





WELCOME TO THE THIRD EDITION OF THE PORTHCAWL POST FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2022 - 2023

# **Porthcawl Porthcawl**



Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter | Cylchlythyr Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl

### Headteacher's Address



mazingly, another academic year has flown by and as the term draws to a close, we reflect on the many and varied successes of our young people over the academic year 2022-2023. The school's successes are judged by many in a whole range of ways but first and foremost it is our young people's success in learning that is important and will serve them best for the future. There has been so much success and achievement

As we near the end of the summer term I would like to thank everyone across the PCS community for your continued support. At the time of writing this piece, pupils in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 are preparing for their summer GCSE, AS and A Level examinations and by the time this edition of the Porthcawl Post is published I

imagine that many if not all are already completed - to all pupils in Year 10 - Year 13, I wish you all the very best for this examination series and your future. I look forward to seeing you all on GCSE and A Level results day in August and I am sure the hard work will pay off!

There are several staffing updates from me this term as we say farewell and best wishes to a number of people. We have said goodbye to our Student Support Officer Mr Jonathan Price who first started



work at PCS in 2008. Mr Price is a qualified teacher and during his time at the school has held several positions. He has been a Cover Supervisor, he has been a part-time Teacher and for a significant amount of time at the school he has been one of our Student Support Officers. It is true to say that Mr Price had a huge impact on all that he has worked with, supported and guided. Mr Price had a very calm, supportive manner and overtime contributed so much to student support and the wellbeing needs of so many pupils at PCS. From everyone at PCS, we wish Mr Price all the very best in his new position as he leaves PCS to

take up a position with South Wales Police.

I would also like to thank Mr Baker who will retire at the end of this academic year having worked at the school since 2021. Our pupils have benefited greatly from his teaching within the Humanities Faculty. All the very best with your retirement and the future.

We are very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Catrin Stuart who has been a stalwart of the PE Department since 2010. Mrs Stuart has made an enormous contribution to school, particularly



with the extra-curricular activities and will be remembered especially for her dance routines and Zumba classes and her enormous commitment to Hockey at PCS. She is leaving us to concentrate on her interior design business.

We also say farewell to Mr Steve Blanche, who joined PCS in 2004. We thank him for all he has done - 19 years of service to PCS, we are very grateful! Mr Blanche has made a much-valued contribution to our ICT department and over this time he has played a significant part in the success

(Continued from front cover)



of ICT and Electronics across the school, taking responsibility for the development of Electronics up to A Level. I would like to personally thank Mr Blanche for all the hard work, loyalty, and dedication he has shown to us over the last 19 years. I offer the very best wishes for the future. Enjoy the remainder of the summer term, everyone at PCS wishes you all the very best. Have a long, healthy and happy retirement.

In September 2023 we also welcome new teaching staff:

- Mr Steven Howells who joins PCS as Teacher of English & Media Studies.
- Dr Rhian Evans who joins PCS as Teacher of Physics.

As I have written this piece before the end of the summer term there may well be further staff changes and I will provide a further staffing update in September 2023.

The school Governors have had another very busy year under the Chairmanship of Mrs A. Thomas and Vice Chair, Mrs A. Morgan. Together, the Governing Body have been providing the important vision, direction and policy decisions affecting the school. We thank you for your continued work with the school.

To the pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 who are leaving this summer to take up employment, training and further and higher education we wish them every success for the future. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking parents, carers, pupils and staff for their continued support.

I wish you all a warm and pleasant summer.

Kind regards, M Stephens - Headteacher

## End of an Era



It is also the end of an era at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. Our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Anne O'Brien is retiring at the end of this academic year and will leave PCS after 33 years in the school. It is very difficult for me to summarise all that Mrs O'Brien has done for our wonderful school and it is an understatement to say that she has been an asset to our school in every way! When I received the Headteacher 'baton' in January 2023 it was made a smooth handover due to the on-going support from Mrs O'Brien and following my two terms in post I would like to personally thank her for her contribution since I took up the Headship of PCS.

Mrs O'Brien has worked for four of the seven Headteachers in the history of education in this community – namely, myself (2023 – to date), Mr A. Slade (2012 - 2022), Mr K. Dykes (2002 - 2012) and Mr A. Jones (1988 - 2002). In fact, Mrs O'Brien has worked for four of the five Headteachers who have led Porthcawl Comprehensive School since comprehensive education was introduced by the Glamorgan Education Authority in 1973 – quite some achievement and testament to her dedication and commitment to our school!

Mrs O'Brien joined the school as a mathematics teacher from a secondary school in Caerphilly in April 1990, becoming Head of Mathematics in 1998. Mrs O'Brien then joined the Senior Leadership Team as a Senior Teacher in 2003,

became an Assistant Headteacher in 2006 and the Deputy Headteacher in 2010. Therefore, contributing to the senior leadership and direction of our school for 20 years!

In a recent email I received, Mr Alan Jones, Headteacher at Porthcawl Comprehensive School from 1988-2002 described Mrs O'Brien as a 'true professional' and all at PCS echo that sentiment!

I knew Mrs O'Brien before taking up my post as Headteacher and I have learned very quickly that she is an outstanding Deputy Headteacher and person. Her wealth of knowledge and commitment to all things 'Porthcawl' is something to behold. A Deputy Headteacher works closely with the Headteacher. They support the strategic direction of the school, and they are the lead person for several key areas across a school. When considering my introductory address and what to write about Mrs O'Brien, it was the latter part of my last sentence that I found difficult to summarise. How do I sum up and share all that Mrs O'Brien has developed, led, and embedded across our wonderful school? I'm sure you'll agree, if I were to do this, I would need every single page of this edition of the Porthcawl Post!

Mrs O'Brien holds many important roles and responsibilities across our school. Some of these include: the school timetable, staffing, the 14-19 curriculum, GCSE and A Level options, health & safety and the school budget/finances. This is to name a few! Our school has a thriving Sixth Form. We have an excellent breadth and range of courses at both GCSE and A Level. We have excellent systems in place for health & safety – we certainly owe a lot to Mrs O'Brien for this! At a time of financial strain in education, our school is in a positive position financially and this is due to the effective management and monitoring of our school budget and finances - thank you to Mrs O'Brien. As a mathematician she really does love numbers! The management of change and being ahead of the 'game' is a strength of Mrs O'Brien; her planning and strategic oversight is second to none! We wish Mrs O'Brien all the very best for her future, you have made a massive contribution to all at PCS - thank you. A long, happy, and healthy retirement awaits you, all the best.

Our school is one of the best in Wales, and we pride ourselves on a 'team' approach. One very important part of our team is Mrs O'Brien so on behalf of the Governing Body and everyone that you have worked hope you keep in touch with the school, and we look forward to sharing the continued successes the future will bring. Coinciding perfectly with this is the retirement of her husband, Mr Mark O'Brien who invaluable and popular member of the team since years, working tirelessly behind the scenes, and he will greatly missed. As Mrs O'Brien's time comes to an end we naturally look to the future, and I am delighted to inform you that the new Deputy Headteacher will be Mr David Beard. Mr Beard is Comprehensive School and we all offer the best of Porthcawl welcomes.

M Stephens - Headteacher

### Thank you Mrs O'Brien from the Heads!

#### Thank you from Mr Slade

I should like to thank Mr Stephens for this opportunity to pay tribute to Mrs O' Brien as she retires from our school. I worked with Mrs O' Brien for 25 years and she was a superb teacher and manager at Porthcawl. In my years as



Mrs O'Brien for her advice and guidance and I will always be grateful for her support and loyalty. The school has achieved much over the past years and much of our success has been down to the diligence and dedication of Mrs O'Brien. Mrs O'Brien cares passionately about our school and each day strove to make it the best it could be for everyone associated with PCS. The most important thing in her life is her family and with another grandchild on the way there is no better time to retire to spend more time with her family. While I mention her family may I pay tribute to and thank Mr O'Brien for his contribution to the school, the superb site we all enjoy is down to the steadfast efforts of Mr O'Brien. So, finally Anne, thanks for all you have done for our school. I hope you have a long, healthy and happy retirement and look forward to catching up with you in the near future.

Andrew Slade

Headteacher Porthcawl Comprehensive School ~ 2012-2022

#### Thank you from Mr Jone:

I appointed Mrs Anne O'Brien as a teacher of Mathematics in 1990 and what an excellent appointment it turned out to be. From the first day of service to Porthcawl Comprehensive School to her retirement at the end of this summer term she has given wonderful service to



the school and its pupils. Anne is an excellent teacher of pupils across the whole ability range and the exceptional examination results at all levels is testimony to this. Anne graduated from an assistant teacher in the department to succeed Mr John Phillips as Head of Department and continued the excellent record of the department in external examinations at GCSE and A level.

Anne was one of the best professionals it was ever my privilege to work with as well as being one of the most conscientious and loyal of colleagues. On my retirement in 2002 I seconded Anne to the school's Senior Management Team and I was delighted to see her talent recognised by her appointment as Deputy Headteacher. As expected, she has performed this role with great distinction. Anne has earned a well-deserved retirement and I and my family wish her good health for a long and enjoyable retirement. Thank you, Anne, for your support, loyalty and dedication during my term as Headteacher.

Mr Alan Jones

Headteacher Porthcawl Comprehensive School ~ 1988-2002

### **Curriculum for Porthcawl:**

### The Curriculum is

Taking Shape!



Over the past term, teachers across the curriculum have not

only been working tirelessly to prepare our young people for their external examinations, but they have, also, continued to make exceptional progress in preparing the Curriculum for Porthcawl in readiness for the next academic year. Our theme of this term has been: 'Transferring our Curriculum Vision into our Intended Curriculum in preparation for Implementation in September 2023'. Essentially, at PCS, we have a clear understanding of what we want our curriculum to achieve: we have been and are continuing to resource our new curriculum so that it is ready for September, 2023!

#### Some of the Key Details of the Curriculum for Porthcawl

As a reminder of some of the key details that were shared in the previous edition of the Porthcawl Post, at PCS, we refer to the new curriculum as the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl' and not the 'Curriculum for Wales'. Why? Quite simply, we are not creating a curriculum that meets the needs of learners across Wales but, instead, we are creating a curriculum that is bespoke to your children and the specific context of our school. We are very proud of our direction and have made significant progress this term that has been celebrated by several external agencies who have visited our school, including our Improvement Partner from the Regional Consortium. Consequently, as our curriculum progress grows and grows, how we communicate this with our pupils and include them in the planning process has increased significantly. Some key developments this term include how pupils have helped us to develop and display our 'Porthcawl Purposes', (which are our interpretation of the Four Purposes of Learning), and displayed these around our school.

Moreover, Mr Aldridge and a number of key staff have been working alongside our young people to explore refining our merit system to link it more closely to the 'Porthcawl Purposes' and to develop the 'Porthcawl Pupil'. This is criteria created by our pupils that outlines the key characteristics and values that our pupils want the school to lead and support them to develop. This process is not quite completed yet, but we are excited to share with you how the 'Porthcawl Pupil' is currently developing.

#### Curriculum for Porthcawl: The Future

Finally, you may recall answering a parent / carer questionnaire that asked for your views on the new curriculum and how the school could support you to increase your understanding of the Curriculum for Porthcawl, in readiness for September, 2023. Whilst the feedback was hugely encouraging, it was clear that there is a desire to increase your own understanding of some of the specifics of our new curriculum. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to signpost the launch of our 'Curriculum for



Porthcawl' YouTube channel. This is currently under construction, but a variety of information videos created at the school will be shared with you in the very near future to help support your own transition into our very bright future and the exciting launch of our new curriculum for Year 7 and 8 from September!

Mr R Aldridge

### Alfie Smallman Raises Money for Dementia!

Many congratulations to Alfie Smallman of Year 11 who has completed this jump and raised over £800 for the Alzheimer's Society.

Alfie's Story: Alfie's 10,000ft Sky Dive for Dementia – 2nd April 2023

Hi Everyone!

I'm Alfie, I just turned 16, and I've decided to do a sky dive to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society UK.

Now a sky dive might seem a bit nuts for someone of my age, but not quite as nuts as my Nana doing it for her 70th birthday!

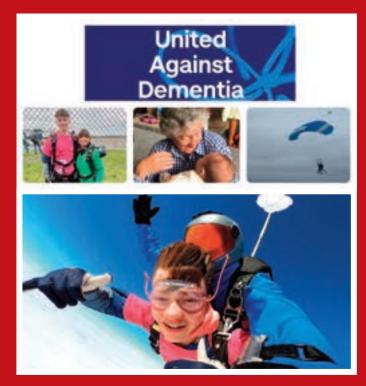
I couldn't let her jump alone could I? So whilst she is raising money for her own charity, (Cwtch Baby Bank), I've decided to do the 10,000ft jump for a cause that affects many of us, including my own family.

I hope by each of you donating, we can help the families of those effected by dementia and let them know that they aren't alone. The money raised goes towards research and supporting families through the heart break dementia brings.

All donations make a difference, so give what you can.

Thank you

Alzheimer's Society is transforming the landscape of dementia forever. Until the day we find a cure, we will create a society where those affected by dementia are supported and accepted, able to live in their community without fear or prejudice. https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alfie-smallman





Well done to Mr. Pucella (ICT Dept) and Mrs. Dutton (A-Block) for taking part in the Samtampa Memorial Run 2023 held in Porthcawl on Sunday 14/05/2023.

In 1947, 47 people lost their lives in the wrecking of SS Samtampa, just off Sker Point, including 8 courageous RNLI volunteer crew members of RNLB Edward, Prince of Wales from the Mumbles Lifeboat Station, which was also lost. Porthcawl Runners organised a run to commemorate their sacrifice, to remember the other lives lost, and to raise vital funds for the ongoing work of the RNLI. The route was from the harbour end of the Eastern Promenade to Rest Bay, returning to finish next to the Porthcawl Lifeboat Station. The event raised over £2000 to support the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea. They do this through lifeboat search and rescue, lifeguards, water safety education and flood rescue.

### ENDO What? - Endometriosis March 2023



People around the world come together in March to support Endometriosis Action Month. Mr. Pucella and his family (& Teddy the dog) took part in the Endometriosis March that took place in Cardiff. Starting at the Museum and making their way into town, they distributed leaflets along the way. This is an opportunity to raise awareness, demand change, and show support for the 1 in 10 women who suffer with it. Endometriosis (pronounced en-doh-meetree-oh-sis) is the name given to the condition where cells similar to the ones in the lining of the womb (uterus) are found elsewhere in the body. This can cause significant pain and discomfort.

Endometriosis can be very debilitating, and symptoms can vary in intensity. The amount of endometriosis does not always correspond to the amount of pain and discomfort experienced and

not everyone with endometriosis experiences symptoms.

Classic endometriosis symptoms include:

- Period pain: endometriosis is usually characterised by period pain in the days before a period. The periods become typically painful, often meaning days off school, college or work. If period pain is preventing you from carrying out your normal activities, please seek medical advice.
- Infertility
- Painful bowel movements
- Fatigue

However, with the right endometriosis treatment, many of these issues can be addressed, and the symptoms of endometriosis made more manageable.

To find out more please visit: https://www.endometriosis-uk.org/ https://www.endometriosis-uk.org/what-endometriosis

### The Regeneration of Porthcawl

**Project** 

When we got to the venue (the Pavilion), I was delighted to find the free teapot and biscuits before we even started the actual talk. When we started the talk, Martin (the leader of the project) asked everyone to introduce themselves and I thought about all the different new and exciting things our minds can bring to Porthcawl Town. After we had a brain storming session, we visited the different sites involved in the regeneration project. More and more ideas popped into mind and they became better and better. When coming back and after a lovely free lunch we talked more and more about the Regeneration of Porthcawl.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed talking about the future of Porthcawl and how we can make this Town a more ECO-Friendly Porthcawl.

Tomos Jones Year 9 School Council











### Kyle's Sponsored 5km Swim for GOSH

Hello my name is Kyle Furness and in March I completed a sponsored swim for Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) charity and I invited five of my friends to do it alongside me. Some staff joined in too!

We took on this challenge because GOSH have supported me with my condition called a Vein of Galen Malformation. My condition is very rare and serious, where the blood vessels and veins, in my brain, are wired in the wrong order. It roughly affects one in a million children in the UK. GOSH are helping and supporting me with my treatment. I am very grateful for all the help they have given me.

I wanted to support GOSH in return by giving something back. Me and my team

swam 300 lengths of the school swimming pool at the end of March, in the hope we could raise some funds to donate to the charity.

We raised a whopping £855 for GOSH. I am astonished by people's generosity and I'm over the moon that we managed to raise so much money for an incredible charity.

I would personally like to thank my friends, Dylan Evans, Jacob Jones, Tomos Jones, Ethan Robbins and Ben Harries for supporting me and taking part. I would also like to thank Mrs. Morgan, Mr. Price, Miss Owens and Mrs. Coleman for taking part too.

Special thanks to Mr. Stephens, Mr. Parker and the PE Department for allowing us to use the school pool to host our fundraising event!

### Careers Corner



As the summer fast approaches some of you will be thinking of looking for some part time work. Many employers will be asking for a C.V. You will find information, suggestions and advice on careerswales.gov.wales on personal statements, finding jobs and approaching employers. Click on the tab bar – Getting a Job. Good luck!

Getting a Job | Careers Wales (gov.wales)

#### Debz Silk

Cynghorydd Gyrfa | Careers Adviser Gyrfa Cymru | Careers Wales

# Four pupils from PCS are now the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Welsh Regional Winners and competitors on 'Finals day' at Cambridge University



In November of last year, four Year 11 pupils entered a debating competition. This is the first time that Porthcawl has entered a public speaking competition. The first round took place online. They won that heat and went on to win the second heat in Cardiff Sixth Form College. During this heat, Romy was asked to apply for a scholarship to attend a debating summer camp with the ESU. They then moved on to the Regional Final in Stanwell Comprehensive School, where Ella won Best Questioner and Wil Best Chair. Winning the Regional Final meant they were awarded the Morgan Shield and they were through to 'Finals Day' in Churchill College, Cambridge.

On 'Finals Day' the students engaged in debating in front of a range of judges, including the great-grandson of Winston Churchill, Randolph Churchill. Our team convincingly made it through to the final six by arguing for the motion that 'politicians cannot save us from climate change' and arguing against the motion that 'Money has ruined Sport.' Although they did not win, they were the only Welsh school and the only Comprehensive / state school in the final 12. Also making it to the final six when the total number of schools in the competition was 425, was a phenomenal achievement.

The preparation for the regional and national final included support from Mr Short, who is our school expert on all matters of Politics. The whole school community has rallied behind the team and this has added to the experience for our students.



How our pupils described the experience

"It was so incredible to be a part of something that felt so out of our league, yet we managed to do so well and get so far "

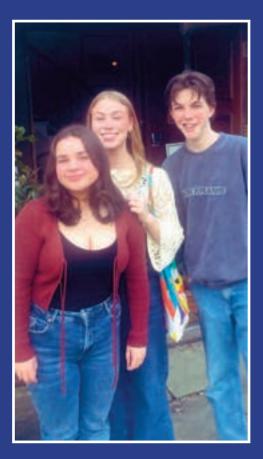
"We felt so supported by the school and teachers which made the whole experience feel so special" - Ella

"The whole experience was so different and unlike anything any of us had done before. We felt so welcomed and appreciated. Such an amazing learning opportunity for all of us" - Wil

"A brilliant experience, I learned a lot. It was an incredible opportunity" - Romy

"The atmosphere was exhilarating. It was refreshing to see so many likeminded young people come together to pursue a shared passion. Events such as this give young people a platform to speak out that many of us would have never had before this opportunity. It was an immensely useful stepping stone to launch us forward into a brighter future." - Tammy





How Mrs Mahoney described the experience

"What our students have achieved during their first public speaking competition is nothing short of incredible. How many 16-year olds from a Welsh Comprehensive school can say they have engaged in intellectual debate on the stage at Cambridge University? To say I am proud of them is an understatement. I am very grateful to our school for supporting their entry, and supporting their progress, within the ESU Public Speaking competition. What a fantastic experience it has been for us all!"





### Cymru ac Wcrain

Many of you will know Bohdan Syvak, who joined Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl in June 2022, when he and his family had to leave their home in Ukraine (Wcraín) suddenly on March 6th when Russia invaded and declared war on Ukraine.

Bohdan and his family travelled first to Germany where they stayed for 6 weeks before travelling to Cymru where they received a warm welcome from the Neeson family.

Bohdan joined 11YM for Welsh gyda Mrs Lloyd and immediately started to learn a few Welsh sentences (brawddegau Cymraeg). Already able to speak Ukranian, English and Russian, Bohdan threw himself into the language, often turning up in P3 at lunchtime to practice his Welsh. During this time, Mrs Lloyd also tried to learn a bit of Ukranian (Wcreineg), but with far more limited success!

In October, we started discussing TGAU (GCSEs) and whether Bohdan felt confident enough in Welsh to be able to undertake the GCSE exam, and he decided to go for it!

Ten months after arriving in Wales for the first time, Bohdan sat his first Welsh speaking exam, followed by another 3 GCSE exams to assess his speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Now all we have to do is sit back and await the results...

"I am extremely proud (balch) of Bohdan and what he has achieved. After the upheaval of leaving his home, family and friends in Ukraine, he has settled so well in his new life in Porthcawl. He turns up every day with a smile on his face, greets me with 'Shwmae!' and has thrown himself into learning Welsh, regularly giving up his lunchtimes and his great love, (pêl-droed), to practise his Welsh. I wish him every success in his exams and the future and hope that he continues to speak Welsh. I would love to see Bohdan on S4C in the future, playing for the Ukranian national football team and giving an interview yn Gymraeg afterwards!" Mrs Lloyd.

"Dw i'n mwynhau dysgu Cymraeg achos dw i'n byw yng Nghymru ac mae Cymru yn hyfryd" says Bohdan.



### The Junior Mathematical Challenge

The Junior Mathematical Challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Junior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think.

A Gold Award will be given to the top 6-7% of the entrants, the Silver award for the top 13-14% of the entrants and the Bronze award will go to the top 21% of the entrants.









### Junior Kangaroo

Over 10,000 participants from the JMC are invited to participate in the Junior Kangaroo. Congratulations to our Gold award student Dewi Thomas who has been asked to participate in June for this challenge.

The Junior Maths Challenge is the first step to representing your country in the Maths International Olympics.

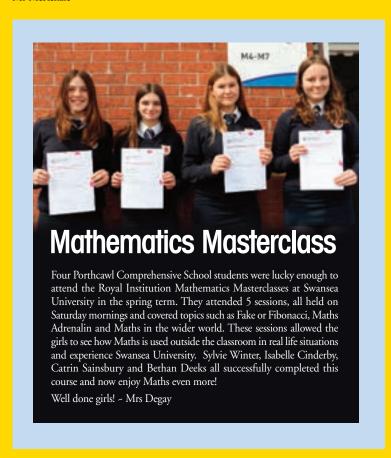
Towards the end of May, Mr Stephens attended the Year 7 and 8 assemblies to give out the awards

Many congratulations to everyone who took part and especially to: -

Dewi Thomas	Gold Certificate – Best in School
William Griffiths-Cole	Silver Certificate – Best in Year
Dylan Morgan-Rowe	Silver Certificate
Luis Towell	Silver Certificate
Atreyu Cummings	Bronze Certificate
Samuel Cubbage	Bronze Certificate
Cai Davies	Bronze Certificate
Hannah Davies-Jones	Bronze Certificate
William John	Bronze Certificate
Ashe Thomas	Bronze Certificate
Ben Thomas	Bronze Certificate

All the rest of those who took part were awarded a certificate of participation. Well done for taking part in this prestigious challenge and better luck next time!

Mr McKenzie







On Friday 21st April, the 6th Form had the opportunity to take part in a 5 a-side wellbeing football tournament. This was very well received, and 'Netflix' were the favourites having won the league last year.

They breezed past 'Inter Row Z', 3-0 in the opening round and then beat 'Bambox' to get to the final. The new talk of the competition was 'Tourism Boys' captained by Oscar Jones. Could Oscar lead his team to victory? With their striker CJ getting injured in the opening game with a 'soft' tackle the prospects did not look good. Unfortunately, 'Kante', an old favourite who are an experienced side captained by the one and only Joe Dingle and having finished 3rd in the league last season, proved too strong for 'Tourism Boys and 'Kante' put them into touch.

'Kante' also stepped up and beat 'Netflix' 1-0 in the final. 'Netflix' were in need of their veteran players, Aled Davies and Shae McCarthy, but they were injured. Mr. Blanche is a qualified goalkeeper coach and Joe Bartlett from 'Netflix' has been strongly advised to go and seek tuition on how to take a penalty.

Well done to 'Kante' who will now be remembered as the 2023 Champions.

Well done to all those who took part.

Mr Pucella

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### **PUPIL AWARDS**

### **ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23**



On 21st March, we were absolutely delighted at last to be able to open our doors once again to pupils, parents and carers to celebrate their achievements in our traditional Awards Evening, having not been able to do so since 2019! Although we have continued to present awards to our pupils during Covid, it has been on a much quieter scale, originally just individually and then during assemblies, so it was with great joy that we welcomed parents and carers again this year to share in the experience and to publicly congratulate our pupils on their achievements.

As is always the case, this rewarded the efforts of the pupils for the previous academic year. Mr Stephens introduced the evening which was incredibly well attended, and it was lovely to see some old faces returning, as well as the new Year 7, with the majority of pupils attending their first Awards Evening. Thank you to all the young musicians who kindly gave up their time and made the evening so special.



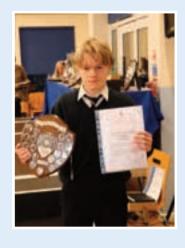
AWARD	WINNER
Howard Cave Memorial Cup for Art	Heather Coles
The Laura Thompson Award for Textiles	Elizabeth Pickett
Award for Technology	Abigail Tibbs
Stuart Gass Memorial Award Maths	Rex Ezard
Science Student of the Year	Natasha Fray
Elizabeth Sumner Challenge Award	Sam Long
Geraint Watkins Memorial Shield Junior Musician	Charlie Horton
Gwen Hughes Memorial – Lower School Wind Player	Katie Palmer
Senior Musician of the Year	Isabella-Riley Thomas
Eisteddfod – Senior Welsh Chair	Jessica Jones
Attendance Award	Daniel Whittaker
Modern Foreign Languages Award	Trent Francis
Junior Drama Student of the Year	Nia Card
Senior Drama Student of the Year	Samantha Wensley
Drama Performance of the Year	Cari Wilson
Porthcawl Little Theatre Award	Isabella-Riley Thomas
Sports Award GCSE PE	Cole Rees & Jessica Orum
Sports Award Key Stage 3	Iwan Froley & Gwen Williams
Year 10 Academic	Ellie Parry
Year 10 Effort	David Palmer
Year 11 Academic	Grace Clear
Year 11 Effort	Cara Wheatley
Year 12 Academic	Matthew Powell
Year 12 Effort	Kurtis Trezise
Year 13 Academic	Olivia Geddes
Year 13 Effort	Curtis Willmott

#### Presentation to Head Team 2022-23

Joseph Dingle & Georgia Jenkins – Student Leaders

Anwen Braden, Eleni Jones, Rhys Tunnadine & Cerys Williams – Deputy Student Leaders

Alina Biju, Dylan Carless, Tegan Davies, Jacob Green, Ben Pownall & Ava Verderame – Assistant Student Leaders

















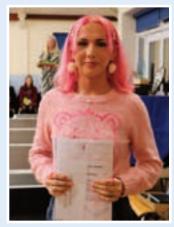




























### Nominations of Awards

Year 7	
	Form Prize
7LC	Dylan Owen, Imogen Brown & Isabella Norman
7GD	Logan Simmers & Gracie Witheridge
7JG	Molly Marchant & Harri Thomas
7JW	Katelyn Bebb & Ashley Hare
7RP	Lilly-Anna Tucker & Lucy Pedler
7NS	Sueann Loveridge & Gwendolen Adams
7OW	Iris Evans & Annie Rees





Last Years Year 7					
	Excellence	Progress	Honours		
7AM	Zara Lewis	Eli Nugent	Lilya Watkins		
7JM	Avik Patel	Jayden Griffiths	Lilia Evans		
7HS	Carmen Rees	Elise Payne	Rory Whyte		
7HG	Lucien Hope	Darius Dinu	Chloe Davies		
7LK	Sajithana Ravindran	Benjamen Attard	Isabella Holloway		
7ME	Madison Tandy	Jessica Markey	Aimee Leach		
7OT	Atreyu Cummings	Martha Cockel	Isaak Windibank		



Last Years Year 8						
	Excellence	Progress	Honours			
8SB	Ella Stubbs	Kaiden Jenkins	Elsie Spillets			
8JB	Felix Wren-Owens& Evie Lipley	Kruize Jones	Tamsin Jenkins			
8ES	Maya Ormiston	Thomas Linehan	Benjamin Foskett			
8CD	Ben Harris	Dylan Evans	Carrianne Street			
8LM	Katie Palmer, Henry McGreivy	Seren Pope	Kal-El Davies			
8OP	Grace Maund	Rhys Davies	Euan Jenkins & Dylan Ryell			
8JS	Catrin Sainsbury	Harry Davies	Bethan Deeks			





Last Years Year 9					
	Excellence	Progress	Honours		
9NS	Meryn Bridge & Sioned Owen	Seren Davies, Connie Howe	Lennon Owens, Ronan Adams		
9GM	Jemima Dutton	Demi Phillips	James Beemer		
9TH	Rachel Clear	Janakan Anpalakan	Lucy Bradbury		
9LC	Harrison Burke	Morgan Peterson	Rudy Tottman		
9HD	Harri Taylor-King	Lewis Wright	Aleena Joshy		
9KP	Holly Wiseman	Colin Chi	Gwen Williams		
9OW	Ben Young	Livia Summers	Harrison Pugh		
9JG	Eva Dickenson	Morgan Thomas	Iwan Froley & Tomos O'Leary		







### Eisteddfod 2023

The Eisteddfod is a unique cultural festival which can trace its origins in Wales back to 1176 when Lords would gather musicians, orators and dancers in a celebration of culture and language. Today, three Eisteddfodau are held annually in Wales – the Urdd Eisteddfod in May/June, the National Eisteddfod in August and the International Eisteddfod in July and, indeed, many countries now embrace the Eisteddfod tradition including Argentina, Australia and South Africa and North America.

March 10th saw the exciting return of Eisteddfod Ysgol Porthcawl. No more Covid, no more lockdowns - we were free to enjoy a day of celebrating this important and unique festival and showcasing in words and music how proud we all are to be Welsh and to be a part of the Ysgol Porthcawl community.

Once again, the immense talent of our pupils impressed everyone involved with the event, especially our esteemed judges. In the morning's Senior Eisteddfod, the standard of competition was of the highest level and we enjoyed superb performances ranging from singing to recitation, instrumental pieces to dance with each competitor showing off their talents to a very receptive audience.

In the afternoon, the Junior Eisteddfod started, as usual, with the traditional folk dance performed by Year 7 and 8 pupils. However, half-way through the performance, the music changed and pupils performed a more contemporary dance which took the audience completely by surprise!

Again, the audience was treated to talented performances from pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 reciting and singing in both Welsh and English, piano, wind and string instrumental competitions and the junior dance and drama competitions. The standard of competition augers very well for the future!

Both Eisteddfodau ended with the Chairing of the Bard with two pupils being recognised for their outstanding work in Welsh and English. The colour and tradition of the ceremony was a fitting end to another Eisteddfod which was full of music, poetry and outstanding performances – in the best traditions of this unique festival. And of course, no chairing ceremony would be complete without our very own Archdderwydd (Archdruid), Mr Alan Thomas, to host the ceremony.

Altogether, a fantastic day was had by all, and a special thank you needs to go out to all our competitors, judges, Heads of House, Miss Owens and the staff of the music, drama and Welsh departments for making this a special day. And of course diolch to everyone who watched for their fantastic behaviour and showing their appreciation for everyone on stage. Diolch enfawr i bawb!

Gŵyl ddiwylliannol unigryw yw'r Eisteddfod sy'n deillio o 1176 pan gasglodd Arglwyddi gerddorion, areithwyr a dawnswyr at ei gilydd i ddathlu iaith a diwylliant Cymru. Erbyn heddiw cynhelir tair Eisteddfod yn flynyddol – Eisteddfod yr Urdd ym mis Ma/Mehefini, yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ym mis Awst a'r Eisteddfod Ryngwladol ym mis Gorffennaf, ac yn wir, mae nifer o wledydd erbyn hyn yn cofleidio traddodiad yr Eisteddfod gan gynnwys yr Ariannin, Awstralia, De Affrica a Gogledd America.

Ar Fawrth 10fed gwelon ni ddychweliad cyffrous Eisteddfod Ysgol Porthcawl. Dim rhagor o Govid, dim rhagor o glo - roedden ni'n rhydd i fwynhau diwrnod o ddathlu'r ŵyl bwysig ac unigryw hon a dangos trwy geiriau a cherddoriaeth pa mor falch yr ydyn ni i fod yn Gymry ac i fod yn rhan o gymuned Ysgol Porthcawl.

Unwaith eto, gwnaeth dalent enfawr ein disgyblion argraff ar bawb a oedd yn ymwneud â'r digwyddiad, yn enwedig ein beirniaid parchus. Yn y bore, yn yr Eisteddfod h $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ n, roedd safon y cystadlaethau o'r safon uchaf, a mwynheuon ni ystod o berfformiadau o ganu i adrodd, darnau offerynnol i ddawns gyda phob cystadleuydd yn arddangos eu talentau i gynulleidfa dderbyngar iawn.

Roedd tro ein disgyblion iau yn y prynhawn. Dechreuodd yr Eisteddfod yn ôl yr arfer gyda Blwyddyn 7 yn dawnsio gwerin traddodiadol. Fodd bynnag, hanner ffordd drwyddo, syfrdanodd y gynulleidfa pan newidiodd y gerddoriaeth i rywbeth llawer mwy cyfoes!

Eto, cafwyd perfformiadau talentog dros ben gan ddisgyblion ym mlynyddoedd 7, 8 a 9 o adrodd a chanu yn Saesneg a Chymraeg i gystadlaethau piano, offeryn chwyth a llinynnol a chystadleuthau dawns a drama. Mae safon y gystadleuaeth yn argoeli'n dda am y dyfodol!

Gorffennodd y ddwy Eisteddfod gyda Gadeirio'r Bardd sy'n cydnabod dau ddisgybl am eu gwaith eithriadol yn y Gymraeg a Saesneg. Roedd lliw a thraddodiad y seremoni yn ddiwedd addas iawn i Eisteddfod arall llawn cerddoriaeth, barddoniaeth a pherfformiadau eithriadol – yn nhraddodiad gorau'r ŵyl unigryw hon. Ac wrth gwrs, nid yw Seremoni Gadeirio Ysgol Porthcawl yn gyflawn heb ein Archdderwydd arbennig, Mr Alan Thomas, a wnaeth arwain y seremoni.

Ar y cyfan, cafwyd pawb diwrnod arbennig, a mae angen diolch yn arbennig i'n holl gystadleuwyr, beirniaid, Penaethiaid Llys, Miss Owens a staff adrannau cerddoriaeth, drama a Chymraeg am wneud y diwrnod yn un anhygoel. Ac wrth gwrs, i bawb yn y gynulleidfa am eu hymddygiad gwych ac am ddangos eu gwerthfawrogiad i bawb ar y llwyfan. Diolch enfawr i bawb!

### Eisteddfod Chairs

KS3

English Imogen Brown Welsh Tomos Jones

KS4

Welsh Jess Jones

Year 7 Results Biology

1st Iris Evans
2nd Jacob Harris
3rd Ellie Hemming
HC Travis Barker
and Harry Tinning
Caitlin Jenkins
Harri Roberts

Art

HC

1st Imogen Brown
2nd Leah Williams
Harry Gander
3rd Harry Tinning

Sam Thomas Katie Evans Tyler Loosemore Elsie Richards Ruma Lilley Krista Cavill

Cymraeg

Design an Eisteddfod Chair

1st Emily Davies
2nd Gwennie Adams
3rd Leah Williams
HC Alexander Dickenson

English

1st Imogen Brown
2nd Lily Hodges
3rd Lilly-Anna Tucker
HC Leah Williams
Elsie Richards

**ICT** 

1st Arlo Atkinson
2nd Isabela Norman
3rd Sadie Long
HC Ashley Powell
Lilly Griffiths
Oliver Chitty
Josh Lafcioglu
Lilia Sidoli-Kenny
Isabelle Handley

Molly Marchant Rachel Morgan **Physics** 

1st Lily-Anna Tucker

2nd Harriet Edwards, Layla Anthony, Katie Evans, Iris Winter (group)

3rd Matilda Mentel HC Arlo Atkinson

Dylan Owen Adamson

Leo Evans

Product Design

1st Hazel Goodman 2nd Esther Morris 3rd Isabella Daly

**Textiles** 

1st Annie Rees 2nd Logan Mawfarth 3rd Grace Mahoney

French

1st Annie Rees

2nd Noah Habberley-Warner

3rd Alyssa Keepins

German

1st Imogen Brown
2nd Jacob Harris
3rd Lilia Sidoli-Kenny

Humanities

1st Lilly-Anna Tucker
2nd Imogen Brown
3rd Rachel Morgan
HC Ellis Purchace
Molly Marchant
Iris Evans
Ava Lecraw

Year 8 Results

Art

1st Carmen Rees
2nd Ocean Smith
3rd Will Morris
HC Hannah Davies-Jones
Ellie Knight

Rhys Stacey

R.E:

Pilgrimage Journal

1st Connie Fitz-Gerald 2nd Evie Knight

3rd Meghan Conniff-Jenkins

HC Isabella Sinnott
Jamie Roberts

Jamie Roberts Emily Jordan









### Cymraeg - Welsh Cake Competition

1st Evie Knight2nd Carmen Rees3rd Menna WattsHC Lucien Hope

#### **English**

1st James Powell
2nd Isabella Holloway
3rd Zara Lewis
HC Will Morris
William John

#### **ICT**

1st Madison Tandy
2nd Poppy Rayner
3rd Brendan Lampard
HC Lloyd Short
Rhys Stacey
Ruby Jeynes
Alana O'Keefe
Florence Cronje
Martha Cockel

#### Geography

1st James Powell

2nd Lily Rees, Cara Moulton

3rd Finley Williams

HC Will Morris, Edison Wyatt

Kassy Gale

Poppy Watkins, Lilya Watkins,

Eli Nugent Madison Tandy

#### Art - Comic Strips

1st Laila Charles
2nd Jayden Griffiths
3rd Isaac Windibank
HC Zach Jones

#### **Textiles**

1st Eli Nugent
2nd Ashe Thomas
3rd Jac Bendrey
HC Ocean Smith
Zara Lewis
Tom Rees
Leo Carlson

#### History

1st Zara Lewis
2nd Jake Osbourne
3rd Finley Williams
HC Rocco Christian
Martha Cockel
Connie Fitz-Gerald
Isaac Windibank

#### French

1st Jamie Roberts2nd Emilie Carless3rd Tegan HowellHC Isabella Maynard

### Year 9 Results

#### Art

1st Tamsin Jenkins
2nd Milly Davies

3rd Matthew Clatworthy

HC Star Enos

Martha Frazer-Blanks Maya Ormiston

#### Cymraeg - Poem

1st Megan Short
2nd Catrin Sainsbury
3rd Phoebe Lewis
HC Seren Pope
Katie Palmer
Ellyssa Evans

#### **English**

1st Isabelle Cinderby2nd Hallie Maine-James3rd Corin Walters

#### **ICT**

1st Grace Maund
2nd Thomas Rhys
3rd Dylan Ryell
HC Honor Pritchard
Danny Smallman

### Geograpy Design an Eco House

1st Matty Timms
2nd Seren Pope
3rd Tamsin Jenkins
HC John Donald
Talis Whitten
Charlie Davies
Milly Davies
Jazmine Wraight
Catrin Sainsbury
Daisy Barnfield
Olivia Callaghan

#### Product Design

1st Osian Richards 2nd Seren Pope 3rd Katie Palmer

#### **Textiles**

1st Lucca Rees2nd Tomos Jones3rd Elsie Spillets

HC Jasmine McCelland Ella Stubbs Isabelle Sheppard

#### French

1st Jorja Peters 2nd Grace Maund 3rd Dylan Ryell

#### German

1st Milly Davies

2nd Eden Roberts, Rosie Edwards, Alex Evans

3rd Isabelle Sheppard Isabelle Cinderby

#### History

1st Sylvie Winter
2nd Matthew Bridges
3rd Phoebe Lewis
HC Talis Whitten
Tamsin Jenkins
Harry Davies

#### Year 10 Results

### Art

1st Jasper Robertson
2nd Molly Waite
3rd Logan Willett
HC Scarlett Ryan
Isla Ford

#### Year 11 Results

Art

1st Oliver Phillips
2nd Grace Evans
3rd Dylan Thomas
HC Saoirse Moulton
Scarlett Arnott-Jones
Megan O'Leary

### Final Results of the Eisteddfod

1st Powys 1515 2nd Dyfed 1346 3rd Gwynedd 1193 4th Morgannwg 1044











# Year 7 Humanities Winning Entry

During this project, I have been a manager. As a class, we decided that we were going to build an entertainment centre on Salt Lake car park. This will contain a laser tag arena and a waterpark for the summer that will transform into an ice rink in the winter. This idea would benefit the people who live in Porthcawl because it will bring tourism, generate money, and offer employment opportunities for local people. It could also be a nice day out for a family or people of any age.

My role in this project was to manage all 5 groups. These groups included: physical creators, speech writers, researchers, advertisers and more specifically the architects. Each of which played a fundamental role in helping the project to be completed successfully. I have made sure that everyone has had everything that they have needed from supplies and equipment to information. With this, I have also taken information from all the groups to feed back to other groups. I have also played a part in helping the physical creators build their 3D model. I think that during this project, I have been organised and I have ensured that everything ran smoothly, and I was very satisfied with the outcome. In particular, the designing from drawing to models. I think I have fulfilled my role in working with every group professionally, I have managed the project well and have developed skills such as: time management, decision making and communication.

Next time I have the opportunity to do a project similar to this one, I would like to keep the same role. I feel that next time, I would be more successful with my role because I would be able to apply the new skills that I have learnt over the past few weeks to it. I am good at being a manager because I enjoy helping people and I am good at solving problems. It's quite a responsible role and brings its challenges but the positives outweigh the negatives. The more you experience a role, the better you become at it with diverse challenges allowing you to excel and learn a vast number of new skills. I do feel that it's important to have experience of all the different roles a manager needs to manage. Therefore, I would be happy to try any of the other roles in the hope that I could be a better manager.

During this project, I really enjoyed working with my classmates, solving problems and learning new skills because some of these skills I feel that I could apply in my daily life and use later in life. I have also enjoyed working independently and getting the chance to talk to my classmates and improve on my communication skills. I enjoyed having these opportunities because they taught me that I needed to look around the problems that I faced and work well with others in order to get jobs and tasks done.

Lilly-Anna Tucker 7RP - Gwynedd





Congratulations to 27 pupils in Year 13 who have completed their DofE Award. The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award is a fun, life-changing experience and an opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A Bronze DofE programme has four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. Pupils had to complete a minimum of three months activity for each of the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections, and plan, train for and do a two-day, one-night Expedition which took place on Gower. The training exercises focussed on ensuring the pupils were comfortable before their Expedition with:-

- 1. Recognising the Map as a tool to continually reappraise and confirm current position
- 2. Orientating the Map
- 3. Recognising and being familiar with map symbols
- 4. Comparing the map to the land
- 5. Key linear features especially en route
- 6. Confidently establishing their position
- 7. Reading the map
- 8. Estimating distances and timings
- 9. Using grid references to establish current position point of aim
- 10. How to use the compass ground to map, map to ground.
- 11. Bearings/points of compass
- 12. Map scales
- 13. Path direction confirmation of direction, and position using paths
- 14. Escape routes

There were a range of activities that pupils took part in for Volunteering including helping pupils in classes at Key Stage 3, volunteering in Residential Homes, charity shops, environment club, gardening club, litter picking, 6th Form Interact Charity group, running a film club, sports leadership etc.

For Physical, pupils took part in a number of activities that included weightlifting, netball, karate, walking, running, ballet, surfing, roller blading, athletics, aikido, tae kwon do, gym classes and climbing.

For the Skills section, pupils completing a variety of skills including learning to drive, crocheting, reading, clay modelling, table games, photography, cooking, playing an instrument, DIY and even farriering.

Thanks to all staff involved. (Mr. Pucella, Ms. Raine, Mr. Holt, Mr. Stratford, Madame Morgan and Mr. Blanche).











#### Bethan Gains Bronze with Sea Cadets!

Many congratulations to Bethan Price of Year 10 who achieved her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award in February. Bethan is a Cadet Sergeant in 2117 (Porthcawl & Kenfig Hill) Squadron, Royal Air Force Air Cadets, and completed the award through the organisation. Bethan has already enrolled on the Silver level of the award so watch this space!

Year 13 - Our Journey so far!

We completed a formal first aid qualification with St. John's earlier in the year. A big thank you to Jack Bridger from St. John's for training us. We feel that we have benefited massively from the first aid training. This is because it is a skill we will always have now and have the confidence to use it if necessary. All of the meetings were interesting and interactive, which kept everyone engaged throughout. There were a very wide variety of skills which we learnt during this that we would have never even thought about needing, For example we learnt how to use bandages to control bleeding, to deal with breaks and sprains and much more.

#### Llangeinor Practice Walk

This was a good way to get a taste of what the Duke of Edinburgh Challenge would be like. We had to navigate our way through the grasslands with the support of the teachers. We had to be able to use a compass and pacing to work out distance and direction from a map and also be able to withstand the fitness required to succeed on this expedition. This walk was about 5.5 km in a 3 hour period. During our time in Llangeinor, we also got used to being in close proximity to the local wildlife such as cows, bulls and sheep!

This was most definitely the hardest challenge yet as the weather was terrible at

and down through thick forests and steep downhill descents. We also learnt how to use the trangia and make hot chocolate. Finally, we were meant to pitch our tents but the weather was too bad and we would end up having to dry our tents, so we decided to practice this again at a later date. This walk was about 10 km and took roughly 3 hours. We found this walk the most fun as it was more adventurous with narrow rocky paths to follow. We also encountered wildlife like deer and cows and at the end of our walk we stopped in the farm to meet the farm animals!

We meet after school on Monday evenings. Usually we spend our time developing our skills to prepare us for the expedition such as route planning, how to pack a rucksack, food required, countryside code, first aid etc. Planning is a big part of the challenge as it is needed to make sure we don't get lost or under-pack for the trip. We have improved many skills in these sessions for example:

- · Deciding what food to take
- Your route card for the main walk
- · Learning how to pitch a tent
- · Assessing what each person should pack
- Naming our group (e.g. DJ DOUG)

We are really looking forward to the expedition in the summer and we feel confident that we will succeed.







### **BBC National** Orchestra of Wales visit PCS



On Tuesday 25th April, we were extremely lucky to have the BBC National Orchestra of Wales here at PCS. The whole of Year 7 took part in a workshop and mini concert, all based around our new topic of 'Discovery'. In this topic, pupils are exploring the musical elements and learning about the instruments of the orchestra. This was an important aspect of our Curriculum for Porthcawl as it provided an alternative learning experience, with many pupils stating that they had never seen or heard a live orchestra before.

The orchestra played a variety of their 10 pieces including 'Mambo' from West Side Story, 'Habanera' from the Opera Carmen and 'Hoedown' from 'Rodeo' by Aaron Copland. It was great to see pupils appreciating a wide variety of orchestral music, and Kayleigh Pugh even had a go at conducting the orchestra herself!

The workshop was very interactive and encouraged all pupils to clap along to the rhythms, learn some conducting skills and answer questions from the professional musicians. To top it all off, a past pupil from PCS, Phil Hughes, was actually playing percussion in the orchestra and so it was brilliant to be able to showcase how being a musician and playing in an orchestra can result in a fantastic career opportunity.

We were so proud of all the pupils, and we hope that they have enjoyed learning about this topic.

The Music Department

### Music for Youth Festival 2023

Several pupils from PCS participated in this year's Music for Youth Festival, with the regional heats being held in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. Pupils represented the school by participating in instrumental ensembles with Bridgend Youth Orchestra, and we were also thrilled to be successful in entering a vocal ensemble to represent PCS for the first time. The ensembles were performed in front of professional judges and were provided with written and verbal feedback following their performances.

We hope to have another article in the Autumn term that will include details of the National Festival as all ensembles have been invited to attend in July!

The vocal ensemble consisted of Ella Verderame, Romy Francombe, Poppy Shears, Scarlett Osborne and Finty Kehoe and they were accompanied by Poppy Shingler on piano. The girls were outstanding representatives for the school and showed such professionalism throughout their time at the competition. They worked independently to create a magnificent performance of 'It Can't be True' from the musical 13, and the judges were extremely complimentary of their talents.

Here are some quotes from the pupils who took part:

"Great experience! It was really nice to try a different style of song and I hope to do it again sometime in the

"I loved singing alongside my friends and I'm really grateful for the rewarding experience"

"It was such a fun experience and it was amazing to see the other performances. I also loved getting feedback on our performances!"

> Da iawn to all pupils involved!

Mrs. Giles



### School Garden

Project Dragon Update - Thank You Travis Perkins!

















A big thank you to Mr Luke Watkins and Travis Perkins, Bridgend, who have come up trumps with a wonderful donation of equipment for our school garden. This included flagstones for the entrance to the polytunnel, scaffolding boards for edging the raised beds and landscaping bark which has been used around the shed.

With a lot of effort, the garden is now in full swing and in May we held two open days when we sold many of the plants that we had been growing in the polytunnel including cucumbers, tomatoes, corn, melon, various herbs, sunflowers and cosmos, as well as some beautiful assorted wooden products. Staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed visiting the garden and the comments were overwhelmingly positive.

"What a transformation!"

"Such a lot of hard work has gone into this!"

"What a beautiful space it is now for the pupils to spend time in – aren't we lucky to have this in our school!"

Approximately 12-15 students are involved in coming out to the garden for a 1-hour session every other week. This is a fluid timetable; it alters with the weather and school events and changes every half term so that students are not missing the same subject.

On wet days, we cover plant knowledge and are studying companion planting. We also do some food tasting of vegetables we are planning to grow. On dry days we have been returning the garden to its former glory. The students have learnt how to use tools in a safe way. Growing seeds, cultivating them and planting them has been a big part of the sessions. We have now installed a hosepipe, so watering has become the number 1 favourite occupation!! So as of now, there is a herb corner, a fruit corner a compost corner and a Travis Perkins corner! We have a Sensory area with wildflowers sown by students and their families and the veg plot. Students are now coming and spending lunch time in the garden to chill in.

Project Dragon Team



The Year 12 Drama Class went to watch a RATS production of the AS Set Text 'A View from the Bridge' at Rhiwbina Memorial Hall in Cardiff. The production style was naturalistic but some symbolic design elements were used. It was such an invaluable experience in preparation for the written exam.

"After reading the play numerous times viewing a live performance made me appreciate the strong characterisation and gripping plot line even more" - Mr Llewellyn (Performing Arts Technician)

"Witnessing the performances of the actors brought an additional layer of richness to my understanding of the play" - Finty Kehoe

### Holly & Grace

We are a part of Harry's Theatre Company based in Swansea. We perform yearly shows and concerts and recently we performed our variety show "A Night at the Musicals" consisting of songs and dances from very diverse musicals.

#### Grace

My favourite number in our variety show was probably the 'Into the Woods' medley. Stephen Sondheim's work is incredibly hard to learn but the songs are very catchy.

I also really loved our short 'Oliver' number 'Oom-Pah-Pah' as it was fun being able to make my own character and perform it during the song. I was proud of myself as I was given a mic for the first time! I am so grateful for the people in Harry's and all the opportunities to perform that we are given there.

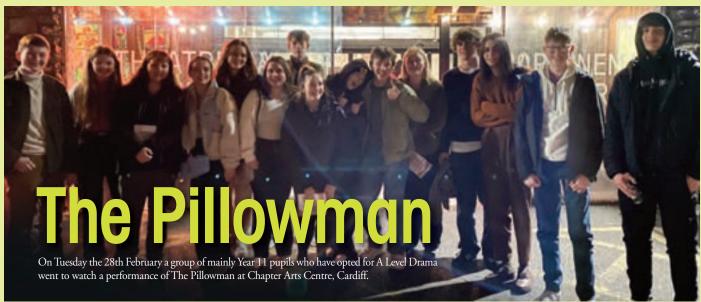
#### Holly

My favourite number in our variety show was 'Newsies' as I loved the performance style and being able to develop different stories and characters. I also really liked the costumes. A proud moment for me was singing 'Just Arrived' from 'Copacabana', the number revolved around myself and four other girls. I sang a duet with my friend Lilwenna and it was the first time I've ever worn a mic in a performance. Another number that I loved doing was 'Oom-pahpa' from 'Oliver'. The character work was really fun and I was selected to be a dancer in it.

We love performing with Harry's Theatre Company and all the opportunities that come with it.

Grace Taylor & Holly Wiseman





### Year 11 GCSE DRAMA SCRIPTED

The Drama department would like to say a massive thank you to the Year 11 Drama classes for producing such strong Drama Practical work for their Scripted Examinations which took place on Thursday 23rd March in the Drama Studio. The commitment and enthusiasm displayed by the pupils throughout the rehearsal process was exceptional and the professionalism shown on exam day was outstanding! Well done all!!

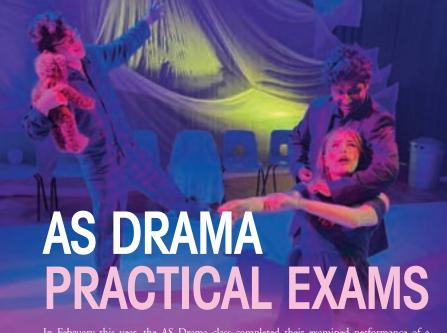














In February this year, the AS Drama class completed their examined performance of a reinterpretation of a Set Text. There were three groups in total and one technical student reinterpreting the text—'Blue Remembered Hills', in the style of the theatre practitioner Artaud. The work created was excellent and truly "assaulted" the audience's senses.

"I loved transforming the space in the Drama Studio and working with industry standard lighting" - Enzo Lipley

"I loved stepping out of my comfort zone and performing a style that I had never even heard of before. My group was great to work with too" - Finty Kehoe

"I really enjoyed the process even though it was quite demanding at times." - Scarlett Osborne



### Year 13

The Drama department would like to say a fond farewell to the Year 13 Drama class. They have shown excellent commitment to the Drama department and the Performing Arts faculty over many years. Thank you all so much and we will miss you all very much! We wish you every success for the future.

The Year 13 class performed the Unit 3 Practical Examination just before Easter and despite the many challenges, the pieces produced were creative and highly imaginative!

We are so proud of what you have achieved!

"I found it very challenging performing two stylistically different pieces on the same day" - Brogan Jenkins

"The joy and fulfilment I derived from the process, coupled with the support and applause of the audience, made my Drama practical exam an unforgettable and cherished experience" - Ellison Roberts

"I loved developing my costume design skills and putting them into practice. To see my work on stage was a very proud moment."











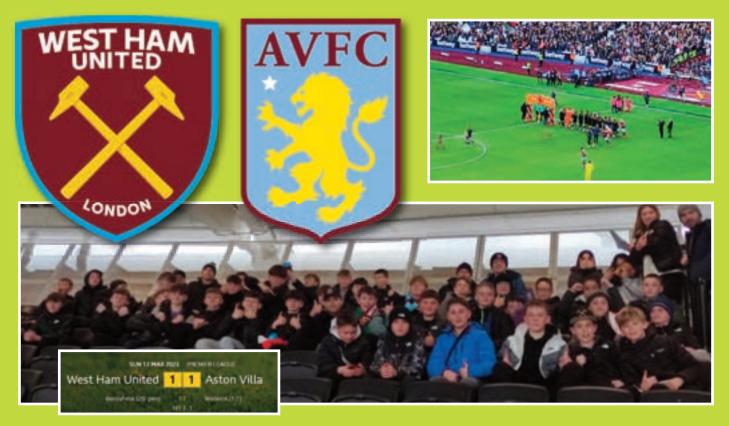
In March, Ffion Jenkins of Year 12 attended the Mid Glamorgan High Sheriff Awards where she and 2 fellow BCBC Young Carer Ambassadors won first prize for the group category. The three are all Young Carers who go to different schools and met through getting involved in the project. The Young Carers have supported the launch of the ID Card through advocacy videos, interviews and speeches. They have used the opportunity to have their voices heard of what Young Carers in the community would like and need and it has created a Network which is a platform for Young Carers. The Ambassadors have also raised the profile of Young Carers through

schools, colleges, doctor's surgeries, pharmacies and in the

community and have participated in making advocacy videos which have been used as a raising awareness tool. The Young Carer Ambassadors also planned We are Valued Days at Margam Park, where Young Carers could attend a fun day out of school, along with a friend to accompany them. This was a huge success, and the Young Carers in Bridgend are already looking forward to the next We are Valued Day. The Young Carer Network has been created by the Ambassadors and they successfully launched the 1st Network Event, which was a huge success and since the 2nd Network event where over 80 Young Carers attended and the number of Young Carer Ambassadors engaging has now grown to 11!

Please meet our KS3 Young Carers' Ambassadors – Sophie Matthews, Florence Cronja, Tia Jenkins and Imogen Ward who are supporting the BCBC Young Carers' Network and also supporting the Young Carers of PCS.





### West Ham United v Aston Villa

After an early start, we made our way to the London Stadium, the home ground of 'The Hammers' aka West Ham United. It was formerly created and used for the London 2012 Olympics. We were in rows 71-73, up in the Gods, but we had an excellent view of the whole pitch. The game started with the majority of the stadium all singing the song "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles" which was almost as powerful as Key Stage 3 singing "Ry'n ni yma o hyd" at the end of the school Eisteddfod. Unknown to us, but every food and drink outlet in and around the stadium was 'card payments only' - perhaps this is a sign of us moving to a 'Cashless Society' in the future. Mr. Weatherhead and Mr. Pucella almost took out a 2nd mortgage buying food and drinks for pupils who had no card payment, however pupils paid everything back, so all was good. We had a West Ham/Villa quiz on the coach which was won by Natia Weaver-Setal. We also had a raffle which was won by Logan Waters.

Everyone enjoyed the 'Premiership experience' and we hope to run similar trips in the future.



### (Premiership Football Experience)

#### The Match

West Ham earned a point against Aston Villa which saw David Moyes' struggling side move out of the Premier League relegation places on goal difference.

Villa striker Ollie Watkins continued his impressive form as he broke the deadlock with a 17th-minute header from left-back Alex Moreno's sublime cross for his sixth goal in seven games.

The lively Said Benrahma took his opportunity to respond for the hosts from the penalty spot nine minutes later, firing his spot-kick out of reach of World Cup winner Emiliano Martinez after Leon Bailey's foul on Lucas Paqueta.

Benrahma was the standout attacking threat on either side at London Stadium, but the winger saw a powerful strike from distance tipped over by Martinez in the second half among his match-leading 10 shots on goal.

Denied again by Ashley Young's last-ditch block the Algerian international was unable to inspire the hosts to victory - although the point was enough to take West Ham above Bournemouth, who beat Liverpool on Saturday, to 17th in the standings.

Aston Villa, whose appeals for a penalty of their own were dismissed by the video assistant referee following Declan Rice's challenge on Emiliano Buendia, remained 11th.

West Ham should have capitalised on their chances but in the end had to settle for a 1-1 draw.

### **Pupil Report**

At first, we met at school and got on the bus. We left at 7am and made our way to London. We watched some DVDs and stopped at the services about 9:15am. We had 45 minutes at the services and then once we were done all the teachers reminded everyone to start making their way back to the bus and tell us it is time to go. Unfortunately, some pupils ended up rushing their food or leaving it but it's their own fault really because they should have just eaten their food quicker or ordered earlier and kept track of time! We then got back on the bus and made our way to the Olympic Stadium.

We got into our groups to walk to the stadium, some of us met the West Ham mascots and we had approx. 30 minutes in the West Ham shop to explore. We walked to our gate with our group then once we got in the stadium, we went to our seats which were very high up, but we had a great view! Once everyone was there, we were allowed to buy food and drinks. We then sat down and watched the game. It was 1-1, it was all drama watching the penalty and West Ham had more chances to win the game. We got home approx. 9.30pm.

But all round, it was a very good trip and I would definitely go on another Premiership trip in the future. Thanks to all the staff for helping with this event. (Mr. Pucella, Mr. Weatherhead, Mr. Blanche, Mr. Short, Mr. Holt and Mr. Shutt).

Ewan Stanton (8ME)

### Sustainable Future – Parc Stormy

During March, a group of Year 9 students along with Mr. Pucella visited Solcer House, Parc Stormy at Stormy Down in Bridgend. Parc Stormy is a great place to see different forms of energy generation in action.

On arrival we were issued with high-vis vests and had a safety briefing. We then went to the 'Knowledge Factory' where we had an insight into the 3 key areas that are worked on at the site which are

### 1. Renewable Energy

### 2. Low Carbon Cement Substitute

### 3. Digestate

We had a talk from Mrs. Goddard on Anaerobic Digestion and how the site uses food waste to help the local farmers with a digestate fertiliser. Digestate is the material remaining after the anaerobic digestion (decomposition under low oxygen conditions) of a biodegradable feedstock. Digestate is an excellent fertiliser containing all nutrients and micronutrients necessary for modern farming, including nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. It is provided to many of the local farmers in the area. We also explored the Energy Trilemma based on security, affordability (fuel poverty) and sustainability.

As a group we had the opportunity to go inside the sustainable eco house designed by Cardiff University, we walked through the solar panel farm with 2,940 solar panels. We stood underneath a 100m+tall operational wind turbine, we looked inside their state of the art minerals research lab and looked at how food waste that we put out each week turns into renewable energy.

For pupils who have an interest in DT, Science, Engineering, ICT or Geography that this site is definitely worth a visit.

Mr Pucella









### Sixth Form History trip to London

In February Half Term, our Sixth Form students had the opportunity to visit two of London's most iconic institutions - The Houses of Parliament and the Imperial War Museum. This annual trip provided a unique insight into British history, politics, and the workings of the government.

The day began with a guided tour of The Houses of Parliament. The students were amazed by the grandeur of the Palace of Westminster, the building where the Parliament meets. The guide took us through the House of Lords (unfortunately we couldn't access the House of Commons), where the students learned about the different roles and responsibilities of each chamber.

During the tour, we were also given an introduction to the parliamentary system, the different political parties and their leaders, and the key issues facing the country. Our students even had the chance to watch the "Speaker's procession", which is a traditional ceremony that takes place before every session of the House of Commons, where the Speaker of the House is escorted into the chamber by a procession of MPs.

After the tour, we visited the Imperial War Museum, which is a museum dedicated to the history of conflict and its impact on society. The museum's collection includes exhibits on the First and Second World Wars, as well as other conflicts from around the world.

The students were particularly fascinated by the Holocaust Exhibition, which explores the atrocities committed by the Nazis during World War II. They

were able to see first-hand the horrors of the concentration camps and learn about the experiences of those who survived the Holocaust.

The museum also has exhibits on the impact of war on civilians, such as the Blitz during World War II, and the ongoing refugee crisis around the world. The students were able to reflect on the devastating impact that war has on individuals and communities.

Overall, I am pleased that this was another successful thought-provoking and educational experience. It was a valuable opportunity for members of the Sixth Form to broaden their horizons and gain new perspectives on the world around them. A thank you must also go to Mr Holt, Mr Hutchison, Mrs Hammerton and Mr Shutt for their support on the day.

Mr Short ~ History Department



I am pleased that this was another successful thought-provoking and educational experience!

### Basketball

Another successful basketball season saw our pupils take part in the National Schools tournament. Three out of the four age groups made it through the stages to the South Wales finals and acquitted themselves admirably against very strong Cardiff schools opposition. Our Year 7 and 8 mixed teams took part in the JrNBA Wales South tournament and represented the Milwaukee Bucks and San Antonio Spurs finishing first and second respectively. Both teams were outstanding on the day and were devastated to then be banned from progressing further because we had played with a mixed sex squad. Mr Stradling was not happy and a formal complaint to the organisers has been made. On a more positive



note Chloe Hall Year 8
has joined the long
list of Porthcawl
Comprehensive School
pupils to represent
Wales at Basketball
and will undoubtedly
have a long and
distinguished career.
Da iawn Chloe we
are all very proud of
you!

Mr Stradling













### Year 9 Football Triumph Again!



Year 9 continued their sporting success, but this time in Football. As Cwpan Penybont champions, they had to beat a strong Maesteg team in the first round and a battling CCYD team in the semifinal. The final at Pencoed College was against Brynteg, a repeat of last year's final. It was a tough game and saw us go 1-0 down. Goals from Alex, Corey and Rhys were enough for a 3-1 win to retain the cup. Well done lads!

Mr Davies

### Porthcawl Town Athletic Football Update

Porthcawl Town Athletic Minis and Juniors U14's won the BPTFL U14's cup recently after winning the BPTFL League and the SWFA U14's Cup. They're a great bunch of boys who have worked hard to achieve this level of competitiveness. On this journey they have won all their games- beating teams from Baglan to Caerphilly. But more importantly they are great friends on and off the field and love playing football!!

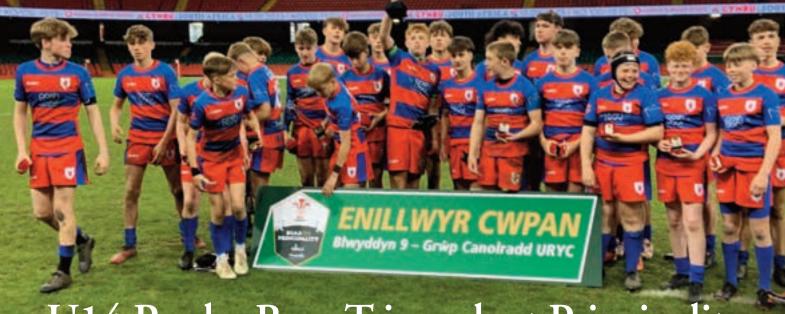


Boys from PCS who are part of this successful team are: Aston Bevington, Jude Brace, Matthew Clatworthy, Corey Clark-McGinley, Jack Davies, Alex Evans, Rees Evans, Reuben Evans, Joe Hall, Euan Jenkins, Tyler Morgan, Josh Sealey, Matty Timms, Matty Timms, Adam Willis and Felix Wren-Owens.

### CONNOR'S Skating Success



Connor Furness of Year 10 continues to compete in solo ice-skating competitions all over the country including London and Blackburn. He is skating at the intermediate novice level and his coach is expecting good things this year. He practices hard at all hours and is frequently at the rink at 6am before school. He is looking forward to the pairs competitions this Summer. Good luck Connor!



### U14 Rugby Boys Triumph at Principality









It had been a long wait, some fifteen years to be exact, but Porthcawl Comprehensive School were back at the Principality Stadium, ready to play in a National Schools Rugby Final once again. Five busses packed with pupils from Years 8 and 9 as well as representatives from other teams and a smattering of lucky staff set off down the M4 on 24 April for the big occasion. The much-lauded Year 9 rugby team had to overcome some exceptional rugby schools on their way to this year's final, despatching the likes of Cowbridge, Penweddig and Basaleg along the way to their Principality Showdown with Dyffryn Amman.

A tense first half saw Porthcawl edge in front 9-5, largely as a result of some pinpoint goal kicking by the highly influential Alex Evans. The second half saw us edge further in front as Porthcawl kept the ball away from the strong Dyffryn pack, which allowed our backs to run in some scintillating tries, the pick of which was scored again by man of the match Alex Evans. The Year 9 boys have written their own piece of Porthcawl Comprehensive history by becoming the first ever winners of a National Schools Rugby competition, going one better than the great side of 2008.

### Seren Becomes Champion of Europe!

Congratulations to Seren Salberg of Year 9 who was crowned World United Martial Arts Champion of Europe in Gold and Silver Points Fighting at the European Championships in Gloucester in May. Competing alongside her dedicated team, Seren competed in two categories Fighting up to 15 years Female +175.1cm Points +2 years advanced category, achieving Gold. She also fought in the category Female up to 15yrs -175.0cm Points +2 years Advanced Categories where she achieved Silver.





Many congratulations to Eve Hickman and Trystan James of Year 12 who have been selected to represent Wales in the RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, which will be held in Windsor, Canada in September. What a fantastic achievement!

# News from the Primaries

### Newton Primary School

We are very pleased to share the report of our recent Estyn inspection!

The school is a caring and inclusive community where pupils, staff and families feel valued and respected. The school's core values are well embedded in its daily life. This is evident in the positive relationships between staff and pupils and among pupils themselves. Courtesy, consideration and mutual respect are strong features of these relationships that contribute markedly to the school's friendly ethos.

Most pupils show pride in their school and feel safe within its inclusive and caring ethos. Nearly all pupils show a positive attitude to learning and enjoy their time in school. They behave very well and show care and consideration for each other. Across the school, all adults attend carefully to the individual needs and well-being of pupils.

Teachers provide an exciting variety of learning experiences that engage pupils' interest and sustain their motivation well. They set clear objectives for pupils' learning and use effective teaching methods to build pupils' skills successfully. For example, the school's consistent approach to developing pupils' reading skills and use of spoken Welsh impacts positively on pupils' progress and enjoyment. These opportunities give pupils a strong sense of purpose in their learning and sustain their motivation well.

Teachers create an inclusive climate for learning that encourages the active participation of all pupils successfully. As a result, most pupils make good progress. Nearly all pupils participate enthusiastically with the various enrichment opportunities the school provides.



### Porthcawl Primary School

The Porthcawl Primary school curriculum has gone from strength to strength this year. It has given us the opportunity to experience so many exciting things in Year 6. This term, one of our favourite modules was Bridges. We became experts in bridges and we built bridges from a range of materials ranging from pasta and marshmallows to wood and crocodile clips. We made some incredible structures and we definitely have a few potential engineers in Year 6!

Another module we enjoyed was Rap which involved a different range of talents. We listened to some rap classics to inspire us and then wrote and performed our own raps. We had a wide range of topics covered in our final raps. One group rapped about bullying and another group rapped about aliens!

At this point we are also preparing for our end of year production of Pirates of the Curry bean. Auditions have taken place and we are currently rehearsing our lines and dance routines. Captain Redbeard and Captain Cod are looking forward to going into battle in July! In July Year 6 also have their Prom, leavers assembly and residential to Llangranog, so it will be a busy end to the year!

## Nottage Primary School

We must begin our Summer Term with a huge 'Thank You' to our army of knitting volunteers from the local WI groups and our community, who have been creating "Resilient Robots" for every class to support our pupils when they find tasks challenging, but keep on trying! Keep on knitting...we have room for more!

Our Summer Topic, "The Blue Abyss", was launched with Pirate and Beach Emersion Days, sea-based creative writes, floating wind turbine creations, Porthcawl Regeneration Project meetings and Lifeguard and RNLI talks.

Mr Owen took us on a journey across the South Atlantic, when he shared his amazing experiences in the Falkland Islands. We can't wait to sail through more discoveries in our oceans!

The whole school celebrated King Charles III and Queen Camilla's Coronation with a fabulous fun day! All the pupils bounced on a variety of inflatables, before welcoming our grown-ups to share some of our favourite songs and enjoy a BBQ thanks to Porthcawl Butchers and Home & Colonial Fine Foods.

We continue to support our families with our Rail of Kindness where you can pick up a jacket and our Big Bocs Bwyd where you can fill up a food bag!







### West Park Primary School

Summer Term is in full swing here at West Park and we are enjoying being able to make full use of our wonderful environment by spending lots of time learning outdoors and in our woodland.

We began the term with hook days to engage the children in their new themes. Years 4,5 and 6 are continuing with their theme of Peace and Conflict. A representative from the Senedd came in to discuss government and the role of the Welsh Assembly and pupils gained a great insight into its

ethos and working. Our Eco Green Leaf shop has been handed over by Year 6 to Year 5 who are ready to take the reins for the rest of term. After a debrief from their predecessors, they made a visit to Porthcawl High Street to carry out some market research. They interviewed people in the town and visited a zero-waste shop, as well as a regular shop to compare the amount of plastic on the shelves. As we go to press, the hall is filled with parents and carers purchasing eco-friendly products such as refillable soap and fabric conditioner, 'plantable' pens and shampoo bars.



We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with outdoor activities, dressing up and a huge disco for the whole school. As the term draws to a close, we are looking forward to school trips including a visit to the Imperial War Museum in London, Folly Farm and Heatherton. We would like to thank departments of Porthcawl Comprehensive for holding transition events throughout the year. Year 6 are almost ready to fly the West Park nest and are looking forward to meeting their new teachers and friends on transition day.

## Pupil Achievements

### **Summer 2023**

### Many congratulations go to the following:-

Will Mitchell

Year 11 Fully qualified as a FAW Referee

**Rory Whyte** 

Year 8 Selected for Cricket South Wales U13's

Tesni Morgan

Year 8 Selected for Cricket South Wales U13's

**Bethan Price** 

Year 10 Completed Bronze Duke of Edinburgh this year through the Sea Cadets

Iwan Froley

Year 10 Selected to represent Wales at the TCS Mini London Marathon Championships April 2023 Represented Wales as part of the SIAB XC team in Livernool

**Eve Hickman and Trystan James** 

Year 12 Selected to represent Wales in the RLSS
Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships in
Windsor, Canada in September

Jack Corish

Year 8 1 Mile distance Swim for England – Starfish Swim School Bronze Rookie Lifeguard RLSS UK

Seren Salberg

Year 9 Gold and Silver Pointes Fighting Champion of Europe 2023 - WIIMA

**Harrison Pugh** 

Year 10 Football - Selected for Swansea City Squad for EFL away fixture at Bournemouth March 2023

Congratulations to all these pupils who completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards this year at school.

Year 13 Tom Attwood, Grace Baker, Thomas Burke, Dylan Carless, Carys Clee, Seren Cook, Tegan Davies, Tatiana Devonshire, Morgan Evans, Maisie Fashan, Jacob Green, Lucy Griffiths, Maya James, Emilia Jones, Bronwyn Jones, Eleni Jones, Oliver Jones, Bethan Morgan, James Page, Carys Richards, Oliver Ridd, Seren Roberts-Brown, Finley Ruddle, Shaumiya Sasiruban, Quinn Stables, Kurtis Trezise & Sophia Walters

### **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!

Diolch, Mrs. Giles

Name	Instrument	Grade
Katie Palmer	Clarinet	Grade 2 DISTINCTION
Florence Cronje	Oboe	Grade 2 MERIT
Angelica Griffiths	Flute	Grade 4 PASS
Daisy Barnfield	Piano	Grade 5 MERIT
Aimee Leach	Flute	Grade 2 MERIT
Charlie Horton	French Horn	Grade 3 MERIT
Ben Pownall	Piano	Grade 8

### 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

esian : adam@hathaaraphics.co.1

