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Ysgol Gyfun  
**PORTHCAWL**  
Comprehensive School

Headteacher/Pennaeth: M. J. Stephens NPQH, P Dip Ed, BA (Hons)

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

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

1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we move through the second half of this term, I would like to thank all families for their on-going support and dedication. Porthcawl Comprehensive School is at the heart of the community and the community is the heart of our work. By promoting our core values and expectations through the 'Porthcawl Pupil' and our 'Ready to Learn' approaches, we ensure our students and staff actively commit to our daily habits, powerful routines, and expectations.

So far this year, it has been a pleasure to see how many students have participated in a range of activities, including the outstanding performance of Jekyll & Hyde The Musical, numerous sporting fixtures, school council visits to the Senedd, debating events, STEM activities and much more. Academic success is very important, but we also recognise the value of the many character-building opportunities we offer at our school to ensure that the talents and interests of our students are developed and nurtured; thank you for supporting them!

This week, there is a 'Community Focussed' feel to my letter.

### **Cyber First School and College Bronze Award**

I pass on my sincere thanks to Miss Christopher, Head of Computer Science & Digital Technology, who has worked tirelessly to secure PCS a prestigious Cyber First School and College Award. We are one of a few schools and colleges in Wales to achieve this award. The award comes from the National Cyber Security Centre and highlights our commitment to Computing and Cyber education. Within lessons, competitions, experiences and extra-curricular activities, students have developed their skills in a variety of different areas such as coding, cryptography, digital forensics, and ethical hacking. The Cyber First Bronze Award celebrates and recognises our understanding of the importance of cybersecurity in today's digital landscape. I thank Miss Christopher, staff, students and the Governing Body for their hard work and commitment.

### **Clothes Recycling**

A clothes recycling unit has been added to our school site. This is available for all to use in the school community. Donations will be used to raise funds for charities such as Holibobs who fundraise for children with cancer to go on holidays with their families to make their end-of-life care more comfortable.

Our **School Uniform** recycling also continues. Uniform items are readily available for our school community. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our parents / carers – thank you.

## Supporting Service Children

Ms K. Owens, Assistant Headteacher, has been successful with a project application to the Supporting Service Children in Education (SSCE) in Wales Fund for 2023-2024. This is a Welsh Government funded programme to build networks and provide support for children of Armed Forces personnel. Our SSEC Cymru funding will be used to run extra-curricular projects and enrichment events to support pupils in our school.

## Bridgend High Sheriff Awards

This year, we submitted five nominations for the Mid-Glamorgan High Sheriff Awards. These awards recognise the achievements and contribution of young people to their local community. Four of our nominated students were successful and each will receive an award at a presentation event on Thursday 7th March. We will share more information about this in the next edition of the Porthcawl Post.

## Carnegie Mental Health Gold Award

We are currently working towards the 'Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health Gold Award'. We have previously achieved 'Silver Status' and over the next 6 months we aim to achieve 'Gold Status'. Across the school, in a variety of different ways, we pride ourselves on the highly effective support systems we have to support mental health and wellbeing. These are firmly embedded into our ethos at PCS. Assistant Headteacher, Ms K. Owens is working with representatives from Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board and our revalidation meeting will take place during the summer term. This on-going work supports our 'Whole School Approach to Mental Health & Wellbeing'.

## School Site

To improve the facilities for our students a covered shelter and walkway has been installed in P Block. This shelter runs for over 80 metres across both quad areas and provides much welcomed cover to classroom entrances and seating/benches whilst also providing a dry standing area and walkway for our students and staff.

## School Assemblies

This week, our assembly theme has been based on 'The Porthcawl Pupil' with the message: 'Desire to Thrive'. There has been a focus on the beliefs, values, and characteristics we want our students to develop to thrive in the adult world. Assembly themes linked to the 'Porthcawl Pupil' will continue in the forthcoming weeks.

## School Uniform

As part of our commitment to creating a purposeful atmosphere where students are "Ready to Learn" I would like to highlight school uniform. It is important to note that almost all students wear the correct uniform each day and any concerns in relation to uniform apply to very few students in our school of 1250. For all students, it is essential to uphold the requirements and expectations of our school uniform policy. This ensures an environment where all members of our community adhere to our uniform standards, and it promotes a sense of pride and identity. 'Belonging' and 'Community' is something we pride ourselves on at PCS. Hoodies (including sports PCS hoodies) are not part of our school uniform (we encourage students to wear a plain coat to school if they are cold) in addition, leggings and white socks are not part of our school uniform.

We kindly request your support in ensuring that your child's school uniform meets our uniform policy and expectations. Your co-operation in helping us to address these matters will ensure effective partnership working and help to maintain a positive atmosphere within the school where staff, through our "Ready to Learn" approaches will not need to challenge students about their appearance and failure to comply with expectations.



If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Finally, I would like to thank all families who continue to support our work and who work closely with us to ensure that the young people at Porthcawl Comprehensive School achieve their very best.

I thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens

Headteacher