Porthcawl Porthcawl







Pupils celebrate **excellent A Level and GCSE** results

very warm welcome to all associated with Porthcawl Comprehensive School. As we embark upon the academic year 2023-2024, may I especially welcome all those who are new to our school. I do hope all our new learners have settled in quickly and have started to enjoy the wonderful experience that is Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

I would like to offer a few words to summarise our excellent Summer 2023 examination performance at GCSE and A Level. In August 2023, it was such a delight for students, staff, and families to celebrate our examination successes, and it was a special occasion for all students as they embark and plan the next stage of their lives. GCSE and A Level achievement represent many hours of work and commitment from students, staff and families so I would like to start by offering my sincere congratulations to everyone associated with our examination outcomes.

In broad terms we have had another 'strong' year at both GCSE and A Level with some notable performances. These outstanding results are testament to the incredible hard work undertaken by the students themselves and their teachers, and they confirm our reputation as a high performing school both at GCSE and A Level. Both Year 11 and Year 13 students' education was impacted by the pandemic, in particular our Year 13's who experienced significant disruption, particularly during Year 10 and Year 11 of their

GCSE courses. These students did not complete any formal examinations until they started their Sixth Form qualifications so their achievements should be especially celebrated-congratulations! I am delighted with the Summer 2023 results, and I would like to congratulate all the students in last year's Year 11 and Year 13-well done! It gives me a real sense of pride seeing the young people in our community rewarded for their hard work. All at PCS are very pleased that our students have been able to successfully move on to the next phase of their education and lives. Throughout their time at PCS, they have all shown such resilience and determination. I would like to also congratulate the dedicated staff and our community of families for their hard work and continued support.



At GCSE, there were 4065 examination papers completed at PCS this year! Provisional GCSE results in Summer 2023 show that:

- 77% of students achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-C including their 'Best English' and their 'Best Mathematics'.
- 89% of students achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-C.
- Nearly all students achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-G.
- Importantly, all pupils left school with a recognised qualification.
- An incredible 37% of students achieved five or more GCSEs graded A*-A grades, with a significant percentage achieving 10+ A*-A grades.
- In 'Best Literacy', 90% of students achieved an A*- C grade with approximately 39% of all grades awarded at A*- A.
- In 'Best Numeracy', 79% of students achieved an A*-C grade with approximately 41% of all grades awarded at A*-A.
- In 'Best Science', 83% of students achieved an A*-C grade with approximately 39% of all grades awarded at A*-A.
- Over 40% of grades awarded in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science were graded at A*-A.

 ${\bf Excellent\ achievements, I'm\ sure\ you'll\ agree!}$

...article continues on the next page >>>

Our Provisional score of 411.6 points is one of the **highest** in our school's history.

Our school's performance in the core subjects of English Language and Mathematics is recorded as being 25%+ higher than the Wales average, again, quite some achievement by our students. We are incredibly proud of all our Year 11 students. However, special congratulations need to be awarded to those students who have shown consistent improvement and to those students who have shown high levels of achievement throughout their time at PCS - well done everyone!

We are really pleased that so many of our Year 11 cohort have returned to the Sixth Form and will continue their journey at the wonderful PCS. We have welcomed back over 150 students into Year 12, which includes a high percentage of last year's Year 11 along with several new students. I extend a warm PCS welcome to all new students and families.

The table below illustrates the school's Key Stage 4 performance in the key indicators of Literacy, Numeracy, Science, and the Capped 9. The Capped 9 is a point score average generated for the school which is based on each student's best 9 GCSEs including English Language and Mathematics and/or Numeracy. Our Provisional score of 411.6 points is one of the highest in our school's history. These are points scores as calculated by Welsh Government. Please note they are provisional at this stage as they do not take into account any examination remarks.

	Literacy	Numeracy	Science	Capped 9	
School	46.2	44.4	45.3	411.6	

As noted above, one very remarkable fact was that 37% of our Year 11 cohort entry gained at least 5 A*-A grades, this is very similar to what we achieved in 2022 and in 2019.

Once again, we are also very proud of our Year 13 students. More than 65% of all grades awarded in all A Level subjects (not including the Skills Challenge Certificate) were graded at A*- B and nearly 40% of all grades awarded were at A*-A. 95% of students have moved onto a place at a university this year and 50% of our students will be attending a Russell Group University. Our students will be studying a range of degrees including Law, Architecture, Science, Engineering, Medicine, Design, Physics and Sport-to name a few! Other students have secured or are looking for employment and some have

> continuing their studies or embarking on a career. I wish all of them every success in the future and look forward to welcoming them back to





measures are some of the highest in the history of our school.

The table below summarises our Key Stage 5 outcomes. You will note that over 80% of our Year 13 students achieved three or more A Levels graded at A*-C. The wider points score is an average score generated for a school based on each student's A Level performance and a score greater than 870 is excellent when compared to local, regional and national comparisons. Please note, as with GCSE results are provisional at this stage as they do not take into account any examination remarks.

	Level 3 Threshold	3 A*-A	3 A*-C	Wider Points Score
School	100%	27.2%	81.6%	949.5

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students have also performed well, and their results provide a strong foundation for future success in Summer 2024. Almost 200 Year 10 students completed GCSE English Literature in the Summer and over 95% of students achieved an A*-C with 40% of grades awarded at A*-A. Year 10 also achieved outstanding results in their GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules along with strong performance in Welsh 2nd Language and History examination units. My sincere best wishes to all students.

Last year, via letters and announcements I mentioned on numerous occasions how attendance at school is the single most important contributing factor to success. To put it quite simply, how can a student learn if they are not in lessons? How can they acquire all the skills, knowledge and experiences required for success if they are not in school? Despite our examination success, I am disappointed to report an end of 2022-2023 academic year whole school attendance figure of 89%. Whilst this was above our previous year's attendance and above the Local Authority and Wales average it was a long way short of our target and the figure we aim for at PCS. This year we aim for much higher and to date attendance has significantly improved when compared to last academic year. This is a priority for the school and the Local Authority. Once again, may I plead with families not to succumb to the cheap term time holiday and support our attendance drive.

As you will note from the content of my welcome address, there was a strong focus on the standards and outcomes our students have achieved. These results are a remarkable achievement that reflect the efforts of our learners, their teachers, and the support of our parents/ carers. I am especially delighted with all that we have achieved as we are a truly comprehensive school that is fully inclusive.

On other matters, all new staff have settled into our school and are thoroughly enjoying their first taste of PCS! I would like to conclude this piece by thanking all those who contributed to and attended our Year 6 Open Evening. Crowds of learners and their families enjoyed a wide range of events and activities, and we are really looking forward to all joining the wonderful PCS in September 2024. Our transition programme has commenced and should anyone require any further information about the school or may be seeking a place next year, please contact Miss Painter (Deputy Headteacher) at school to arrange a visit. Once again, I look forward to meeting you again over the course of the year.

Best wishes, M Stephens ~ Headteacher



Uniform Exchange

The Uniform Exchange has been up and running since the Summer term with a huge number of generous donations. Thank you for your fantastic contributions!

If you would like to donate, the school uniform and PE kit recycling box is in Reception. Please only donate clothing which is in good condition.

If you would like to select uniform, Reception is open daily, (term time), for parents/carers or pupils to collect second-hand uniform free of charge.

Should you not be able to attend, please contact the school via info@porthcawlschool.co.uk with your requests, and we will put a pack together for you of the items you need.





Since September, Year 9 have been involved in the 'First Give' project during their Health & Wellbeing lessons.

What is it?

First Give is a charity that works with supporters and partner schools to inspire young people to make a positive change in society. Together, they have empowered over 160,000 young people to make a difference to thousands of charities across England and Wales.

First Give believes all young people should have the opportunity to take part in meaningful social action. This has been shown to bring a double benefit: for the community and for young people themselves.

The First Give programme has been designed to ignite a spark of social conscience in young people. We partner with secondary schools, supporting them to deliver the programme with a full year group.

Why First Give?

- Students lead their own projects.
- Build links with local charities and the wider community.
- Pupils work together as a whole class and compete against other form classes.
- Efforts are celebrated at the First Give Final, and their work is showcased to local education leaders, peers, and the parent body.

During assembly time, Year 9 have had talks from The Sandville, The Wallich and Bridgend Carers Centre where they have learnt about the individual charity and how they support people in Bridgend County.



KS3 Health & Wellbeing Group



A number of KS3 pupils have been reviewing Health & Wellbeing resources giving feedback and suggestions on topics and resources.

Volunteering at **Kenfig Nature Reserve**

Over the Summer we volunteered at Kenfig Nature Reserve every Wednesday and Thursday. Every Wednesday we started off the day identifying and recording moths caught in the moth trap on-site. The micromoths were a challenge to identify, however it was rewarding when we eventually identified them! On dry days we went on a



butterfly transect. Unfortunately, there were a low number of butterflies on the transect compared to previous years, a sad example of the effects of climate change. One week, we took part in a bumble bee survey which was rewarding as we saw a very rare species of bee which has a high population in Kenfig. On Thursdays we took part in land management on the reserve. One week, this included fixing a stile that had rotted and fallen over, which provided us with lots of practical skills which will benefit us in the future. We also did a survey on a very rare plant species called broad-leaved helleborines. We finished most days with a fruit smoothie from the Hyde Out.

Seren Protheroe, Zane Aldridge-McLean & Leon Hamilton Year 13



The Sixth Form Interact Group work closely with the Rotary Club in Porthcawl. They work together as a team, organising events to raise money for local charities. They decide what activities to run and they choose which charities to support. Interact Clubs bring together young people aged 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. Traditionally, this has always been run by the Sixth Form. This year, the Interact Group would like to offer anybody from Year 7-13 the opportunity to join. If you are interested or want to find out more, then please come along on Monday lunchtimes to A5 or see Mr. Pucella. During our first half term we have organised a Halloween hamper. Tickets are 50p each and the money raised will be going to Breast Cancer Wales.

The Gardening Club in school, organised by Mrs Goodchild is also helping Interact raise awareness of the Rotary Club's worldwide campaign to eradicate Polio. They will be planting a number of purple crocus bulbs in school which are a symbol of Rotary's worldwide campaign to eradicate Polio. The colour represents the dye used to mark the finger of a child who has been immunised. Rotary Clubs help to plant millions every year to raise awareness for efforts to end polio. For further information on this project, please visit:-,https://www.rotarygbi.org/projects/purple4polio/crocus/

The Interact Club will also be entering the Christmas Tree Festival competition this year and their aim is to decorate the tree to raise further awareness of what they do, and which charities have been supported.









What an experience! Congratulations to Miss Redmond, Mr Hutchison and Mr Pucella for completing the Cardiff Half Marathon on October 1st finishing the 13.2 miles (21km) course. With approximately 27,500 runners taking part, it was the event's 20th anniversary, starting with just 1,500 runners in 2003. It was very well organised with white, green, red, blue, purple and yellow starting pens by the castle and also elite and sub 1:30 hr areas. They were not quite ready for that!

The support from the crowd was incredible with people coming out from their homes to offer words of encouragement and children holding trays of jelly babies! There were choirs, bands and lots of support from a wide range of charities.

Mr Hutchison took part in the event to help raise funds for the NSPCC who believe that each of us has a responsibility to keep childhood free from abuse, and we must do everything possible to protect children and prevent it from happening. The NSPCC is the UK's leading children's charity, preventing abuse and helping those affected to recover.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/

To read more about Mr Hutchison's story and donate to the NSPCC please look here:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tryscardiffhalf

Mr Pucella took part in the event to raise funds for Marie Curie, the UK's leading end of life charity. Many of us have lost someone to cancer at some point in our lives, whether that's through a friend, colleague or a loved one. He ran with his cousin Pete. Please take a moment to read why they supported this much deserved charity.

https://www.justgiving.com/team/teampucella

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pucellamariecurie

https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/

Miss Redmond also ran the event to raise funds for a friend who suffers from Lipoedema and needs surgeries to keep her out of a wheelchair. To read more about this and how funds will benefit her friend, please look at the websites below.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/8jjpdc-staceys-surgery

https://www.gofundme.com/f/jze4xr-staceys-surgery

To find out more about Lipoedema please look here https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lipoedema/

We all completed the event, raising much needed funds for well-deserved charities, and a little fitter in the process. If you are interested in starting to run, why not think about challenging yourself to the couch to 5K with a friend or family member, or perhaps participate in the Porthcawl Parkruns every Saturday morning along the seafront? You never know, this time next year it could be you running the Cardiff Half!



A Rainbow of Opportunities in Tŷ Enfys



You may have spotted a new picture on the wall in $T\hat{y}$ Enfys this September. This fabulous rainbow mosaic has been wonderfully completed by lots of our students from across the school.

The initial aim of the project was for Year 6 students (now Year 7) to complete the artwork as part of a Transition Day activity in July, but it but evolved into a whole school project.

Firstly, we had to prepare the template by drawing and painting the rainbow using acrylic paint. Lots of students contributed to how big the rainbow should be and there was plenty of discussion on what order the colours should be! We had wonderful support from lots of our existing students preparing the materials needed for the day. This was no mean feat when you consider the amount of mosaic pieces we needed!

On Transition Day itself, it was fantastic to see our upcoming students applying the mosaic pieces whilst getting to know each other. Unfortunately however, we ran out of time to finish our creation! We were therefore delighted that lots of students were able to help finish the picture over the weeks that followed by completing the background and applying the finishing touches.

Thank you to everyone who helped create our $T\hat{y}$ Enfys masterpiece! We hope you all agree that it looks fantastic.

Mrs Westlake





Young Carers Activity Day - Margam Park

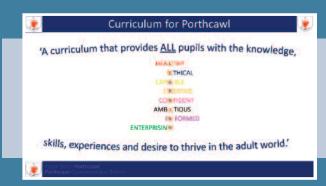
During the wonderful heat wave in June, the young carers were given the opportunity to attend an activity day at Margam Park with their friends. It was a great opportunity and a lovely time was had by all. The activities were focused on outdoor pursuits. Each group had to build a raft and test to see if they could stay afloat! It was safe to say that most pupils ended up in the lake! Luckily, with the hot weather everyone could dry out quickly. Archery, paddle boarding and team building were other activities on offer and all of our PCS pupils laughed all day!

It was a fantastic chance for our young carers to spend time on themselves and have quality time with their friends, taking a break from their everyday pressures.

A big thank you to the Bridgend Young Carers team for organising such a wonderful day out!

Mrs Smith

The Curriculum for Porthcawl has Arrived!



September 2023 marked the official launch of the Curriculum for Porthcawl. After many years of preparation, we were thrilled to finally start delivering the new curriculum to our Year 7 and Year 8 learners.

To mark the beginning of the Curriculum for Porthcawl, several launch events were held in year group assemblies and in each and every subject across the school. These events were highly successful and, in some ways, explosive! To elaborate further, each subject provided learners in Year 7 and Year 8 with an introduction and overview of what they will experience over the next two years of their studies. As alluded to above, part of our launch assemblies included the introduction of the Porthcawl Purposes. The Porthcawl Purposes can be found below; however, for our pupils, learning what our Porthcawl Purposes are was less straight forward! Instead of simply being told, learners were required to work competitively as teams to reveal the Porthcawl Purposes that were hidden inside balloons with explosive consequences! All of these launch events ensured that the Curriculum for Porthcawl started with a BANG!



The 'Porthcawi Pupil' Pupils at Forencewi Comprehensive School are developing the: Porthcawi purposes, for learning: Organisational skills to always be prepared; Resilience to overcome sethacks; I houghtfulness to care and support others; Mappiness that comes with belonging; Ortical-thinking skills to search for meaning and truth; Authenticity to understand their self-worth and the worth of others; Wondering desire to question and enquire; and celers.

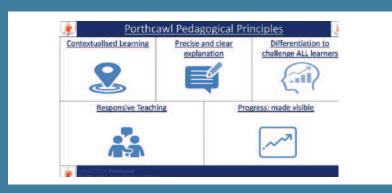
The Porthcawl Pupil

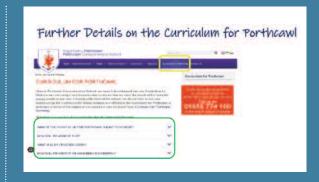
To coincide with the Curriculum for Porthcawl launch, we have also introduced the 'Porthcawl Pupil'. Working alongside pupils across PCS, we have grouped the key values and characteristics that we want our pupils to develop during their time at the school. As we move forward with the Curriculum for Porthcawl, the Porthcawl Pupil will feature heavily in future developments and act as our 'currency for success'. Ultimately, we want our young people to develop the characteristics and values to thrive in the adult world:

The Focus Now Moves From The 'What' To The 'How':

To ensure that the curriculum that we have designed is delivered in a highly effective manner, our focus this year has move from considerations on 'what we teach' to 'how we teach it'! Consequently, the teachers at PCS have been working collaboratively to develop the Porthcawl Pedagogical Principles. We, as a school, have developed our research-informed shared vision for exceptional teaching and learning at our school. Resultantly, our Porthcawl Pedagogical Principles are:

Dedicated professional learning is taking place this year around each of the above principles to ensure that our intended curriculum becomes our enacted one and standards of teaching and learning will only increase at Porthcawl!





So Much More in Store:

The most exciting thing about the Curriculum for Porthcawl is that we are only at the beginning. Over the coming weeks and months, we have so many exciting events, opportunities and experiences that our pupils will be participating in (many of those that have already taken place are found throughout this newsletter!). The best place to keep up to date on all Curriculum for Porthcawl developments is on the school's social media platforms and on the Curriculum for Porthcawl tab on the school website.

Mr Aldridge ~ (Director of Studies)

MATHS NEW CURRICULUM LESSONS

During the Summer term, in preparation for the launch of the Curriculum for Porthcawl, the Mathematics Department ran some new lessons.

Year 7

The good weather we enjoyed in June enabled us to run some hands-on Maths lessons outside. These lessons were to give the students some practical experiences of measurement. There were 5 workstations which covered measurement of mass, length, capacity and direction. They had experience of:

Volume-"measurement of water so that they got used to what litres / ml are and comparing measurements of volume.

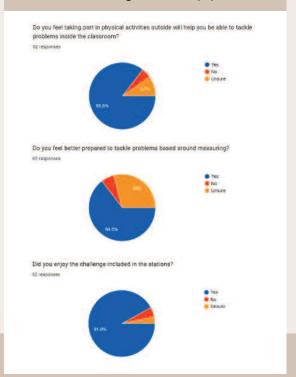
Length in terms of estimating distances and then using measurement equipment to see the exact length and compare it to their estimations.

Bearings and angle measurement by following directions given and weighing potatoes and various other objects to get an idea of mass measurement and comparison.

Some of the comments we received from the pupils backed up the enjoyment and engagement we observed during the lesson. There were some follow up activities used during the next lesson where the data collected was used to investigate measurement further, such as using the measurement of the tennis courts to price up the costs for a new fence etc.



Here are the thoughts from our pupil voice



Year 8

In the Summer term the Maths Department borrowed some sensors and computer software from Science to investigate and model practically distance / time graphs. Students used a football to model and observe various distance / time graphs that helped them understand how these graphs work. They rolled the football in front of the sensors and the software produced the graph of the movement. This enabled students to learn via experimentation and discussion. The understanding developed in one lesson by doing this practical activity was excellent and some students ended up writing their own questions for others.

Intermediate Biology Olympiad 2023

Many congratulations to Amelie Symmons, Zane Aldridge-McLean, Seren Protheroe and Leon Hamilton for receiving various levels of Intermediate Biology Olympiad Awards for 2023. We are extremely proud of you.





Global Citizenship AwardsSummer 2023

Last July, Paige Matthews and Kate Evans, then of Year 12 were winners in the Global Citizenship Awards, run by Sustainable Wales in conjunction with University of South Wales, Treforest Campus, Pontypridd.

Miss Lambert remembers,

Last year I arranged a visit for all the Year 12 pupils to the Treforest campus. The trip was to introduce the Global part of Welsh Baccalaureate course and to have a tour of the campus and attend talks on different topics of sustainability. They also introduced their competition to the students, which was their Welsh Baccalaureate Global project. All the other Sixth Forms from the Bridgend area were involved in the trip and the competition, and six projects were entered from each during the course of the year. The girls did really well to gain the two prizes out of the large number of pupils that were entered.

Our pupils worked incredibly hard on their projects throughout the remainder of Year 12. We were delighted to learn during the Summer term from Mr Richard Thomas, Trustee of for Sustainable Wales that:-.

"Sustainable Wales are to sponsor prizes of £125 each for the Steve Harris Sustainable Development Award, jointly to Paige Matthews and Kate Evans, both from Porthcawl, where the entries demonstrated a good analysis of the issues of deforestation and biodiversity, good analytical approaches to proble-solving, and awareness of the principles of sustainability from local to global levels."

The girls were absolutely delighted to win and thoroughly enjoyed participating in the project! Many congratulations girls!

Miss Lambert

UK Mathematics Trust Senior Maths Challenge

-PCS Success!

Ten Maths students from Porthcawl Comprehensive School achieved certificates in the UK's Mathematics Trust Senior Maths Challenge.

The Senior Maths Challenge is an annual competition open to students from colleges and schools across the UK. This year, 650,000 pupils from 4,500 schools and colleges took part in the three individual challenges, which make up the UK's biggest national Maths competition. The top 10% of students receive a gold certificate, the next 20% are awarded silver and the next 30% are awarded bronze.

One Porthcawl student was awarded a gold certificate:

 Illia Zhuravok who is best in school and has also qualified for the follow-on competition the Senior Kangaroo Challenge. Congratulations!

One student achieved silver:

• Tom Backwell - Congratulations!

Well done to the eight students who achieved bronze:

- Seren Cole
- Hannah McCarthy (Best in Year 12)
- Toby Abraham
- Ben Dingle
- Joel Griffiths
- Alfie Smallman
- Ffion Thomas
- Lex Wren-Owens

Porthcawl Maths teacher, John Weatherhead, said: "The Maths Challenge is a great event for students to have a go at. It encourages them to use what they have learnt in class and apply it to problems they have never encountered before, and also to find their own solutions to problems. It's brilliant to see an enthusiasm from the students for Maths and to see them achieving as well as they have this year."

Headteacher, Mr Stephens, said "I would like to congratulate all students on their senior mathematics achievements. It gives me a real



sense of pride seeing the young people in our community rewarded for their hard work, skills and enthusiasm, and this national recognition encapsulates that! National success is wonderful news and a well-deserved achievement. Well done everyone!"

Congratulations to all 25 students who took part! You have all done fantastically well and should be very proud of yourselves, like we are.

Dilwyn Evans Music Award

We are very fortunate to have a great partnership with the Porthcawl Male Voice Choir. Every year the choir award a Music prize to one of our Year 13 A Level Music students, to support them as they embark on a future career in the Arts. This year, the prize was awarded and shared between two pupils; Megan Prance and Will Evans. Both pupils have been dedicated performers throughout their time at PCS, featuring heavily in the school productions, and several concerts. They have also performed alongside the Porthcawl Male Voice Choir and supported their concerts

throughout 2022-2023, gaining fantastic experience of performing in a variety of venues and styles.

The Performing Arts Department wish both Megan and Will all the best as they move to Bridgend College to study Musical Theatre and Acting, broadening their passion for performing arts further!

Mrs Giles ~ Music Department







At the end of the Summer term the Performing Arts Department took some pupils to London for the weekend. Our pupils had a wonderful time and were very fortunate to participate in a fun-filled weekend! The trip began with a 'Moulin Rouge' workshop, focusing on dance and singing. This was led by a cast member from the West End production of 'Moulin Rouge'. The pupils were delighted to learn the actual choreography from the show itself and be taught by such a professional. All pupils gave 100% to their final performance and impressed the teachers with their new skills. Even Mrs Giles and Mrs Smith got involved in the dancing!

They were also able to have a question and answer session with the workshop leader, which was so informative for the pupils, especially for those who want a career in the theatre! It was interesting to hear how hard it is to break into the industry and how many auditions you have to go through before you are considered for a part.

After a quick pit stop at Pizza Hut, it was onto to see a West End show. 'Moulin Rouge' was the obvious choice and our pupils were astounded by the talent and the spectacle of the production! The vocal and choreography was breath-taking! It was so lovely to see the choreography that we learnt earlier actually performed on stage! Despite tears at the end (it's a sad story if you don't know it), all were in agreement that they thoroughly enjoyed it. Some of our pupils were lucky enough to meet some of the cast at the stage door!

A night at the hotel provided a much-needed rest for the pupils and after a hot breakfast buffet it was time to check out and move onto day two. We began with a trip to visit 'The Globe' and we all enjoyed the guided tour of the famous theatre and learnt many facts about Shakespeare and the use of the theatre! The pupils learnt how lucky they are that they didn't have to go to the theatre in the Victorian times, where hygiene was definitely lacking! Lunch



was a lovely stroll along the Thames, taking in the musical buskers whilst we ate. Ice creams all round and then onto the final activity-The London Dungeons. What a fab experience. Not only were we taught about the history of London and found out more about the Plague, Jack the Ripper and Guy Fawkes but we were also scared out of our minds!

A fantastic weekend was had by all and we can't wait for next year already!

Mrs Smith ~ Music









Summer Concert 2023

We were thrilled to end another successful year at PCS with our Summer Concert on Wednesday 19th July in the Jubilee Theatre. The evening opened with the remarkable sound created by the PCS Orchestra, with a version of Kate Bush's 'Running up the Hill', and 'Only You' by the Flying Pickets. It is so inspiring to see that the wealth and breadth of talent continues to grow year on year, and the dedication of the pupils towards their playing results in a truly magnificent sound!

We always look forward to an item from Guitar Group, led by Mr Jefferies, and this year it was no different! Their performance of the popular piece 'Wipeout' was a hit with the audience as the guitarists displayed their talents with the memorable 'Wipeout riffs', and the complex drum solo played by Roxy Marks (Year 12). This year, we have also been fortunate to feature some of the bands that have been forming within the PCS Music Department. Break and lunch time is a regular meeting place for several pupils who can not wait to 'jam' during their breaks! I am pleased to say that these jamming sessions have resulted in positive outcomes, as

since the pandemic we have seen a decline within band culture, and it is fantastic to see it on the rise again! The band Peak Moon, featuring Elliott Leach, Rhys Cryer and Lily Jenkins performed an original song 'Objects in the Sky', whilst the Year 10 band featuring Jesse Igbenehi, Trystan Van Deventer, Henry Munro (standing in for Jonas Milligan) and Nia Card performed the classic 'Iris' by Goo Goo Dolls.

The Junior Woodwind Group, led by Miss Bryant gave tremendous performances of 'Dan the Man' and 'Hi Ho Silver Lining' which was also accompanied by the guitarists. It was so lovely to see many newcomers to the Junior Woodwind, with the group consisting of over 20 performers! Another highlight was Mr. Haughty and his brass pupils, with their uplifting jazz style performance where they also displayed the art of improvisation!

Junior Vocal Group sang 'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman with many pupils displaying impressive levels of confidence when delivering solo lines. They also wowed the audience with their gorgeous harmonies.

Other featured performances included Nia Card who won the Senior Eisteddfod category; Girls Solo Song from a Show or Film, and our incredible compere for the evening, Wil Morgans. These two pupils set the standard for solo performances and considering that they were only in Year 10 and 11 at the time of the concert, they set the bar extremely high! We are so excited to see more from these two promising performers in the future.

Following the retirement of Mrs Williams last summer, we were fortunate to welcome Miss Sian Jenkins to join our department as our peripatetic teacher for upper strings. Miss Jenkins has been an asset to the department for the past year, and it has been a pleasure to work alongside her and benefit from her exceptional experience as well as her infectious sense of humour! We thank Miss Jenkins for all her dedication and hard work and wish her a happy and healthy retirement. She will be missed! Performances from String Group always have a unique, beautiful sound, and this year it was no exception with String Group's stunning performance of a medley of songs





from Aladdin. It was also brilliant to see some of our younger string players learning the ropes, with their performance of 'Relaxing in Rio', which was a real crowd pleaser!

A final highlight from the string section was a performance of Allegro, from Mozart's Concerto in G by sisters, Grace and Rachel Clear. Grace gave a highly expressive performance on violin, with clear, and beautifully articulated melodic lines accompanied by a strong and dynamic bass part performed by Rachel on cello. Overall, an iconic piece, and a performance that will not be forgotten!

It is becoming a tradition to present awards for excellent attendance, progress and commitment to extracurricular ensembles at our Summer Concert. It was so rewarding to see the large number of pupils being presented with these awards, and again this shows just

how lucky we are to have such dedicated and talented pupils. You will see a list of those awards somewhere close to this article; well done to all!

Congratulations to all our wonderful musicians, performers and behind the scenes crew for your commitment and dedication. As a Performing Arts Department, we are so proud of you all and it was truly a wonderful evening!

I would like to thank the fantastic team of staff behind yet another successful concert, without who, none of which would be possible:

Performing Arts Team: Mrs Smith, Mrs Poole, Mr Smith, Mr Llewellyn.

Peripatetic Teaching Team: Miss Bryant, Miss Jenkins, Mr Jefferies, Mr Griffiths, Mr Haughty and Mr Martin.

We are now looking forward to our annual Christmas Carol Service at All Saint's Church on Wednesday 20th December, 7pm and the next school production of Jekyll and Hyde at the Grand Pavilion in January! Get your tickets now! We hope to see you all there.

Mrs R Giles ~ Head of Music



Summer 2023 Music Awards

Learning to play a musical instrument or learning to sing requires hard work and dedication if you want to make maximum progress and really get the most out of it! At the end of each academic year, it is now tradition to present awards for those pupils that display excellent attendance and particularly impressive progress within their learning journey to learn to play an instrument or sing. The awards also take pupils' commitment to extra-curricular ensembles into consideration, as many pupils learn to play instruments outside of school and still support our school community by being actively involved in the music extra-curricular groups to develop their skills further. Well done to the following pupils who were presented with awards at the end of 2022-2023. Well deserved indeed!

Woodwind

Joel Griffiths
Ava Davies
Annie Rees
Flynn Milligan
Ffion Thomas
Will John
Logan Mowforth
Imogen Brown
Florence Cronje
Anousha Cronje
Megan Tinning
Dylan Warlow

Guitar

Oscar James Dylan Morgan-Rowe Jayden Griffiths

Percussion

Jacob Harris Declan Coulter Isabella Daly

Brass

Rhys Stacey Charlie Horton Ben Comley

Lower Strings Henry Horton Jack Cornish

Upper StringsZara Lewis
Ellie Parry
Adam Morris

Grace Phillips Poppy Shingler Grace Clear

Young Singer Award

Travis Baker Katelyn Bebb Hallie Maine-James





An Afternoon at the Opera

On Friday 29th September, Year 7 enjoyed their first Expressive Arts trip to the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff to watch Welsh National Opera perform 'La Traviata'. This was a compact version of the famous opera, where the pupils experienced a narrated performance explaining the key moments within the plot. This was a brilliant cultural opportunity for the pupils, and they all responded well to the etiquette required when 'going to the opera'!





On the 13th of July Year 9 Drama Club performed their production of 'Annie The Musical'. The production, which only had around 8 weeks of rehearsal time; was a huge success amongst cast and audience alike. The production was performed for two nights in the Drama Studio and featured an expansive set which utilised scaffolding to transform the space into the streets of New York.

Evie Thomas who played the title character 'Annie' described the show as "unforgettable" and explained that the performance "really helped her to improve her acting and performing skills". Hallie who played Mrs Warbucks explained that she was "really encouraged to push herself and work to the best of her ability". Martha Hardwicke who played the pushy orphan "Pepper" said that the show helped to "bring everyone together and really created a family environment amongst the cast and crew".





Cinderella

On the 15th of June, members of the Year 8 Drama Club had the pleasure to perform the show 'Cinderella' to their friends and family. The pupils had been rehearsing every week since September and thoroughly enjoyed all elements of the rehearsal process, from acting out scenes to designing their costumes. The club was run by four members of the Sixth Form, Amelie, Finty, Grace and Scarlett who loved seeing the pupils' hard work pay off. Each member also expressed their desire to study Music or Drama for GCSE following their time in Year 8 Drama Club, and said that it really helped



RWCMD SUMMER SCHOOL



Over a few days in the summer, I attended a course at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The course was set around theatre production and the skills required to pursue a career in the performing arts. The course was a good taste of what Drama school is like, and the high standards that the college sets. The first day focused on stage management skills, which included searching for props or "propping", marking up rehearsal space to show the actors the space they have, and show calling, which will help with my role as DSM for the school show. We also went on a visit to Cardiff Castle, to help with research about World War Two, as the castle was used as a bomb shelter during the war. The second day was focused on sound and was held by a sound engineer who had worked for Disney and is a tutor at the college. The third day was focused on lighting design and was held by two past students of the college. This involved workshops on focusing lights, programming lights, and how you can use light to convey different moods and atmospheres within a scene. The final day was the performance day, in which we created a walk-through experience themed around World War Two. The opportunity was incredible, and it allowed me to make important contacts within the college, which will be helpful for my application this year.

Enzo Lipley ~ Year 13

National Theatre Connections Festival



Led by Sixth Form student directors, for the first time the Drama department has entered the National Theatre Connections Festival, a play festival that involves young people in engaging with new works by upcoming playwrights. The festival takes place in the Sherman Theatre before transferring to the National Theatre in London. Our cast this year are performing the play 'Orchestra' by Charlie Josephine. The cast are eager to get started, rehearsals have just begun and are made up of Year 10 - Year 12 students. All are very excited to perform such a challenging movement piece. In order to prepare and budget for the production, we organised a 'Roles We'll Never Play' concert which featured both the Performing Arts teachers and students singing songs from musical classics like 'Les Mis' and 'Company'. The concert was a complete success and has helped massively in preparation for the production. The performances within the Drama Studio will take place sometime between February and April, so keep your eyes out for upcoming dates!







Playwriting Workshop

In June 2024 over 50 KS3 pupils participated in a Playwriting Workshop with a professional playwright to develop their creative ideas and playwriting skills in preparation for the annual Young Playwrights' Festival.

The workshop was delivered by Miss Lauren Ellis-Stretch who is a past pupil of Porthcawl Comprehensive School from 2010-2017 and a previous 'Young Playwrights' winner. The project took place over two days to ensure lots of pupils could be involved and was funded by the Arts Council of Wales.

Lauren who has a BA in Drama and English Literature has also completed an MA in Playwriting at Manchester University. Lauren has worked with Theatr Clwyd writing a new play and was also their Artist in Resident over the Summer leading and managing the development of another new play. Since completing her Masters, Lauren has worked with various companies across Wales, Manchester and Brighton as a writer and performer.

The Drama department was delighted that she was able to work with our pupils sharing her knowledge to provide them with such a valuable and memorable experience to help them grow and develop their skills.



Young Playwrights Festival

The Drama department was delighted at the return of the annual Young Playwrights' Festival, which has not taken place since the Summer of 2019. This event is so important in the Drama department calendar as it provides KS3 and KS4 pupils with an enriching opportunity to develop a full range of dramatic skills – writing, directing and performing.

Twenty-Five plays were submitted, all of which clearly showed strong characterisation and engaging storylines. The department would like to express huge gratitude to all the pupils who entered the competition and we look forward to reading your entries again next year. Six winning plays were chosen to be performed over the two-day festival.

The pupils involved worked intensively over a three-week period getting the plays ready from 'page to stage'.



Rehearsals took place during lunch hours and after school and each play was directed by groups of Year 10 GCSE Drama students. The commitment and enthusiasm shown was excellent.

The festival was held over two nights with every play being performed each night. At the end of the final performance there was a brief talk from our guest speaker, Miss Lauren Ellis-Stretch about the merits of each play. She also awarded each of the Playwright Winners and Directors with a certificate.





Imogen's Painting of Doom!

This painting is a piece of homework that I created for History, when studying medieval religion. I have made a doom-painting which would have decorated the walls of chapels in medieval Britain to frighten the people into being good with the depictions of Hell! It would also have shown people the rewards of Heaven and scenes of the Judgement Day. I had lots of fun painting and drawing this homework.

Imogen Brown Year 8



Tristyn James

My name is Tristyn James, and I am Head Student Leader, and Year 13 representative. I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Welsh Baccalaureate at A Level and enjoy being part of the Sixth Form at Porthcawl. I am considering studying Business Management at university next year.



Amelie Symmons

Hi, I am Amelie and I'm one of the Head Student Leaders on the 2023/24 Head Team. I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Welsh Baccalaureate at A Level and I'm hoping to study Psychological and Behavioural Science at University. My aim is to promote the Head Team as people who are always on hand to help any pupil in need and to help make a difference to the school and the wider community. I am also one of the Year 13 representatives and will always be willing to provide support and advice to anyone who needs it during their final year at PCS.



Isobel Comley

Hi, I'm Issie and I'm Deputy Student Leader. I study Physics, Maths and English. I am deeply interested in the Physics and Philosophy course at university which addresses questions about the nature of reality, space and time. From there I'd like to look into science communication and journalism. I believe I can be an approachable figure to students and someone they can open up to.



Finty Kehoe

My name is Finty Kehoe and I am Deputy Student Leader on the Head Team and representative for Year 7 in the 2023/24 academic year. I am currently studying Drama, Welsh and Sociology at A Level and hope to study Drama in university next year. I am extremely excited to have been given this opportunity and I hope that you'll all feel comfortable coming to talk to me if you have any problems.



Issy Hemington-Gorse

Hi, I'm Issy and I'm one of the Deputy Student Leaders and one of the Year 7 representatives. I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry and Sociology with the hope of studying Medicine next year. If you have any questions or need help with anything, please feel free to ask.



Ellen Hughes

Hi, I'm Ellen and I'm the Assistant Student Leader and one of the Year 8 representatives on the Head Team. I am currently studying Sociology, English and Biology and hope to study English, Politics and International Relations at university.



Eve Hickman

Hi, I'm Eve Hickman and I'm a member of the 2023/24 Head Team. I am also one of the Year 10 representatives. I am currently studying Mathematics, Business Studies, Physical Education and Welsh Baccalaureate at A Level. I hope to study Accountancy with Business Management at university.



Mali Perry

Hi, I am Mali Perry and I am a member of the Head Team 2023/24. I am currently studying Sociology, Drama, Religious Studies and Welsh Baccalaureate at A Level. I am hoping to study Primary Education at Bristol UWE University.



Rajnaarayanan Rajasubeshan

Hi, I'm Rajnaarayanan Rajasubeshan and I'm a Head Team member on the 2023/24 Head Team. I'm currently studying Computer Science, Drama and Welsh Bacc at A Level, my main aspiration is to study Game Development at Bath Spa University. As a member of the Head Team I am going to be always willing to assist and help fellow students with any problems they may be struggling with.



Scarlett Osborne

Hello! My name is Scarlett Osborne and I am the Year 9 representative as well as an assistant member of the Head Team. I am currently studying Drama, Mathematics and Chemistry and I hope to study Musical Theatre at Drama School in the future. My aim as a member of the Head Team is to provide support to the rest of the school and aid the rest of the team in making the most beneficial changes for prospective students.



Zane Aldridge-Mclean

Hi my name is Zane Aldridge-McLean and I am one of the Assistants within the Head Team for 2023/2024 at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. At A Level, I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry, German and Welsh Baccalaureate. In the future I wish to study Ecology and Wildlife Conservation at university. To the Head Team I bring organisational skills and will consistently help out and support Year 12, the year I am guiding to better futures.



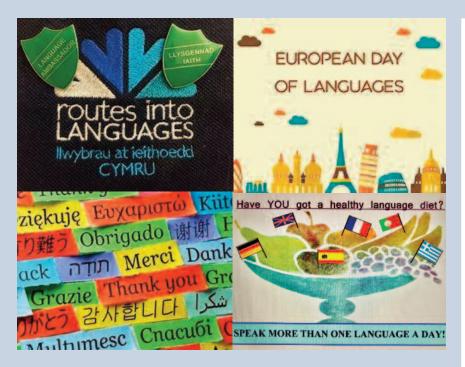
Tom Coles

Hello, my name is Tom Coles. I'm a member of this year's Head Team, I am the representative for Year 8.1 am currently taking Maths, Chemistry and PE. I'm planning on going to university and pursuing a course in Chemical Engineering.



Efa Morris

Hi. I am Efa and I'm a member of the Head Team for 2023/24 and one of the Year 10 representatives. I am currently studying English Literature, Drama, Media Studies and Film Studies. I hope to study English Literature at University.



European Day of Languages

On Tuesday 26th of September, we celebrated European Day of Languages. Year 7 had a special assembly conducted by the Language Ambassadors on the importance of learning languages and entered a quiz competition.

The winning form was 70M, Mrs Marshall's form, well done all! They won a certificate and well-deserved treats.

Our Language Ambassadors for this year are:

Holly Jordan, Lily Kedward, Eva Dickenson, Holly Wiseman, Megan Williams, Cerys Jones, Molly Gould, Liv Summers, Grace Taylor, Aaron Marchant, Lera Yarotska, Evie Brent, Finlay Mantegna, Sioned Owen, Connie Howe, Lacey Jones, Dan Hall and Theo Honey.

All are learning 2 languages (and even 3 for some!) for their GCSEs and all are very committed to talking about the importance of languages for the future. You will see them coming to assemblies in the next few months.

Thank you. Madame Morgan



Le Meilleur Pâtissier 2023-2024

October 2023 Madeleines

November 2023 Welsh cakes

December 2023 Lebkuchen

January 2024 Galette des rois

February 2024 Bara Brith

March 2024 Brezeln

April 2024 Crêpes

Rules: It's simple, all you have to do is sign up to enter the competition, get the recipe and start baking!!!

Lots of prizes to win!!!



Bake Off 2023-2024

Results of October Bake Off:

Recipe: French Madeleines

1st Place: Jessica Brown (7OP) 2nd Place: Amelia Eccles (7OP)

3rd Place: Alana O'Keefe and co (9HR)

Well done all!

Here is the link for the recipe if you

want to try it at home:

Madeleines recipe - BBC Food

Next month's recipe: Welsh cakes!



Bonjour! Bienvenue to another school year. The Language Department has a lot lined up for the pupils this year, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and learn another language which is an impressive skill in

today's world when it has become too easy to just Google translate things.

This year the Language Department has selected a group of Language Ambassadors that will visit you in assemblies and inform you about upcoming events in German, Welsh or French. There is so much going on in the Languages Department such as Languages Club every Monday in P21, school trips, competitions, and the Bake Off! The Bake Off is a great way to introduce yourself to other cultures taught at PCS that the teachers can help to immerse you in. Each month there will be a different delicacy that you can try and make on your own, with family or friends. The dishes will be traditional to either Germany, Wales or France, it's also a fantastic opportunity to learn new language skills (and give the language ambassadors some baked goods to taste test).

Holly Wiseman (Year 11 Language Ambassador)



Blwyddyn 10 a'r Byd Gwaith / Year 10 and the World of Work!





Ar ddydd Mawrth 27ain Mehefin, we were lucky to be visited by Coleg Cenedlaethol Cymru when they came out to siarad gyda Blwyddyn 10 about Cymraeg. They invited a panel of siaradwyr Cymraeg to talk to us - the journalist Iolo Cheung, TikTok influencer Ellis Lloyd-Jones and the musician Heledd Watkins.

The panel talked about their backgrounds, how Welsh has helped them in their careers and how they see yr iaith Gymraeg helping them in the future. Iolo has been given the opportunity to cover the Football World Cup in 2022 and Cwpan Rygbi'r Byd 2023 because he can do two jobs in one by reporting in both Cymraeg a Saesneg. Mae Heledd yn canu gyda HMS Morris, has sung at Glastonbury this year and been nominated for 2 Welsh music prizes. Yn olaf, Ellis Lloyd Jones has interviewed Gemma Collins about her Welsh family, appeared on TikTok interviewing first year students (freshers) in Aberystwyth and produced a video conjugating slay in the past tense!

Blwyddyn 10 finished off the morning with a session with Heledd encouraging them to compose their own raps using Welsh words. Diwrnod bendigedig!

Here are some links if you want to learn more about the celebrities!

https://www.instagram.com/reel/CwqYUSbssQq/?igshid=MTc4MmM1YmI2Ng== https://www.instagram.com/reel/Ct87dxUI2wf/?igshid=MTc4MmM1YmI2Ng== https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-67024258

https://music.tiktok.com/artist/Heledd-Watkins-6897530795038398466 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QG5XYMV-VUs

Diwrnod Shwmae 2023





On Friday October 13th we celebrated diwrnod Shwmae in Porthcawl Comprehensive School. Lots of our pupils and staff showed their support for the event by wearing coch or gwyrdd. Shwmae Day is a day to celebrate the Welsh language and pupils and staff were encouraged to start conversations using Shwmae-Hi how are you? Pupils also had the opportunity to pose in our Welsh Photo booth dressing up with funny hats and accessories. It was great to see lots of pupils celebrating the day and having fun dressing up. Diolch yn fawr iawn to everyone who joined in and supported diwrnod Shwmae.



was so useful and helpful for our exams later on in the year. If this trip ever comes out again, we recommend that you don't miss out, or else you will regret it!

"Going to Glan Llyn in July was such an amazing experience! From paddle boarding to "window-gate" and late-night tea chats with everyone, it's a trip that I will never forget!"-Eloise Wright

"We all really enjoyed Glan Llyn because we got to do lots of exciting activities in Bala Lake, and it was very beautiful to look at when we were eating our evening meals!"- Holly Jordan

"This trip will forever be a memorable weekend for me. I made some unforgettable memories with my friends and teachers at Glan Llyn, and learnt so many new Welsh words!"- Livia Summers

"I loved going to Glan Llyn because we did so many exciting things that we've never done before, such as raft building and canoeing!"-Eva Dickinson

We arrived on Dydd Gwener and went paddle boarding straight away. It was a lovely introduction to Glan Llyn. Later that day, we met the 'Owl Man' and we learnt about owls (tylluanod). We encountered barn owls and an eagle owl. All of us got the chance to hold the owls. Overall, it was a very interesting experience. For a snack between meals we had some welsh cakes; they were blasus iawn!!!

In the evening, we either took part in activities in the sports hall or we went on a walk to the nearest shop, which we found in the local pub! It was lovely to walk and chat about all sorts of things!

bendigedig and luckily no-one fell off! Unfortunately, Luke Johnson didn't make this activity as he had to return to bed for his beauty sleep!

Next activity - raft building. We used the skill of working as a team to form a boat made up of ropes and barrels. Unfortunately, our raft didn't survive the water test, but we still managed to have llawer o hwyl! We later learnt that the raft fell apart due to an act of sabotage by Rio Williams and Henry Munro!

After lunch, llawer o hwyl on the climbing walls, Rio broke the record for the fastest wall climb in under 10 seconds!

Later that day, after lots of activities we went into Bala town. We got to shop and look around the beautiful town and heard lots of people siarad Cymraeg. We bought snacks, ice-cream and bucket hats galore!

That evening we spent our time bowlio deg ac ymlacio. Noson dda iawn.

Bore dydd Sul, up early again and off we went canoeing on the lake. We canoed around the island and stopped to toast some malws melys (marshmallows) on the fire, made by the girls. The boys were supposed to build a shelter but let us down badly.

After a delicious cinio rhost, we said our farewells to Glan Llyn and jumped on the bus ready for our journey home. We had a penwythnos ansbaradigaethus and would love to return. Diolch Mrs Bennion, Mr Stratford a Mrs Lloyd!











CyberFirst Year 8 Girls' Competition

The CyberFirst Girls' Competition aims to inspire girls interested in Technology to pursue a career in Cyber Security. The competition opened on the 20th November. We have registered as a school and would like to see as many girls in Year 8 enter as possible. The competition is a team event. Each team consists of up to four girls in Year 8 who will tackle challenges, from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking, for the chance to be crowned Cyber Security Champions.

Every girl from the winning teams will take a brand-new laptop home and have a chance to win prize money for their school. Practice challenges are available online and can be found at https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberfirst/girls-competition-example-challenges.

Wales Tech Week - Talent4Tech

Wales Tech Week 2023 (October 16-18) took place at the ICC Wales in Newport.

83 pupils from Years 9, 10, 12 & 13 attended the Talent4Tech day on the final day of the summit. It proved to be an immersive, informative, and inspiring event to attract the next generation of talent required to meet the exponential demand for tech-capable people.

The event was aimed at the "Tech Curious" – Year 9 and above, school leavers, apprentices, graduates, returners and transitioning workers – to showcase opportunities across the Welsh Tech Industry.

More than 75 exhibitors were in attendance, including 20+ Wales-based start-up companies. Technology is enabling the way we live, work, and play today and tomorrow. Tech is quickly becoming the largest sector of the world's economy, offering enormous potential to build a career in a high-value, highly-skilled environment and make your mark on the world.



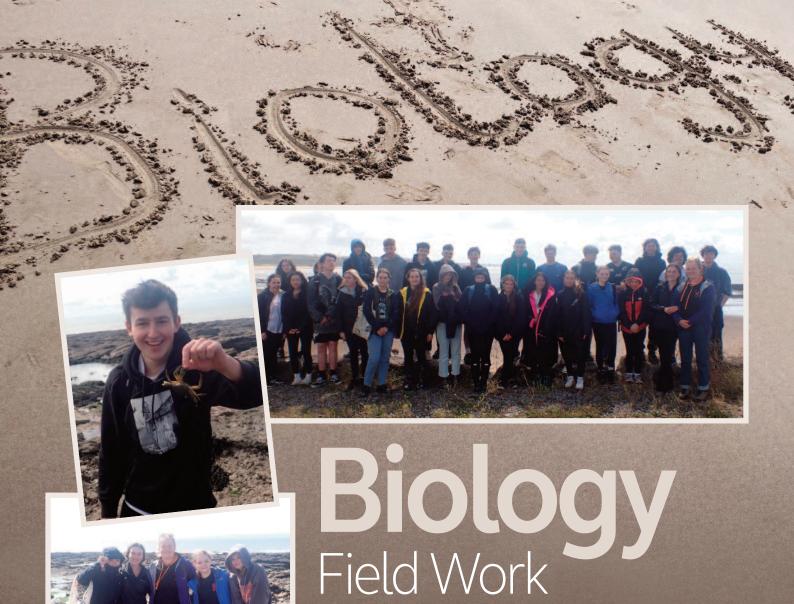
Aled Miles, Welsh Government Envoy to the United States, hosted the Headline Stage and the opening keynote was Al: Friend or Foe? There were a number of talks on various topic areas such as Wearable Tech, Cyber Security, Career pathways etc as well as interactive demonstrations inside and outside by the exhibitors.

Pupils were encouraged to get involved and had a really good insight into how technology is changing our lives. Our school even won a prize for being the fastest team to complete a digital escape room. Pupils enjoyed exploring, meeting and talking with representatives from companies and I think all pupils came home with at least one 'goodie bag'.

Pupils' feedback was really positive and certainly an event we would plan to visit again in the future.

Thanks to Mr. Pucella, Ms. Christopher, Mr. Evans & Madame Morgan





On the 17th of July, all Year 12 pupils who were studying Biology A Level had the opportunity to spend the morning at Newton beach to complete fieldwork as part of the A Level course, to prepare us for our continued studies into Year 13. We set off at 9:00am and got ourselves into small groups where we learned how to assemble quadrats, which we then used to measure the distribution of different species of seaweed along the shoreline. Using measuring tape, we placed the quadrats at set intervals along the tape, which was placed perpendicular to the shoreline. Once we had collected our results, we were allowed to explore the rock pools and surrounding area to see what other species we could discover. We then headed back to school where we analysed our results and quantified them into kite diagrams so that we could clearly see the distribution of the varying species, such as Pelvetia caniculara and Fucus spiralis along the Newton beach shoreline. This experience was vital to

help us develop our fieldwork and data analysis skills, which will put us in good stead for our examinations in the Summer of 2024. We were also extremely grateful to the Biology Department for dedicating their time and effort to organise this trip, which turned out to be a great success.

Amelie Symmons ~ Year 13









Duke of Edinburgh Award - My Experience

I have successfully completed my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. As a part of the D of E experience I was required to choose a Skill to carry out, Volunteering work and a Physical activity. One of these had to be completed over a 6-month period, I chose my Physical section for this as it was the most convenient for me, and the other two over a 3 month period.

For my Physical section I chose to play football. This was already a weekly part of my life so was easy to carry forward into my D of E and I made sure to log what I was doing. For my Volunteering section I was given the opportunity to work with the Woodland Trust, a charity. I carried out this work for 3 months and logged my progress. Lastly, for my Skills section I chose to learn how to play the drums. This was something I always wanted to do and as I had a change of circumstance where I could gain access to a drum kit conveniently then I thought why not give it a go! I also carried out this section for 3 months. I taught myself, working through a book of basic drumming, then going on to learn how to play along to simple songs. I found the whole Duke of Edinburgh experience extremely worthwhile, developing and learning skills along the way.

As a way to plan for our D of E expedition experience, I attended Monday sessions learning to work in a team to organise meals, routes, learn how to use a Trangia and learn how to efficiently put up our tents. Also, we participated in first aid training with St. Johns and gained a valuable qualification, this was to prepare us just in case something were to happen on expedition. We also developed our skills by going on practice walks in Llangeinor and Margam Park, getting us used to the weight we were going to be carrying and using maps and compasses to navigate.

The qualifying expedition took place in July down the Gower and I found it entertaining, making lots of memories along the way, despite the physical challenge of the walk. Because we were able to choose our groups, we made sure to make it fun. By the end of our challenge, we were exhausted, however we successfully completed it.

I would highly recommend the Duke of Edinburgh Award to younger pupils and I look forward to completing higher levels at university.



Bronze Qualifying Expedition - July 2023

Back in July the Year 12 D of E group completed their Qualifying Expedition in Gower. Day 1 proved really tough as the weather was difficult with continuous rain. Despite the conditions, the groups were very well organised throughout, listened well to advice and applied navigation techniques successfully. All groups were competent in pitching tents, although we did have a few leaks to deal with! A very simple tip for future reference is not to let the inner tent touch the outer tent, especially when it is raining. Everyone worked well as a team. The groups proved they could work well together when making navigation decisions and everyone contributed well. Pupils demonstrated their use of the trangia stoves unaided to cook an evening meal. Each team persevered, pulled together which led to a successful expedition. Well done to everyone involved. A big thank you to Mr. Pucella, Mr. Blanche, Mrs. Raine, Mr. Holt, Mr Stratford and Mr. Evans for supporting the expedition and allowing this amazing opportunity to complete this award.









The anticipation waiting for prom to happen and the social aspects of prom itself, make it appealing. Also making it an event that everyone can look forward to with much excitement. Prom was a special, memorable moment for us all. We all got to dress up nicely for the evening and got to spend quality time with each other and to dance the night away. It was a chance to create lasting memories and celebrate some achievements. Prom allowed us all to enjoy the transition from comprehensive to the new chapter of everyone's lives.















Rugby League

Matthew Clatworthy played for the Bridgend Blue Bulls during the Summer Rugby League Season. They went unbeaten in the league and at the end of August, played in the Welsh U14's Grand Final where they beat Aber Valley Wolves to become the Welsh U14's champions.



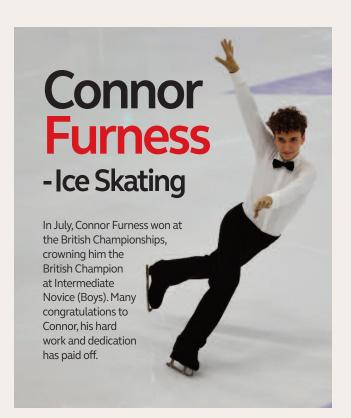




Water PoloSuccess

On Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September the Welsh Junior Women Water Polo Team (playing as the Junior Celtic Dragons) took part in the BMC Cup in Dunfermline, Scotland. Bethan Price 11GH was one of the players. This is the first tournament this team have played.

Congratulations Bethan!





PE News

Porthcawl PE is now on Instagram-follow us **@porthcawlPE** for all the latest updates!

Netball News

Congratulations to Lucy Bradbury, Elsie Spillets, Holly Wiseman, Gwen Williams, Molly Tweedy and Jess Oram who have all been selected to represent the Glamorgan Valley County U16 and U18 netball squads for the 23/24 season. Our pupils have been selected out of over 100 girls across both age groups, displaying their dedication and determination. We are so proud of their achievements and the excellent role models that they have become. Good luck for your upcoming season ladies, I am sure you will smash it!

A massive well done to our Year 7's who played their first match ever for PCS against Cynffig in October. We had four netball teams take to the court and display their fantastic passing and moving skills, and most importantly had fun!



Tennis News

On 13th September, Mr Davies took 6 boys to the South Wales Tennis Finals in Cardiff. They had won the area final in the Summer term, so this was the next step. Congratulations to Will Mitchell, Xavier Thomas, Henry Munro, Alex Evans, Jack Davies and Josh Sealy who finished 3rd out of 5 area winners, a great effort!











Exciting **Summer Tennis Extravaganza** Rocks Porthcawl Comprehensive for the 15th Time!

Porthcawl Comprehensive Summer calendar's annual event again hits our courts with a resounding boom, celebrating its magnificent 15th edition since its inception back in 2007. This year's extravaganza was nothing short of spectacular, drawing in our eager pupils with the irresistible allure of Wimbledon-inspired tennis fever. With lots of enthusiastic participants aiming to qualify for the tournament, the courts sizzled with adrenaline-pumping action throughout the week leading up to the competition. Pupils battled it out in the qualifying rounds, all with one burning desire – to claim the coveted title!

The anticipation built steadily as each match unfolded, bringing us closer to the grand showdown that took place on a Wednesday and Thursday in July. The air crackled with excitement as the finalists emerged, ready to put on a dazzling display of skill, determination, and sportsmanship. In the fiercely competitive Senior Boys' Final, the court witnessed a tennis maestro in the form of Will Mitchell. Displaying a level of mastery that left the crowd in awe, he triumphed over 64 players, emerging as the ultimate champion and proudly retaining his

well-deserved title. Standing tall against fellow Year 10 pupil Henry Munro, Will sealed the deal with a dazzling score of 6-2, cementing his legacy as the undisputed ruler of the courts.

Not to be outdone, the Senior Girls' Final showcased another exceptional talent, Sophia Evans, who proved that experience truly counts when it comes to the game of finesse and skill. With an air of absolute authority, Sophia defeated her opponent Gwen Williams with an impressive score of 6-1, asserting her dominance and seizing the crown as the Queen of the court.

But that's not all – the tournament's future stars, the incredible talents of Year 7, had their own thrilling battles on the court! The youthful exuberance and raw talent were palpable as Josh Davies emerged victorious in the Boys' tournament, while Leila Williams displayed remarkable prowess in the Girls' category, etching their names in the records as ones to watch out for in the years to come. Their exceptional performances in the main tournament left no doubt that they're destined to become future contenders in the world of tennis.

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to all the 150+ participants who gave their all in this epic sporting showdown. For those who came oh-so-close in the qualifying rounds, your dedication and passion inspired us all, and we can't wait to witness your incredible talent on the courts again next year. Porthcawl Comprehensive's 15th tournament has certainly etched itself into the annals of sporting history, and we're already counting down the days until the next thrilling instalment. Until then, keep swinging those rackets, nurturing your love for the game, and preparing to set the courts ablaze once more!



Sports Day 2023







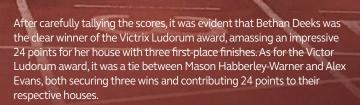
Athletes competed in a wide range of events, from the sprints of 100m to the endurance challenges of the 1500m, and from the graceful long jump to the powerful shot put. The standard of competition reached unprecedented levels this year, and the enthusiasm and sportsmanship displayed were truly inspiring.

Across all year groups, we witnessed exceptional performances and a strong commitment to the house system. Among the Year 7 competitors, Will Sealey and Jacob Washbourne shone as they secured double gold medals in the 100m & 200m, and 800m & 1500m, respectively. A standout moment in the Year 7 competition was Tyler Woodward's astounding feat, breaking the Year 7 shot put record with an impressive 10m 50cm throw.

In Year 8, Poppy Cole lived up to her name, hopping, skipping, and jumping her way to a new school record in the girls' triple jump — an impressive achievement for a Year 8 pupil, and we have no doubt she will continue to dominate this event in the coming years, setting new records along the way.

The Year 9 students proved their mettle with outstanding achievements from Alex Evans, excelling in the 400m, javelin, and discus events, and Bethan Deeks, showcasing her talents in the 200m, 300m, and long jump. Both athletes' clean sweep in their respective events put them in the running for the prestigious Victor Ludorum and Victrix Ludorum awards. We must also recognize Lewis Hollenbach, the fittest prop forward in Porthcawl, who achieved an extraordinary double win in the 800m and 1500m events.

The Year 10 students, competing in their final Sports Day, created lasting memories with Paige Jenkins securing a new year record in the triple jump and Welsh International Iwan Froley accomplishing the same feat in the 1500m event. However, it was Mason Habberley-Warner who dazzled the audience with his multi-event prowess, claiming victories in the javelin, 400m, and 200m, putting him in contention for the highly-coveted Victor Ludorum award.



The day was not only about the outstanding athleticism but also about the positive attitudes and sportsmanship displayed by all participants. We were proud to see everyone representing their houses with pride and giving their best efforts throughout the day.

In conclusion, Porthcawl Comprehensive School Sports Day 2023 was a tremendous success, showcasing some of the best school athletics seen in years. The level of dedication, talent, and sportsmanship exhibited by our students was truly commendable. We sincerely hope that all participants enjoyed the experience and are eager to return next year to continue representing their houses. Every individual involved was a credit to the school.



Final Results for the Sports Day House Competition:

1st Powys		D
2nd Gwynedd	Year 7	2
	Year 8	15
3rd Dyfed	Year 9	17
	Year 10	18
4th Morgannwg		73

	D	G	М	Р
Year 7	213	190	155	184
Year 8	156	229	176	210
Year 9	177	167	140	157
Year 10	184	177	132	223
	730	763	603	774



Notable Performances (Girls)

800m	Yr 7 G	Annie Rees	3.17
JAVELIN	Yr 7 G	Annie Rees	12.00
T JUMP	Yr 8 G	Poppy Cole	8.13
H-JUMP	Yr 8 G	Poppy Cole	1.25
200m	Yr 8 G	Chloe Hall	31.63
1500m	Yr 8 G	Chloe Hall	5.57
200m	Yr 10 G	Lola Simmers	32.12
300m	Yr 10 G	Lola Simmers	51.82
L-JUMP	Yr 10 G	Holly Wiseman	3.71
H-JUMP	Yr 10 G	Holly Wiseman	1.2
200m	Yr 7 G	Imogen Brown	33.56
H-JUMP	Yr 7 G	Imogen Brown	1.10
300m	Yr 8 G	Isabella Hollaway	52.00
800m	Yr 8 G	Isabella Hollaway	2.48

Notable Performances (Boys)

RELAY	Yr 9 B	Morgannwg	51.63
1500m	Yr 10 B	Iwan Froley	4.34
100m	Yr 8 B	Jack Parrott	12.74
DISCUS	Yr 8 B	Jack Parrott	20.3
800m	Yr 7 B	Jacob Washbourne	2.38
1500m	Yr 7 B	Jacob Washbourne	5.30
800m	Yr 9 B	Lewis Hollenbach	2.35
1500m	Yr 9 B	Lewis Hollenbach	5.26
100m	Yr 7 B	Will Sealey	14.97
200m	Yr 7 B	Will Sealey	31.28
SHOT	Yr 7 B	Tyler Woodward	10.5







Helping Hands Transition 2023

In June, we welcomed 23 Year 6 pupils from our feeder schools, to our transition programme, Helping Hands. The programme was held over three mornings and they were action packed with activities, including a treasure hunt around the school, creating a 'helping hand', mindfulness and baking cookies for parents and carers to enjoy. The most popular and helpful activity was a Q&A session with Year 7, now our current Year 8 pupils. The pupils also had the opportunity to meet Jessie, our school therapy dog, which was met with much excitement!

The mornings were an opportunity for the pupils to familiarise themselves with the school, meet key staff members and forge new friendships before their transition to Porthcawl Comprehensive School. It was

a pleasure to witness the newfound friendships develop.

The programme was a great success, and this is evident from how the pupils have settled into school life at PCS, since their transition in September.

As a school we are very grateful for the help of the CART team (Communications and Relationship Team) who have supported us year on year. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank our Year 11 Wellbeing Ambassadors who supported the Year 6 pupils with the activities during the three mornings. Their help was invaluable, and they were the best role models - thank you.

Mrs Morgan and Mrs Dancer Tŷ Enfys



Shwmae, on our LLC transition days, we, Year 7 pupils, worked together with Year 6 pupils to create a magazine. Most of the Year 6 pupils were writing articles for the magazine. They wrote them in all the languages that Porthcawl school has to offer. However, excitingly, 15 Year 6 pupils and 15 Year 7 pupils all came together as the Porthcawl Y Wasg, (The Press Gang). All together we worked on the articles that the Year 6 pupils had been writing in their lessons. The Press Gang collected all the articles and uploaded them to be displayed them on this site. Finally, two Year 7 pupils, Iris Evans and Caitlin Jenkins made a short VLOG as a guide for why we need Comprehensive transitions. This short film interviewed a small number of our current Year 7 pupils.

This was a great experience for all of us. We all hope to continue as the Press Gang in Year 8.

Grace Mahoney ~ Now Year 8



Music Transition 2023

Throughout July 2023, myself and Mrs Smith had the pleasure of visiting the feeder primary schools across Porthcawl to deliver some transition music workshops. We were joined by a group of fantastic PCS pupils; Olivia Evans-Jones, Zara Lewis, Poppy Shingler, Jack Childs, Alfie Law, James Browning and Elliott Leach. These PCS pupils came along to support and inspire the Year 6 pupils and show them just how talented our musicians are!

Within the workshop, we sang our good old PCS favourite 'I like the flowers', and all of the pupils created a performance of the song 'Only You'. Altogether, we had singing, piano, glockenspiels, guitars, drums, trumpets, trombones, violins, clarinets, flutes, and all achieved within an hour-long workshop!

The Year 6 pupils were enthusiastic, and already had bags of talent! We were lucky enough to listen to Newton Primary's end of Year 6 rap that they had written for their Leavers Concert, which was just brilliant!

Well done to everyone involved. We hope that the pupils are now settling

well into Year 7, and found the transition workshop a helpful and exciting experience



News from the PRIMARIES



West Park Primary School

Autumn term has been an exciting action-packed adventure at West Park! Year 6 visited Llangrannog Centre for 3 days where they developed team building skills and grew in resilience and confidence. This epic adventure has set them in great stead for their final year of primary education. Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their first taste of Porthcawl Comprehensive in fun and engaging transition lessons. Thank you for having us PCS!

Across school we have embedded our themes with Hook days and school trips. Our overall theme was Victorians. We visited Big Pit for an immersive experience of life in the coal mines and St Fagan's school room to gain an insight of what it was like to be a child growing up in Victorian times. We have used our pupil voice to elect new committees for the academic year ahead. School Council have already put their community outreach skills to use by organising a harvest collection for the Bridgend Foodbank. Eco Warriors are managing our sustainable wardrobe ensuring West Park families can 'shop' nearly new uniform and Year 6 are busy planning the first Eco Green Leaf shop of the year to encourage plastic free choices.

Our teachers have gone the extra mile as always to deliver an exciting and interactive curriculum. We have also enjoyed welcoming all our families in to school for open afternoons and workshops. As this goes to press we are enthusiastically rehearsing for Christmas concerts and looking forward to more opportunities to engage with families over the festive period.





Newton Primary School

We are pleased our recent inspection has been recognised by Bridgend County Borough Council. Porthcawl's Newton Primary School has been recognised for a host of strengths, including pupils' enthusiasm to learn, in an Estyn inspection that took place in February this year.

Inspectors noted how the learners are offered rich and varied learning experiences that motivate and engage them, as well as how the school environment encourages pupils to become ambitious, confident and independent learners. According to the Estyn report, a particular strength of the school's provision is its 'Newton University'- an enrichment initiative which provides an opportunity for pupils from different year groups to participate in a programme of planned activities that are not usually available in lessons. In addition, the caring and inclusive community highlighted in the report, ensures that staff, pupils, and their families feel valued and respected.

Headteacher, Rachel John, acknowledged for her strong, purposeful leadership of the school, said: "I am extremely proud that Newton Primary School has been recognised for our outstanding efforts and achievements. This inspection truly captures the essence of our school community and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of both our pupils and staff".



Scrumdiddlyumptious at Nottage Primary School

At Nottage Primary we have already had a lot of exciting trips, lessons and visits. In the last month the PCSO; which stands for Police Community Support Officer came to talk about Anti-hate Week and how bullying and being mean to people is not allowed. We have mini police at Nottage Primary who are making a presentation on anti-hate crime to stop people from bullying and being mean. Year 5 and 6 have been swimming as it is important to be safe in the water. Nottage is a school very close to the sea and the sea is amazing but it is also dangerous and that's why it's important to know how to swim. Nottage Year 6 are running the Big Bocs Bwyd which is a shop where you can buy food and drinks for a very fair price and also help reduce food waste, thanks to all the local shops that are donating food. Recently it has been painted to look like a beach. In Year 3, a person come in to teach about Fairtrade. In Year 5, they did an investigation on toothpaste to see how well it works. They also made blackberry and apple crumble. In Year 6 we did a transition in Porthcawl Comprehensive School learning languages such as French, Welsh and German and we mixed euro-vision with transition to make 'eurosition' and we learned and sang songs in different languages and we had a competition on what team had the best song and dance. We have recently discovered a frog in our flower bed and pond area so we are all very excited for the spring to see if we have tadpoles. We have had a very good start to this term.

Written By Ben Bloomfield and Lowenna Thomas

Porthcawl Primary School



We are only a half term into the school year but already we have done so much. Our new Year 6 pupils have filled the large shoes left behind by last year's amazing class. They have been great role models for the rest of the school and are enjoying all the extra freedom and responsibility.

After a busy first year introducing the new Porthcawl Primary Curriculum this term has been much calmer! Already we have designed our own settlements on Minecraft as part of our British Empire module and cheorgraphed and perfomed our own Bollywood dance as part of our India module. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from 'The Welsh Whisperer' who helped us compose and perform our own school song. We managed to cram in all the things that make PPS such a unique place. We look forward to performing our song in the future as it really captures how special Porthcawl Primary School is!

Finally we have continued to work with Charlie from the Osprey's. The pupils always love it when she comes in to lead a rugby session. This time we took part in sessions for the girls. We really enjoyed all the activities and many of the girls are thinking of playing more rugby in the future.

Pupil Achievements Winter 2023

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Cai Williams Year 13

Selected to represent GB in the European Lifesaving Championships in Poland in August Represented Wales in the Commonwealth team in Canada for Pool Lifesaving

Selected as reserve for GB Lifesaving Team in the European Lifesaving Championships Represented Wales in the Commonwealth team in Canada for Pool Lifesaving

Catrin Sainsbury and Liana Sainsbury Year 10 &

Represented Wales in Trampoline and DMT in September

Iwan Froley Year 11
Selected for Wales in British and Irish Junior Mountain Running Championships in September in

Selected for Wales for 2023 BMC Water Polo Cup in

U17's 800m Welsh Schools' Champion in September. Selected to represent Wales at the British Schools Championships in Scotland.

Won a Silver Medal in the Hammer when competing for the Glamorgan Valleys team in the Welsh School Athletics Championships with a throw of 34.33m. Also 4th in the Relay – July 2023

Selected for Wales Basketball team - played 3 matches in Belfast and won them all!

Selected for Rugby League for Bridgend Bulls - who became Welsh U14 champions

Alana O'Keefe Year 9 Represented South Central in the Welsh Classic Challenge Gymnastics Finals in North Wales in

Lucy Bradbury, Elise Spillets, Holly Wiseman, Gwer Williams, Molly Tweedy & Jess Orum Years 10-13 Selected to represent the Glamorgan Valley County U16 and U18 Netball Squads

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	Year	Instrument	Grade
Ava Davies	Year 12	Clarinet	4 Merit
Jemima Dutton	Year 11	Flute	4 Merit
		Piano	6 Pass
		Music Theory	6 Pass
Robyn Davies	Year 9	Clarinet	2 Merit
Roman Jackson	Year 8	Clarinet	1 Merit
Alfie Law	Year 13	Voice - Musical Theatre	8 Merit
Anousha Cronje	Year 13 (leaver)	Oboe	8 Merit
Dylan Warlow	Year 12	Flute	1 Merit
Sioned Owen	Year 11	Piano	4 Merit
		Theory	5 Distinction
Eleri Owen	Year 9	Piano	2 Merit
Lucy Stephens	Year 11	Piano	4 Distinction
Oscar James	Year 10	Electric Guitar	4 Distinction
Jacob Harris	Year 8	Drums	1 Merit
Emilie Carless	Year 9	Music Theory	1 Pass
		Singing Performance	1 Pass

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