

Gorwel Addysg Gwybodaeth



Ysgol Gyfun

**PORTHCAWL**

*Comprehensive School*

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9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Over the last few weeks a lot has been happening at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. During the half term break, our A-Level History pupils visited the Houses of Parliament and at the end of last week pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 returned from a very successful trip to Paris. It is lovely to hear how much everyone enjoyed this cultural visit and I would like to thank Mrs Bishop for organising this trip. I pass on my thanks to all staff who attended. Without their support, residential trips such as these would not be possible. At the end of this month, we have two further residential trips taking place - Berlin and Paris. I look forward to hearing about these soon.

As we near the mid-way point of this half term we continue to look forward to a variety of extra-curricular activities. This Sunday, KS3 pupils will travel to the London Stadium for a 'Premiership Football Experience' where they will attend a premier league football match between West Ham and Aston Villa. A group of our Year 8 pupils will participate in a 'Lego League' event, there will be DoF training walks taking place, and our Year 9 pupils will attend a computer science trip. I have no doubt that you will hear more about these activities in future editions of the Porthcawl Post.

I would also like to extend my best wishes to our Year 9 rugby team who have progressed onto the quarter finals of the Welsh Schools National Rugby Competition. Last week, they beat Haverfordwest 34-12 in the last 16, and today, they complete a 180-mile round trip to play Penweddig in the quarter finals. To reach the last 8 in Wales is quite some achievement! They are a talented group of rugby players - well done from everyone at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. A special thank you is also needed for Porthcawl RFC who allowed us to use their ground for our last 16 match.

Yesterday, adverse weather resulted in the closure of Porthcawl Comprehensive school. Whilst our local area was not significantly impacted by snow there were parts of South Wales that experienced heavy snow. This disrupted school transport and made it difficult for many staff and pupils to travel safely to school. At the time of closure, my risk assessment was based on the weather conditions at that time, met office weather/travel warnings, and the availability of staff to ensure full supervision and safety on site. Unfortunately, the weather also resulted in our trip to London to visit the Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum being cancelled. Further details about rearranged plans for this trip will be

shared soon. I apologise for yesterday's disruption and thank you for your full support and cooperation in keeping our pupils and staff safe.

Today, Yr10 pupils received their Unit 1 GCSE English Literature results and Y11 and Yr13 pupils received their Welsh Baccalaureate Global Citizenship unit results. I am delighted to announce that pupils have performed very well. Well done to all pupils and of course, our English Faculty and WBQ department – thank you! I would like to personally congratulate all pupils on their achievements, and I look forward to hearing about your future success in the summer.

### **Industrial Action – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

This week, I have been informed that the National Executive of the NEU (National Education Union) have not reached an agreement Welsh Government. As a result, the NEU have confirmed that planned strike action is likely to go ahead on:

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Schools (as employers) receive information from several different sources and before writing I aim to ensure that the detail I have is current and the most accurate. Therefore, at the time of writing, it is my understanding that negotiations continue, and circumstances may change over the next few days.

However, at this time, based on the information I have available, national strike action is going ahead. As a result, it is likely that Porthcawl Comprehensive School will be closed to all pupils on both days. I therefore write now to provide advanced notice and I shall write again early next week to provide an update.

Once again, I am sorry that you might be required to make alternative arrangements for your child on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March and that there will be further disruption to learning.

I thank you for your support in advance.

**Advanced notice:** Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March is an INSET Day at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Best wishes,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens  
Headteacher