we cannot even imagine and this is why I will also be sure to talk about the true reality of the situation and what someone in it might feel or experience. People in our society really need to stop showing stigma to all people who are suffering from poverty but try to understand where they are coming from. I think that everyone in the world needs to be informed about the seriousness of poverty because this is a global situation that may sooner or later affect us all considering the rates of it and the only way we can stop this is by putting our heads together and dealing with this with understanding. Poverty is bad let alone as an adult but imagine being a child born into this and you are forced to face the hardships of life from a young age.

Child poverty is at unbelievable rates globally, statistically one in five children live in extreme poverty and as deflating as it is to say these rates are not getting any better. Being in poverty might as well be the most dehumanising and degrading experience you could go

through because it means 24/7 you not only are worrying where your next meal is coming from but having to sit on the side of the road and hope someone feels enough sympathy for you to give you just enough money to get a whole meal, that's if you're lucky. Poverty should be dealt with soon or it could result in affecting us all globally.

I think the only way poverty will end is education because the despairing truth is that many people have no idea what the consequence of poverty is and how it will continue to be a problem if people remain uneducated on the topic and persist with the mentality that is the individual's fault for being in this situation and is their's alone to tackle. The worst part of poverty is that anyone can be in it, even people as young as infants. Although there are many child poverty organisations in the UK, there is a shocking amount of 3.9 million children who are in poverty to this day. Globally 50% of children are living in poverty and sadly this has been an ongoing global issue for several years and the outbreak of Covid-19 has not made it any better.

Larissa Nyabango

Poverty

We get paid with the tears we shed,
we have no love nor a bed.
Our sunken eyes are tired of crying,
our hearts are sick of dying.
The cry of innocence no one hears,
no one sees the victims hidden tears.
People assume we are doing well,
when we just feel like we are in hell.

"More than 40% of children now live below the poverty line,"
this reduces the chance of being "above the breadline".

We are victims of circumstance,
in life we never get a fair chance.
We are without homes and sleeping rough,
life for us is already hard enough.
We are at the wrong end of the social divide,
any chance of a good future for us is already denied.

Jessica Jones



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe



From September, Year 7 Drama was working on a production of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, which was performed over two nights to parents and carers in the Drama Studio. The production was directed by Wil Morgans, Romy Francombe, Ruby Richards and Tammy Igbenehi. The piece was a huge success and developed the pupils' skills enormously. We all feel very privileged to be able to provide these opportunities for KS3 pupils.

"I loved seeing all the set, props and costume come together at the end" Eloise Wyatt

"I loved the experience and can't wait to perform again" Osian Williams

"I really liked how everyone had a role" Caitlin Jenkins



Drama - Theatre Trip



In October, a number of Year 10, 11 and 12 Drama students went to watch a modern adaptation of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at The Sherman Theatre in Cardiff. The play was a bilingual production, adapted by Nia Morais and Mari Izzard.

"It was amazing to see the Welsh language incorporated into the theatre"

Poppy Shears - Year 11

"I really liked the contemporary take on a Shakespearean play"

Amba Thomas - Year 11

"The way the Welsh language was used to portray the fairy world was imaginative and really worked"

Carys Atyeo - Year 11



Footloose



This year, as Year 13 pupils, we had the great privilege of participating in our final school show, 'Footloose'. From the start of auditions, all the way to closing night, the teachers continuously provided a fun, safe and encouraging environment for us to express our love of musical theatre. 'Footloose' is a brilliant story that truly captured our hearts and hopefully the hearts of the audience as well. As Year 13 pupils, we couldn't have asked for a better send off from the brilliant world that is Porthcawl Performing Arts. We would like to thank everyone involved in helping to create such a wonderful piece of theatre. From the teachers and the crew, the Pavilion staff, and our fellow cast mates, we truly cannot thank you all enough. It was an absolute rollercoaster that we will never forget and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Be sure to cut loose with next year's show!

'This year I was given the honour of playing Rusty in Footloose, a character which allowed me to grow as a performer and express my love for musical theatre with the help of the Performing Arts department. Let's hear it for the boy!' - Megan Prance

'As someone who's only been here for Sixth Form, it was such an honour to become a part of Porthcawl's Performing Arts department.

Thank you all.' - Will Evans





Matilda

Year 8 Drama Club performed excerpts from their production of Matilda to Year 6 pupils on the PCS Open Evening in October.

“I loved the nostalgia of re-performing our Year 7 production, especially as I had the chance to play Miss Honey again” Isabelle Maynard

“I loved seeing the looks on the audience’s faces, and they all seemed really impressed with the standard produced” Juno Francombe

“I loved that we got the opportunity to perform again” Imogen Williams



Panto at the Primaries

Year 9 Drama Club were involved in an exciting new transition project visiting the primary schools with a Pantomime. On the 19th December we visited Nottage, Newton and West Park and performed Cinderella. It was a fantastic experience performing in three different venues in one day and having to adapt our performance skills to the very different spaces. We loved it every minute of it!

Year 9 Drama Club

“The Panto was a big learning curve for me and helped me with overcoming stage fright and it was such a fun experience” Ethan Morris

“It was such a fun experience and I would definitely do it again” Lucy Aubrey

“All our hard work and weeks of practice paid off in the end. An amazing end result” Will Aubrey

“I really enjoyed the experience and it was amazing being able to perform to the primary schools and to let them know what Drama is all about at Porthcawl Comprehensive” Martha Hardwicke





Expressive Arts

The Year 7 Expressive Arts Showcase took place on Thursday 15th December in the Jubilee Theatre. The showcase explored aspects of African Culture and was a huge success! Pupils performed drama pieces, songs and displayed artwork created in lessons.

“I enjoyed designing and painting the African tiles” Eloise Wyatt
 “Nerve wracking, but exciting and I enjoyed performing to the year group” Jude Jenkins
 “It really helped my confidence and I enjoyed the Drama performance. I also loved performing the ‘call and response’, it was fun” Josh Pritchard



Year 13 Drama Workshop

The Year 13 Drama class participated in a workshop to prepare for their forthcoming practical exam in March. With the help of an experienced A Level and GCSE Drama examiner Claire Ashton, the group undertook a two-hour workshop to further develop performance to enhance their performance. Claire also informed them of the expectations of the examination and familiarised the group with the assessment criteria.

The workshop significantly helped all the students as they felt they understood the skills they needed to work on, and specific elements to zone in on to ensure their scripted piece is of the highest standard.

‘It was really fun and really valuable for our pieces’ - Ellison Roberts
 ‘Claire really gave us a good insight into where we could improve our pieces, the help was greatly appreciated’ - Will Evans



Young Carers

A number of Young Carers’ assemblies took place in November to help raise awareness of what it means to be a Young Carer and to highlight the support available through Bridgend Young Carers and the BCBC Young Carers ID card.



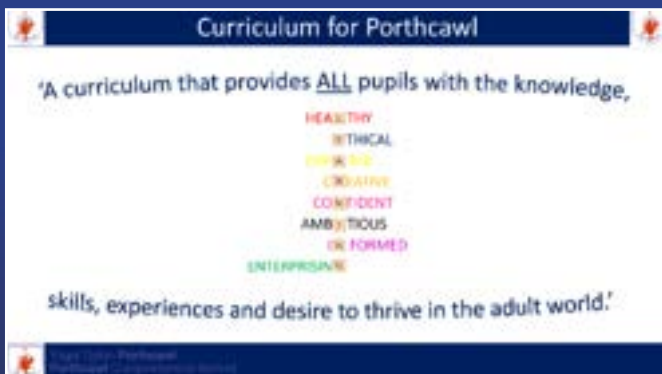
Curriculum for Porthcawl



First and foremost, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Mr Rob Aldridge and I am the new Assistant Headteacher: Director of Studies, taking over from Mr Alan Thomas. As part of my role at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, I have the responsibility of providing the strategic direction for the 'Design, Development and Delivery' of the 'New Curriculum for Wales'. As I am sure that you are aware, education in Wales is going through many changes, specifically with regards to the new 'Curriculum for Wales' that is being implemented across all schools from September 2023.

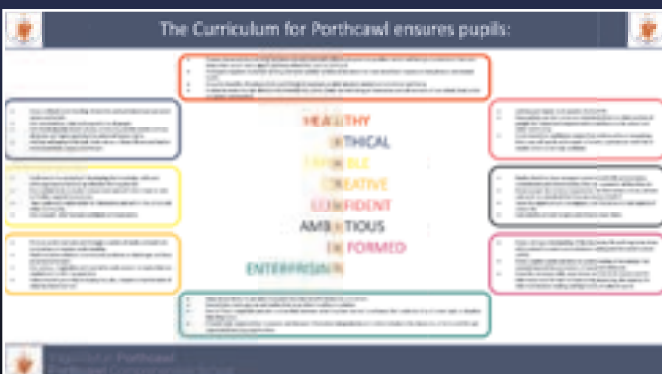
Here at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, we are fully committed to ensuring that the curriculum that we will be delivering from September places your children at the heart of its development. We, as a school, understand how fortunate we are, but, also, the level of responsibility that we have for your children's education and ensuring that they are given high-quality learning experiences during every lesson of every day.

As Mr Stephens explained within his 'Headteacher's Address' at the start of this term's Porthcawl Post, we have been very busy developing our new 'Curriculum for Porthcawl'. Working with our pupils, we have created a clear vision for what we want our school curriculum to achieve that sits inside our overarching school vision of 'Perseverance Creates Success' which can be seen below:



Our next step of the journey was to explore how we can best ensure that our pupils develop the 'desire to thrive' within and outside the school, in the present and in the future. Again, working with pupils, teachers and the views of our parents, we have contextualised the Four Purposes of Learning for our school, creating criteria for guaranteeing that the school helps to create ambitious and capable, healthy and confident, ethical and informed and enterprising and creative young people.

Building on this, we are now at the exciting stage of designing and building our subject curriculums to ensure that pupils develop key, powerful subject knowledge, develop life-long skills and have purposeful experiences. We are really excited about all of the information that is coming out of our departments about the work they have been completing.





However, all teachers at the school know that to ensure that the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl' is exciting, engaging and best meets the needs of all the young people in our care, our pupils must have their say on what they will learn. Consequently, the school has established a 'Curriculum for Porthcawl Pupil Team'. Currently, this team consists of pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 who have the most up to date insight of what it is like being a Key Stage Three pupil at the school. We are using this group as a platform for our pupils to offer insight into what they love about what they have learned already, about topics they would like to explore and how we can further support them in all aspects of learning! One of our pupil members in Year 8 stated: 'It has already been such a fantastic opportunity for us to share our unique insight into what it is like to be a pupil at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. We have such amazing teachers and knowing that we are helping them to make our lessons even better is really rewarding!'

However, our fact-finding to inform our Curriculum for Porthcawl does not end there! We are eager to gain an understanding into our parents' and carers' thoughts and feelings into the curriculum: what would you like to see included in our new 'Curriculum for Porthcawl'? You may remember that we sent out a parent/carer questionnaire via the 'SIMS App' at the beginning of February for you to complete. If you have not had the chance to complete the questionnaire, please could you respond to the reminder message. As a school, we would really appreciate you completing this questionnaire and providing us with further insight into your thoughts, opinions and aspirations for our new curriculum in readiness for its launch in September, 2023!

Yet, our work on the new curriculum does not end there! This term, we were very fortunate to meet with our outstanding colleagues at our cluster primary schools to continue our collaboration on curriculum development. All schools agreed that the work that we have been completing to strengthen the links between what has been learned in our primary schools and what we then teach at Porthcawl Comprehensive School has been hugely beneficial and will only improve pupil transition between schools in the future. Leaders within our Languages Faculty and Health and Wellbeing department have worked alongside their counterparts in our feeder primary schools on exactly this and future plans for teachers from all five schools to meet and work collaboratively on curriculum development are calendared for the rest of the school year. As a school, we are excited about what will come from these meetings and look forward to updating you about them and with a greater level of detail on the specifics of what your child will be learning within our new 'Curriculum for Porthcawl'. Keep an eye out for the upcoming editions of the Porthcawl Post where all this information will be provided!



Mr Rob Aldridge (Assistant Headteacher: Director of Studies)

The Band of the Welsh Guards

On Tuesday 25th October, The Band of the Welsh Guards visited Porthcawl and pupils playing brass, woodwind and percussion instruments were invited to join them for an exciting workshop and performance opportunity.

Elliott Leach, Maria Lynn, Angelica Griffiths, Libby Geddes, Larissa Clee and Ben Dingle were amongst other instrumentalists from the borough who joined the band for the workshop day.

The pupils worked alongside the musicians during the day, gaining insight into their experience and rehearsing traditional music as well as some much-loved film classics. It was interesting to find out about the other duties that the band members have in the British Army, as well as their roles as musicians playing for major events including 'Trooping the Colour' and 'Changing of the Guard'.

The concert, free to the public, was exceptional in the evening. What a wonderful experience for the pupils to perform alongside professional musicians and learn some fantastic pieces. All the pupils rose to the challenge and had a great time. Well done to all of you, you are a credit to PCS!

Thanks to Mr.Gray from the Bridgend Music Service for organising this fantastic opportunity. If you play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument, look out for the next time that The Band of the Welsh Guards are visiting and see if you can get involved!



Mrs. Smith on the Stage!



On Friday 21st October 2022, a group of Drama and Music pupils went to see Selsig Musical Theatre Society make their first comeback performance since the pandemic at the Park and Dare Theatre, Treorchy.

'Selsig' are a brilliant musical theatre company, based in Treherbert that have been performing for 70 years. This concert was a special one as it featured our very own Mrs. Smith! We all loved seeing Miss performing as part of the many musical numbers, and she wowed us with her stunning performances in the Jekyll and Hyde section and Les Miserables 'One Day More'. We think 'Jekyll' is one of her favourite musicals of all time!

Well done Mrs. Smith! If any of you have the chance to join a musical theatre/drama company, go for it! Whether it is now or in the future, there are many wonderful societies that you can be part of and fantastic venues to perform in.

Christmas Carol Service 2022



This time last year, I completed this article with the following line ...

Here's to a live performance with an audience for Christmas 2022!

I am pleased to say that it finally happened! After two years of filming our annual carol service for a virtual experience, it was so brilliant to be back in All Saint's Church in full swing. With the service falling on Thursday 22nd December, so close to Christmas, it really did signal the start of the Christmas celebrations for so many of us!

Safe to say, we were all extremely excited, and a little overwhelmed as it felt as though we were embarking on this event for the very first time! However, once again, we pushed ourselves to the limit. We maintained all of the items that have featured in previous years, which is remarkable when you think of the impact that the pandemic has had on the arts, and the impact that it has had on attendance and health. But in the true spirit of PCS, we aimed for the best. It was bittersweet, as although it was our first live carol service since the pandemic, it was also Mr. Slade's last carol service as Headteacher. An event that he has fully supported throughout his time at PCS, and we wanted this to be one that he would never forget. The pressure was also on as our new Headteacher Mr. Stephens was amongst the audience, and we wanted to showcase our wonderful pupils in the best light.

Pupils performed the carol service for a second time on Friday 23rd December for Years 7 and 8, in keeping with the pre-pandemic tradition. Again, it was so lovely to see

this return this year to provide all pupils with the opportunity to experience a Christmas Carol Service held in the traditional setting of a church right on our doorstep. The service was wonderfully received by pupils and staff, and the quality of each performance was highly appreciated.

Thanks go to the English, Drama, Music, RE, Technology and Welsh departments once again for all of their contributions that made the carol service such a triumph! I must extend this thanks to Miss. Owens for enabling this much-loved event to take place once again, and to our valued team of instrumental peripatetic teaching staff for their dedication to extra-curricular ensembles and producing high quality teaching for our pupils. We actually welcomed two new peripatetic teaching staff members this year, Ms. Sian Jenkins (Upper Strings) and Mr. Telmo Martin (Lower Strings), and they have fitted seamlessly into the team.

It is with great pride that we say a huge 'thank you' to all of the pupils that were involved. From the performers, to the 'stage crew' and the Head Team - the performances were truly outstanding, and the evening ran so smoothly due to your hard work and dedication. You are all a credit to the school.

We are looking forward to next year already!

Mrs. Giles



'Tis the Season for Lots of Festive Performances

Each year, we are very fortunate to be invited to perform at a wide range of events, and we particularly love getting out there in the community and spreading that Christmas cheer! We try to participate in as many opportunities as we can, but this is only possible with the commitment and dedication of our wonderful pupils and teachers

Here are some of the events that pupils of PCS took part in for Christmas 2022 ...

Carol Singing Saturday 3rd December

Members of Senior Choir and String Group performed on a VERY cold morning in the town centre for the Porthcawl Museum's Victorian Christmas Day. Grace Clear and Poppy Shingler performed their stunning duet of 'A Christmas Song' on violin and viola to kick start the event. Thanks to Grace then who also went on to lead String Group with their performance of 'Carol of the Bells'. Senior Choir sang a variety of traditional Christmas Carols and Christmas classics and did not let the cold affect their performances! Mrs. Giles, however, could barely feel her hands at the end of it!



Newton W. I. Christmas Concert Thursday 1st December

Newton W.I. presented a concert at All Saint's Church in aid of 'Latch', the Welsh Children's Charity. Two of our sixth form pupils, Finty Kehoe and Scarlett Osborne took part in this concert along with other feeder primary schools. Our fine PCS duo entertained the audience with duets sang a cappella (unaccompanied), which echoed beautifully in the gorgeous acoustics of All Saints Church. All of the children involved in the evening then joined together to finish the concert with 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas' - a lovely touch to a brilliant evening! Thank you to Finty and Scarlett for representing the school and bringing something a little different to the evening's entertainment.



Gilgal Baptist Church Christmas Concert Friday 16th December

This year featured a new collaboration with Gilgal Church. As we always say, we try and perform in as many community events as possible, but we have not yet been successful with joining with Gilgal until this Christmas. Scarlett Osborne, Finty Kehoe and Grace Clear took on the responsibility for preparing repertoire for this concert and they performed a cappella Christmas songs as a trio. The audience absolutely loved them, and the girls received glowing feedback. Well done girls!

Porthcawl Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert Saturday 17th December

We are very lucky to have a strong link with the PMVC, who support our young singers year after year with performance opportunities and awarding the Dilwyn Evans Memorial Award to aspiring musicians. This Christmas, two of our A level Music and Drama pupils Will Evans and Megan-Leigh Prance were invited to perform in the choir's Christmas concert at All Saints Church, Porthcawl. Choir and audience members described Will and Meg's performances as 'stunning', 'excellent', and 'flawless!' Well-deserved praise indeed. Da iawn Will and Meg!



Thank you to all the pupils and staff who dedicated time to rehearsing and performing in these events, spreading that all important Christmas cheer around the community! We are so proud of you all.

The Music Department



Each year, we are so fortunate to have talented pupils to play the Last Post, a traditional bugle call that is played on Remembrance Day within a moment of reflection where we remember those who have fallen. Although the Last Post is now associated with remembrance, the musical call was originally a signal sounding that the final sentry post had been inspected in a military camp inspection, and the area was secure for the night.

Elliott Leach and Maria Lynn, both from Year 12 gave a stunning rendition of the Last Post which was followed by a minute's silence across the school. Despite it being a very windy day, and music falling off the stand mid performance, the pair were so professional! Thank you to both pupils for marking this very important moment, and enabling the entire school to witness the playing of the Last Post. Da iawn!

Senior Maths Challenge 2022

It was a stormy day in October when nine students from Year 12 and six students from Year 13 undertook the Senior Maths Challenge in A2. It was a well-organised event with Mr Weatherhead at the helm dishing out passwords with the students working for an hour and a half on some very challenging maths problems.

The students achieved some fabulous results in two Bronze two Silver and one Gold award. This is an excellent result as 25% of entrants achieve a Bronze award, 17% are awarded Silver and the top 9% are awarded Gold and are invited to take part in the Andrew Jobbing's Kangaroo Challenge.

This was the case for our youngest member, Illia Zhuravok who has joined us from Ukraine and is studying a year above his school year. This was a fantastic achievement for Illia to attempt the Kangaroo challenge and he got very close to a Merit.

Year 12 students taking part: **Tom Backwell, Grace Clear, Seren Cole, Enzo Liple, Poppy Shingler, Amelie Symmons and Riley Westwood.**

Year 13 pupils taking part: **Imran Azam, Erin Watkin.**

Bronze Award:
Joseph Dingle and Ronan Lewis.

Silver Award:
Ben Pownall and Finley Ruddle.

Gold Award and entry in to Kangaroo challenge: **Illia Zhuravok.**



Try these questions for yourself:

1. When the expression $\frac{(2^2 - 1) \times (3^2 - 1) \times (4^2 - 1) \times (5^2 - 1)}{(2 \times 3) \times (3 \times 4) \times (4 \times 5) \times (5 \times 6)}$ is simplified, which of the following is obtained?

- A $\frac{1}{2}$ B $\frac{1}{3}$ C $\frac{1}{4}$ D $\frac{1}{5}$ E $\frac{1}{6}$

2. What is the smallest prime which is the sum of five different primes?

- A 29 B 41 C 43 D 47 E 53

3. The figure shows a regular hexagon.

How many parallelograms are there in the figure?

- A 2 B 4 C 6 D 8 E more than 8



(Answers on back page)

Duke of Edinburgh Award



Pupils have been preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions by learning basic first aid and learning how to use Trangia stoves.



Seren Academy Network Trip to Oxford

The Seren Network has provided so many incredible opportunities for us in the lead up to exam season and to help us begin the process of applying to Universities. However, our trip to Oxford University has been my favourite by far. From the campus tour to the compelling mock lecture, the day was packed with so many interesting and mind opening experiences. I particularly enjoyed meeting Dr Matthew Williams whom I had corresponded with but never met in person. He was so encouraging and captivating to listen to and he helped in answering all our questions and queries on how to apply to prestigious universities such as Oxford. I just wanted to say a massive thank you to the Seren Network for organising this trip but more importantly to Mrs. Bennion for coming with us and supporting us through our experience.

Amelie Symmons - Year 12



UCAS
Universities and Colleges
Admissions Service

University Admissions

UCAS NEWS

With the UCAS application deadline coming to a close, we would like to give you a quick update on how our Year 13 cohort are getting on...

130 Year 13 students have submitted university applications this year. As a school we have also provided testimonials for numerous past students which is amazing. We also have many students currently applying for apprenticeships with top UK companies and some planning fulfilling gap years. It is a very exciting time for them all.

The students now have a somewhat anxious wait to hear from their chosen providers and are currently working hard to achieve those important final grades. A few students, however, have made those final decisions and we have included an overview of the different destinations that have been offered so far below. We are extremely proud of all the students in reaching for their goals and I know how much they have appreciated the support from parents, carers and teachers.

It is not all hard work though. They are also preparing themselves for life after school with practical sessions during tutor period - they are currently fine tuning their laundry and ironing skills as well as thinking about how to budget and prepare meals. We also have staff from different universities coming to speak to the students about what they can expect as well as wellbeing and revision sessions being planned for next term.

In the meantime, we would just like to remind students that we are still here to help them with their applications and answer their questions, however small! We also have a lot of support on the Sixth form Pathways site.

We wish all students the very best of luck in achieving their goals!

Accepted offers so far:

Biochemistry, Imperial College London

Biomedical Science, Cardiff University

Chemistry with professional placement or study abroad, Bath University

Medicine, Keele University

English and Creative Writing, Exeter University

Biology, Oxford University

Physics and Astrophysics (International Study), Birmingham University

Law, Cardiff University

Architecture, Cambridge University

Sport Performance Analysis, Cardiff Met

Primary Education (3-11) with QTS, Cardiff Met

Education Studies, Bristol University

Sport Science, Coaching and Physical Education, Loughborough University

History, Reading University

Psychology with Counselling, University of South Wales

English Literature, Cardiff University

Kind Regards

The Sixth Form Team



HOCKEY



Senior Hockey

Hi! My name is Cara Wheatley I am in Year 12 and currently studying Biology, Chemistry, PE, Business and Welsh Bac. at AS Level. In school, I am the Senior Hockey Captain and some of you may know me as the Year 7, 8 & 9 Hockey Coach on a Thursday after school. Late last year I applied to be a Hockey Youth Ambassador for Wales. On the 1st of November 2022, I had a successful application to becoming a Bronze Level Ambassador. I attended the national conference in Cardiff and gained my First Level Coach Award and am waiting to gain my Level 1 Umpire Award. Welsh hockey are looking for more ambassadors to join, there are different levels and many opportunities available. So far, my experience as a Hockey Youth Ambassador has been really positive and inspiring so if you love Hockey and are interested in joining me please let me know I am happy to have a chat!

U16 Hockey

In the Autumn term, the Porthcawl Comprehensive's U16 Hockey team competed in the qualifying round for the Welsh Cup in CCYD. The Year 10s and 11s were determined to beat as many schools as possible, making it to the next round. As the day started off, the weather started to seem slightly grim. This didn't dampen our enthusiasm as we beat Llanhari in our first match, 0-2.

After this well needed win boosted our confidence, we scored 0-6 against St. Martins, goals scored by Ruby Milino, Ava Davies, Lucy Bradbury and Kirsten Daly. We were on a roll, and beat the third school, CCYD by 0-3.

Our hopes were high, the rain pouring down, next up were our rivals: Brynteg.

We fought hard, defended for our lives but unfortunately time had beaten us and we lost 2-0. We still left the pitch with smiles on our faces, knowing that we had done our absolute best.

To finish the day, Mrs Stuart treated us to a well-deserved McDonald's. Well done to all the girls who played and let's bring it on next year!

Kirsten Daly ~ U16 Hockey Captain



Year 7 Hockey

Twelve of our Year 7 girls played in their first hockey matches in a tournament held at Porthcawl on Thursday, 19th February. This was a great experience and a chance for the girls to put in to practice some of the new skills they had learnt in their training sessions. They played four games against other schools, all the matches were very closely fought and they ended up narrowly losing two games and drawing the other two.

As Elsie Richards commented "The tournament was amazing and lots of us learned so much about hockey that we didn't know existed. We all tried very hard and came joint third. We learnt a lot about hockey and had a lot of fun!!!"



Athletics Bethan Deeks

Congratulations to Bethan Deeks who took part in the Welsh Regional Junior Open on Sunday 4th December. She won a Gold medal in Long Jump with a PB of 4.66m for the South Wales Region and came 2nd overall. She also came 4th in 200m for South Wales.

Bethan took part in the 2nd Regional Indoor Junior Open at NIAC on Sun 8th January. She won Silver for South Wales in 60m hurdles with a new PB and Gold in Shot Put.

Bethan continued her recent success during the Welsh Indoor Championships on 28-29 January winning Silver in Shot Put and came 4th overall in 60m Hurdles.

Oliver Chitty

Traditional Tan SO DO Federation

On 22 October 2022, Oliver attended the Elite Tang So Do Open Championships in Dagenham.

Oliver achieved:

- **Bronze for Weapon Forms**
- **Silver in Creative Weapons Forms**
- **Silver in Sparring**
- **Gold in Forms**

On 12 November 2022, Oliver attended the ATO Dutch Friendship Championships in the Netherlands (Gouda).

Oliver achieved:

- **Gold for weapons forms**
- **4th in Sparring and Form.**

This was an incredibly difficult competition where he was competing in a group of 12 to 14 year old red to black belts. Some of the competitors in sparring were extremely tall and of considerably higher grades than him. And for the open hand forms he just stumbled and lost one point too many. His friends and family and coaches are incredibly proud of the work he put into this competition.

Oliver has the European open pencilled in for April in Cardiff. This event draws in competitors from across the globe and last time it was held, (pre-covid), had well in excess of a thousand competitors. Oliver shall also return along with his brother to the ATO open in Scotland in June. There may also be additional invitational events but we are awaiting further details on these.



NETBALL

We knew the next round would be a tough one. We had to face Mountain Ash Comprehensive, Cyfarthfa and Cwm Rhymni. We got off to a slow start in our first match against Mountain Ash, they were a good side with a strong attacking end. Our defence worked extremely hard, turning the ball over and we finished the game winning 10-7.

Our next game was against Cyfarthfa, we started with a couple mistakes but eventually got into our flow and came out with a win. The last team to face was Cwm Rhymni, the only other side who like us, had won all their matches so far. If we beat them, we would be heading to North Wales to compete and if we lost, that would be the end of our Ann Smart journey. Unfortunately, it wasn't our day, Cwm Rhymni were a strong, well drilled team who thoroughly deserved the win. A huge thank you and well done to all the girls who represented Porthcawl's U16 team during this tournament. You have demonstrated excellent netballing skills and were a credit to the school. You also looked fab in your new dresses!



Rugby News

After a tough away trip to play on Bonymaen's home ground, where the rain blows horizontally, it was time to face our opponents in the final of the Ospreys Bowl competition at Ospreyia HQ, Llandarcy. We were up against a big side in Cwmtawe, who have a long tradition in cup and sevens competitions.

Just like in our semi-final, we started with a bang, scoring early on. But unlike our semi, this time we did

not let the opposition back into the game and continued to apply the pressure. Cwmtawe could not get over the gain line thanks to some stout defence, with particular mention to Morgan McGleish and Lucas Mundy.

The pack got on top with Jack Parrott and Zac Sherriff hounding the opposition half backs, preventing any quality ball being used against us. Our backs scored

some lovely tries benefiting from quick ruck ball being delivered on a plate by our pack, well lead by Will GC. It was an outstanding effort, which finished with 23-7 win for Porthcawl. All played superbly well but special congratulations to Player of the Match, Luis Towell with a hat-trick of tries.

Well done boys, you are a pleasure to take away!!
Mr. C.



"After a successful cup run, the Year 9 rugby team played Gowerton in the Ospreys Cup Final. Several tries were scored by us in the first half and even a last-ditch comeback from the opposition wasn't enough to stop them becoming Ospreys Champions. We progressed onto the Welsh cup after Christmas hoping to become Welsh champions to cap off the double.
Mr D"



Wales v Iran - World Cup

The entire school connected over the Wales vs Iran football game on November 25th 2022. All the year groups congregated in school assembly halls to watch the match. We experienced history as Wales managed to qualify for the World Cup, the first time in 64 years. We unfortunately lost 2-0 but it will be a memory that Welsh fans across the country will never forget.

Jamie Beemer 10GM



Jambori Cwpan y Byd

Ar Dachwedd 10 2022, Blwyddyn 8 joined over 1,070 schools in the Urdd Jambori to turn Cymru yn goch (turn Wales red). As part of the Urdd's centenary celebrations, we joined a huge singalong to support Cymru in their ymgyrch Cwpan y Byd (World Cup campaign). Our pupils proudly turned up in their crysau coch (red shirts), their dragon and daffodil hats and their Welsh scarves to show their support and enthusiasm for the occasion.

In the run up to the Jambori, Blwyddyn 8 gave 100% in practising all 8 Welsh songs regularly in their assemblies. Post Covid, it was lovely to have the opportunity to sing as a year group – something that this year group had not experienced since starting here at Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl!

The highlight of the day was being able to join with Dafydd Iwan in singing our official cân Cwpan y Byd (World Cup song) 'Yma o Hyd' live. Dafydd Iwan originally wrote this Welsh language folk song back in 1983, to 'remind people that we still siarad Cymraeg (speak Welsh) against all odds and to show we are still here'. Our pupils ended the morning singing their hearts out with balchder (pride), and nearly raised the roof of the Jubilee Theatre.

Both the Music and Welsh departments were extremely proud of all pupils that took part, and welcomed the opportunity to be part of this historical event. Even though it was siomedig (disappointing) that Cymru did not manage to progress beyond the group stage, it was not due to lack of support and encouragement from all who took part in the Jambori!



Technology Transition



In January 2023 we welcomed Year 6 pupils from our feeder primaries as well as a number of our of catchment pupils to participate in our Technology transition days. Pupils enjoyed cookies in the canteen as well as taster sessions of...

Product Design:

Pupils experienced the Technology workshop wearing carpenter's aprons and health and safety glasses to make Key Rings which were laser cut and sanded. They used the pillar drill to drill a hole, the Porthcawl CS Logo was enhanced with colour and on the back of the key ring the pupils used the heat press to add a full colour name tag. These badges were designed to use on their school bags in September.

Food/HWB:

Pupils experienced the Food kitchen and learnt about health and hygiene. They followed basic food hygiene rules and wore aprons to make pitta bread pizzas and designed a pizza box as a graphics task.

Everyone had a great time and they enjoyed homemade cookies at break.

The pupils really enjoyed it and the feedback from the pupils and staff all week has been very positive.

Mr R Pettit - Head of Technology



Year 6 Computer Science Transition

Year 6 pupils joined us the week commencing 28th November for their Computer Science Transition. Pupils participated in the Hour of Code activity based on the theme of Angry Birds. The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to Computer Science, using fun tutorials to show that anybody can learn the basics. It is a global Computer Science initiative that creates a fun and creative environment for students to be introduced to the concepts of computer programming. Following the Hour of Code, pupils completed activities using Scratch programming.



News from the Primaries



West Park Primary School



We have sprung into Spring at West Park and we are enjoying being able to make full use of our wonderful outdoors by spending lots of time learning outdoors and in our woodland.

Our Spring theme is 'Cynefin' and across school we are discussing what makes us who we are and what gives us our sense of belonging. We began the term with workshops from 'Show Racism the Red Card'. We learned about respecting each other and our differences and treating each other kindly. We discussed the values of empathy, understanding and showing kindness and respect to all. The children worked in groups to develop a project of their choice promoting equality and anti-racism. Pupils will continue their work this term and their outcomes will be entered into the Show Racism the Red Card competition.

We have also had 'Reduce, Reuse & Recycle' workshops in Key Stage 2, where pupils got the opportunity to continue developing their awareness about the different ways we can all work towards a more sustainable future.

We would like to extend a thank you to Porthcawl Comprehensive School for inviting Year 6 pupils to watch their excellent performance of 'Footloose' in the Grand Pavilion as part of their transition program. We were thrilled to see so many past pupils continuing to shine on the stage where many of them trod the boards for the first time at the age of just 5 years as West Park students! Year 6 also visited the Technology department in Porthcawl Comprehensive where they carried out activities to give them a 'taste' of what they will be learning next year.

Newton Primary School



Year 5 & 6 have been studying Wales through our topic 'Cymru Am Byth' this term.

We organised several trips to St Fagan's, where the children filmed their own Vlogs documenting their personal learning experiences. In February we went to Big Pit Blaenavon, which was an excellent opportunity to learn about life in a coal mine in South Wales. We also visited the Police Museum in Bridgend which showcased the changes in policing across the decades. We were also lucky to be able to meet some of the animals that help support police officers in their work.

We established a link with a school in Caerphilly and this opened up a range of possibilities to share and compare experiences. We were able to learn about life in a contrasting locality in Wales. The children led virtual Q&A sessions and sent emails to their new friends in St James' Primary School.

We wrote our own bilingual school song entitled 'Cymru Am Byth' which we recorded and taught to the KS2 classes in time for St David's Day. This followed up on our recent success at Christmas when our song 'Christmas is the time to surf with Santa' was played on Heart Radio, Radio Wales and Bridge FM. The children were also interviewed by Jagger and Woody!

We really enjoyed the transition events this term, we attended the Technology and Language mornings which gave the children a further taste of what school will be like next year. The PCS performance of 'Footloose' was brilliant and very professional as always. It was nice to see so many former pupils taking on lead roles in the show. Hard work always leads to success.

Well done!



Nottage Primary School

Can you believe it's 2023? I know that we can't. We ended 2022 on such a high as we were able to open our doors again for our Christmas Concerts. It was a pleasure to invite families back into school and they joined us to celebrate the season and spread festive cheer. We were extremely fortunate as we took part in a variety of services, entertained the residents of the local retirement home and even performed our very own Glee Club pantomime. Oh yes we did!

Speaking of pantomimes, Porthcawl Comprehensive School performed their spectacular production of 'Cinderella' for the pupils of Year 2 to Year 6. The children were in awe as they performed the classic tale with wit, style and elegance. The children sang, danced and laughed as they transformed our hall into Cinderella's ballroom. The clock struck midnight and her story changed. Speaking of changes...

Since coming back, we have made many resolutions for the coming year. One being, our mission to achieve the Silver Award in our



Rights Respecting School journey. Our School Council have become Rights Ambassadors, raising awareness of the different articles and implementing changes across the school. We have also begun our very own working group focusing upon promoting inclusion and equality. It is formed with teachers, parents and pupils as we collaboratively strive to make a

difference across Porthcawl and the wider community.

We are very excited to begin our new Cynefin topic as we are embracing our locality and community spirit. We look forward to keeping you updated and sharing our progression.

Porthcawl Primary School



The Great Porthcawl Bake-off was a great success at Porthcawl Primary! Year 6 researched, mixed, baked and tasted a variety of different creations. In total we made cupcakes, white chocolate brownies, rice crispy squares, flapjacks and chocolate chip cookies. We created a strict judging criteria and scored the cakes on everything from cost, taste and how easy it was to make. Overall, the white chocolate brownie came out on top. If anyone would like the recipe, ask one of our Year 6 pupils!

We have also been working with Charlie from the Ospreys as part of our Healthy Living topic. We had a virtual guided tour of the stadium and we interviewed two Ospreys players. We found out that porridge is the best breakfast on the day of a big game. Charlie also introduced us to atomic tag rugby which is a mixture of rugby and netball. We really enjoyed the game and we took part in a mini festival and competed against other schools.

At the moment we are starting to prepare for our end of year production and auditions will be taking place soon. It was really inspiring to see the amazing performance of Footloose and we will try to bring the same energy to our performance!

Pupil Achievements

Spring 2023

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Jude Jenkins
7NS **800m Indoor Welsh
Champion**

Joseph Dingle
Year 13 **Offered a conditional place at
Oxford University to read
Biology**

Bronwyn Jones
Year 13 **Offered a conditional place at
Cambridge University to read
Architecture**

Sian Adams
Year 7 **Qualified to swim in the Welsh
Winter National Swim
Championships in December**

Cara Wheatley
Year 12 **Hockey –Coaching Award
Level 1**

Romy Francombe, Ella
Verderame, Wil Morgans &
Tammy Igbenehi **Winners of Round 2 of ESU
Churchill Public Speaking
Competition**

PARENTS/CARERS

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

Instrument Exams

Congratulations to all musicians that have sat grade exams over the past term! Well done for showing excellent dedication to practising and preparing for these examinations on top of your normal lessons.

Please can ALL pupils that have sat any external music or musical theatre exams, please bring in your certificates to reception to be scanned. They will be kept on as a school record and count towards future UCAS points.

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!

Name	Instrument	Grade
Megan-Leigh Prance	Voice <small>(Musical Theatre)</small>	Grade 6 PASS
William Evans	Voice	Grade 5 DISTINCTION
Joel Griffiths	Piano	Grade 1 DISTINCTION
Joel Griffiths	Clarinet	Grade 3 MERIT
Oscar James	Electric Guitar	Grade 3 DISTINCTION
Lili Richards	Piano	Grade 3 MERIT
William Bloomfield	Piano	Grade 5 PASS
Esther Morris	Piano	Grade 5 PASS
Sophia Mae Evans	Piano	Grade 6 MERIT
Ellie Parry	Piano	Grade 6 MERIT
Megan Tinning	Clarinet	Grade 3 MERIT
Tamsin Jenkins	Saxophone	Grade 3 MERIT
Katie Palmer	Piano	Grade 2 MERIT
Isabelle Cinderby	Piano	Grade 2
Corin Walters	Piano	Grade 2 PASS
Larissa Clee	Flute	Grade 5 MERIT
William John	Clarinet	Grade 1 MERIT
Flynn Milligan	Clarinet	Grade 1 MERIT
Megan Tinning	Clarinet	Grade 3 MERIT
Sam Cabbage	Bassoon	Grade 1 PASS

Design : odam@huffagraphics.co.uk

(Answers to Maths Challenge: 1. D 2.C 3. C)



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