

Ysgol Gyfun

PORTHCAWL

Comprehensive School

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Deputy Headteacher/Dirprwy Bennaeth: D.W.A Beard BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher/Dirprwy Bennaeth: C-A. Painter BA (Hons)

29th January 2024

Dear Families,

Last week, we held our annual school show 'Jekyll & Hyde The Musical' at the Grand Pavilion. It was the 45th production in our school history and it goes without saying - we are already looking forward to next year. Talent, tradition and all the associated standards of excellence once again continue at PCS! For those who joined us, I am sure you agree, the performance was incredible!

Our annual school show allows us to showcase our school in the local community. It is a true community event, and it was lovely to see so many of you there. I am in complete awe of the talent and excellence demonstrated by our students. To the cast, crew, and staff, your work ethic, talent and commitment is something to behold – thank you! I am certainly looking forward to our 46th school production. I would also like to thank parents and staff who helped behind the scenes every evening and in the build up to the show.

Over the last two weeks, Year 11 have been busily working through a number of their examinations and assessments which contribute to their final GCSEs in summer 2024. They have completed assessed tasks for many of their option subjects, whilst also working through their Science practical exams. I would like to praise all students for their effort and preparation and pass on my thanks to our staff.

The Year 11 Options Fortnight has now concluded, and it was lovely to meet so many families at our recent Sixth Form Open Evening. This week, Deputy Headteacher, Mr Beard will be reviewing all students' subject choices, analysing class sizes and will begin to prepare the Post 16 curriculum for September 2024. The number of students we expect to join us in September is positive, it great to learn that between 160-170 students have chosen to return to Porthcawl Sixth Form which will take our Sixth Form roll to approximately 300. For those who may who still need to access Sixth Form information will find the following links useful:

- Sixth Form Prospectus: pcs-prospectus-2023.pdf (porthcawlschool.co.uk)
- Sixth Form Options Website: PCS 6th Form Option Choices (google.com)
- Sixth Form Learning Pathways Website: <u>Sixth Form (google.com)</u>

The Year 9 Options Fortnight starts today, with all students making important decisions about their future GCSE subjects. Please can I remind all students and families to read the options information provided, this

will be issued on Tuesday 30th January. To provide additional support, Mr Beard has delivered an introductory assembly today and over the next fortnight subject assemblies will be delivered by Heads of Faculty and Heads of Department. Next week we will be holding our Year 9 Progress Evening on Wednesday 7th February. This evening will take place in person and it will be an opportunity to speak to your child's teachers. I look forward to seeing you there.

• For Year 9 Options Information please see our dedicated website via: GCSE OPTION CHOICES 2024-26 (google.com)

I would also like to take this opportunity to raise the importance of regular attendance at school. Quite simply, it is the access to learning, it is the building of confidence and skills, it is the proven foundation of success. Attending school on a regular, punctual basis is one of the most important ways of making sure young people get the best possible start in life. Our whole school attendance since September 2023 has increased when compared to the same period in the previous academic year and this year it continues to be a whole school improvement target. We encourage all students to attend school on time, every day, and aim for 100% attendance. I ask for your consideration when booking appointments and holidays during school time.

I shall write again next week. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens Headteacher