

Porthcawl POST

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter | Cylchlythyr Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl



Awards Evening 2024

On 12th March, we were absolutely delighted to welcome pupils, parents and carers to celebrate their achievements in our traditional Awards Evening. It was fantastic to be able to host families again this year to share in the experience and to publicly congratulate our pupils on their outstanding achievements.

As usual, this occasion mainly rewarded the efforts of the pupils for the previous academic year. Mr Stephens introduced the evening which was extremely well attended, and it was lovely to see some old faces returning, as well as the new Year 7, with many pupils attending their first Awards Evening. Thank you to Ellie Parry and Wil Morgans our young musicians who kindly gave up their time and made the evening so special.



For more **Award Winners** please turn to the following pages >>>



Many congratulations to the following pupils:-

(This Year's)

Year 7 Form Prize

7JC	Eliza Cinderby	Rebekah Baker
7JB	Nancy Cockel	Ieuan Protheroe-Williams
7OM	Elsa Palmer-King	Lewis Taverner
7RL	Chloe McMurray	William Jenkins
7LM	Summer Mainwaring	Eden Wong
7OP	Grace Stanbridge	Umasuthan Mohanaranja
7RM	Finley Hobday	Posey John



Last Year's

Year 7 Excellence

7LC	Imogen Brown, Samuel Thomas
7GD	Roman Jackson
7JG	Molly Marchant
7JW	Ashley Hare
7RP	Lucy Pedler
7NS	Eloise Wyatt
7OW	Annie Rees

Progress

Lilia Sidoli-Kenny, Jasmine Perry Evans
Elsie Richards
Xavier Morgan-Sperduty
Travis Barker
Hattie Edwards
Caitlin Jenkins
Iris Evans

Honours

Isabela Norman
Willow Smithen
Samuel Boughton
Leila Williams
Lilly-Anna Tucker
Jude Jenkins
Lily Hodges



Last Year's

Year 8 Excellence

8AM	Ashe Thomas
8JM	Jack Corish
8HR	William Morris
8HG	Evie Knight
8LK	Isabella Holloway
8ME	Rhys Stacey
8LT	Zachary Jones

Progress

Archie O'Connell
Jacob Rose
Philippa Elliott
Emily Baker
Emyr Hales
Ruby Jeynes
Finnley McKenzie-Smith

Honours

Jack Parrott
Zac Sherriff
William Morgan
Tesni Morgan
Lily Rees
Chloe Hall
Emily Jordan

Last Year's

Year 9 Excellence

9SB	Bailey Cooper
9JB	Felix Wren-Owens
9ES	Jack Davies
9CD	Theo Harris
9LM	Katie Palmer
9OP	Rhys Davies
9JS	Catrin Sainsbury

Progress

Joshua Sealey, Ella Stubbs, Elsie Spilletts
Amelia Davies
Daisy Barnfield
Dylan Evans
Seren Pope
Dylan Ryell
Layla Davies

Honours

Alexander Evans
Adam Willis
Seren Salberg
Adam Morris
Joseff Hall
Hallie Maine-James
Bethan Deeks





Year 10

Academic Effort Eva Dickenson
Samuel Lane



Year 11

Academic Effort Ellie Parry & Ffion Thomas
Darcie Rose

Year 12

Academic Effort Illia Zhuravok
Ellie Smith

Year 13

Academic Effort Joseph Dingle, Rhys Tunnadine
& Oliver Ridd
Thomas Burke



Sports Awards

GCSE PE Alexander Wren-Owens
Molly Tweedy

Key Stage 3

Matthew Clatworthy & Alexander Evans
Daisy Barnfield & Elsie Spilletts

Drama Awards

Junior Drama Student of the Year	William Aubrey
Senior Drama Student of the Year	Jacob Green
Drama Performance of the Year	Francis Ezard
Porthcawl Little Theatre Award	Aled Davies

Miscellaneous Awards

Howard Cave Memorial Trophy for Art
The Laura Thompson Award for Textiles
Award for Technology
Stuart Gass Memorial Award Maths
Science Student of the Year
Elizabeth Sumner Challenge Award
Geraint Watkins Memorial Shield Junior Musician
Gwen Hughes Memorial Cup Lower school Wind Player
Senior Musician of the Year
Attendance Award
Modern Foreign Languages Award

Bronwyn Jones
Daisy Richards
Grace Baker, Carys Clee & Bethan Morgan
Rhys Jenkins
Joseph Dingle
Dylan Warlow
Olivia Evans-Jones
Rhys Stacey
Rhys Lloyd
Morgan Thomas
Sophia Walters

Presentation to Head Team 2023-24

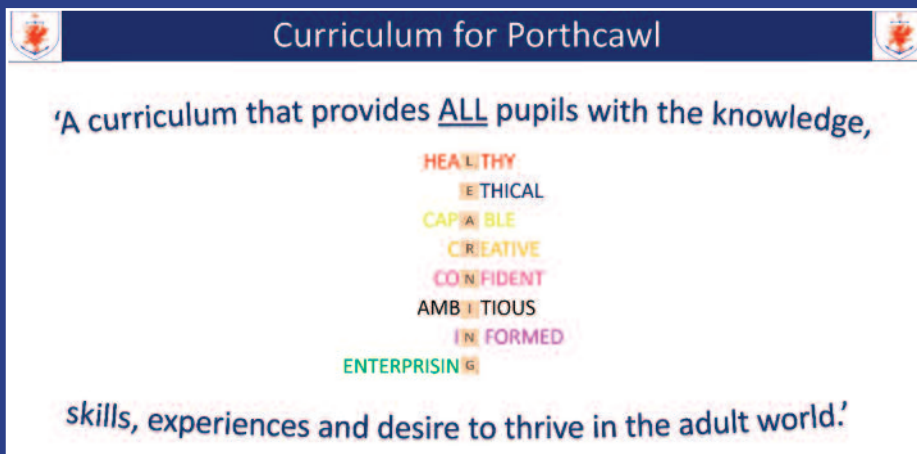
Student Leaders	Tristyn James & Amelie Symmons
Deputy Student Leaders	Isobel Comley, Finty Kehoe & Isabella Hemington-Gorse
Assistant Student Leaders	Zane Aldridge-McLean, Thomas Coles, Eve Hickman, Ellen Hughes, Efa Morris, Scarlett Osborne, Mali Perry & Naaryanan Rajasubeshan



Awards Evening 2024

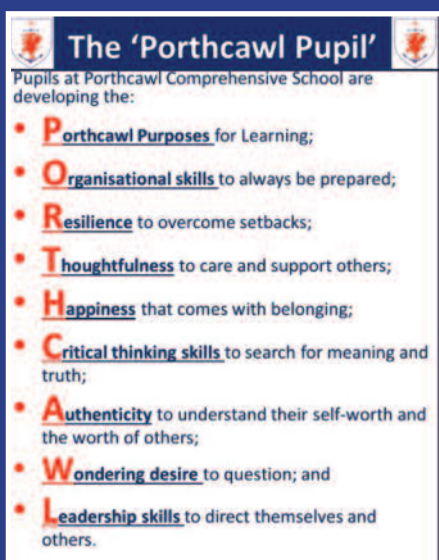


Headteacher's Introduction



Once again, another academic year has flown by and as the term draws to a close, we reflect on the many and varied successes of our young people over the academic year 2023-2024. The school's successes are judged by many in a range of different ways, but first and foremost it is our pupils' success in learning that is important and will serve them best for the future. Our curriculum vision is to "provide all pupils with the knowledge, skills, experience, and desire to thrive in the adult world", and the 'desire to thrive' has been demonstrated in abundance by the pupils this year! There has been so much success and achievement to celebrate, and I am incredibly grateful to the staff at PCS who go above and beyond to make sure our pupils have lots of positive experiences and opportunities.

I would like to thank everyone across the PCS community for your continued support. At the time of writing this piece, pupils in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 are sitting their Summer GCSE, AS and A Level examinations and by the time this edition of the Porthcawl Post is published I imagine that most, if not all, are already completed. I wish all pupils in Year 10 through to Year 13 the very best for the Summer 2024



examination series and for your future. I look forward to seeing you all on GCSE and A Level results day and I am sure the hard work will pay off! We look forward to welcoming a large number of Year 11 pupils back to the Sixth Form in September with 180 pupils joining us and our sixth form numbers to exceed 300!

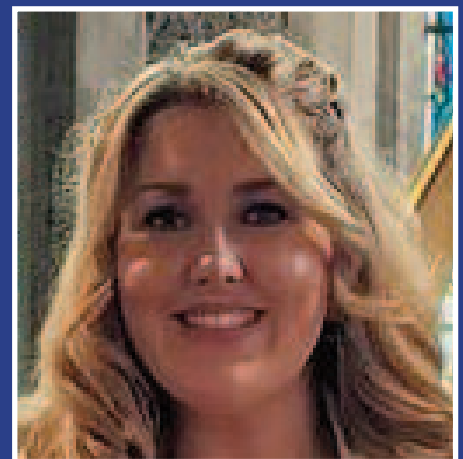
This year, across the curriculum, the thirst for knowledge, creativity and enthusiasm has been infectious. Pupils have embraced new subjects, tackled difficult concepts, and taken on leadership roles with steadfast dedication. It has been great to witness their progress and to see them develop as the 'Porthcawl Pupil' ready to thrive in the adult world. As shared in the Porthcawl Post and via school events during the year, together, we have achieved remarkable milestones. Your children have excelled in competitions, showcased their talents in art, participated in outstanding drama productions and demonstrated excellence in sport. We have celebrated their continued progress, their community work and their efforts that embody the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl' and 'The Porthcawl Pupil'. Progress and academic attainment have been excellent!

I shall start with congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Kate Day, who on 29th of March gave birth to a baby girl, Isabel, 8lb 9oz. All are doing well and on behalf of everyone at PCS I pass on my very best wishes. Wonderful news - enjoy the family time!

There are several staffing updates from me this term as we say farewell and best wishes to a few staff who leave Porthcawl Comprehensive School. We say farewell to Teacher of Computer Science & Digital Technology, Mrs Helen Carpanini who first started work at PCS in 2002. We thank her for all she has done - 22 years of service to PCS, we are very grateful! Mrs Carpanini has made a much-valued contribution to our Computer Science and Digital Technology Department and over this time she has played a significant role in the success of these subjects at GCSE and A Level across the school. When Mrs Carpanini joined the school, she had previously worked as an IT



analyst and programmer in industry, holding senior roles and working with national companies - it is an understatement to say that she is expert with all things programming! Throughout her time at PCS, cohort after cohort of pupils have benefited from her expertise and knowledge. I would like to personally thank Mrs Carpanini for her hard work, loyalty, and dedication she has shown to us over the last 22 years. I offer the very best wishes for the future. Enjoy the remainder of the Summer term, everyone at PCS wishes you all the very best. Have a long, healthy, and happy retirement.



We also say farewell to Mrs Laura Cartwright, who joined PCS in 2010 as a Teacher of Religious Studies and now leaves PCS from her post as Head of Religious Studies. Mrs Cartwright has made a much-valued contribution to our Religious Studies Department and Humanities Faculty whilst also contributing to religion, values, and ethics across the school. Throughout her time in PCS, she has supported many pupils to achieve their very best at GCSE and A Level and has recently played an important role leading the development of Religious Studies within the new Curriculum for Porthcawl. I would like to personally thank Mrs Cartwright for her work within and leadership of the Religious Studies Department and thank her for the hard work, loyalty, and dedication she has shown to us over the last 14 years. I offer the very best wishes for the future, enjoy the family time and the next steps. Enjoy the remainder of the Summer term, everyone at PCS wishes you all the very best.

We also say farewell to Dr Rhodri Lewis who joined PCS in 2022. We thank him for all that he has done over the last two years, we are very grateful. Dr Lewis has made a much-valued contribution to our Science Faculty and over this time, he has provided students at Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5 with a wealth of academic knowledge from his time spent in scientific research. I would like to personally thank Dr Lewis for his hard work and effort over the last two years and the very best of wishes as he takes up the post of Teacher of Biology at the Cathedral School in Cardiff. Enjoy the remainder of the Summer term, everyone at PCS wishes you the best of luck in your new role.

I would also like to welcome back Mr Baker who will join us for another year at PCS as he covers Mrs Day's maternity leave, and I would like to pass on my thanks to Mrs S Owen and Miss L Morris who have covered maternity leave positions during 2023-2024 – thank you. In September we welcome back Mrs Degay and Mrs Stanton following their maternity leave.

In September 2024 we also welcome new teaching staff:

• **Mr Simon Matthews, Teacher of Computer Science & Digital Technology (Second in Department)**

• **Mrs Gemma Thomas, Head of Religious Studies**

As I have written this piece before the end of the Summer term, there may well be further staff changes and I will provide a further staffing update in September 2024.

As we end the year, it is important that I bring to your attention the significant challenges that our school and all schools in Bridgend are currently facing in relation to budgets and the subsequent impact on the services we provide. Over the next few years, the financial constraints imposed on all schools in Bridgend will present significant challenges and will place every school in a very difficult budgetary position. At a time of financial strain, I continue to use our available resources as best as possible to provide the very best for our pupils within the constraints of our budget – very

simply, the core provision in our school and high-quality teaching and learning. Please be reassured that I will give the utmost consideration to any decision to cut back on the provisions and services available in our school. However, I believe it is inevitable that, at least in the short term, PCS and other schools will not be able to provide and sustain the same level of support and services across our schools. We will do all that we can at this time.

To end, the school Governors have had another very busy year under the Chairmanship of Mrs A Thomas and Vice Chair, Ms A Morgan. Together, the Governing Body has been providing the important vision, direction and policy decisions affecting the school. Once again, we thank you for your continued work with the school and our community. To the pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 who are leaving this Summer to take up employment, training and further and higher education I wish them every success for the future.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers, pupils and staff for their continued support. It has been another successful year at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and I look forward to many more. Significantly, we are looking to re-launch our PTA in September 2024 and are looking for volunteers. Please can any interested parties contact the school via info@porthcawlschool.co.uk and provide us with your name and contact email address and we will add you to our mailing list.

I wish you all a warm and pleasant Summer.

Kind regards,
M Stephens
(Headteacher)



Housekeeping

Attendance

Parents / carers are politely reminded to contact the school on each day of a pupil's absence. This will ensure the safety of pupils and avoid unnecessary messages being sent home. Another safety point to note is that any pupil who is unwell should go to first aid, where they will be assessed, and, if necessary, arrangements will be made for the pupil to be collected. In these cases, parents / carers will be contacted by a member of staff. Pupils should not be making contact with parents / carers to arrange collection themselves.

Uniform

Please note, on health and safety grounds we do not allow pupils in Years 7-11 to wear any jewellery in school. The exception to this rule is a wristwatch. We ask the pupils to remove these objects during PE and games, to prevent them from causing injury.

When purchasing new items of uniform, please refer to the uniform requirements on the website. Please note that the PE hoodie is to be worn for PE and games ONLY and is not part of the daily school uniform.

Giving Blood for the First Time

On Tuesday 16th April, the Heads of Sixth Form organised for the Welsh Blood Service to visit school for the first time since 2019, with their mobile unit. Staff and pupils were delighted to have the opportunity to give blood, many for the first time, and the day was a huge success. Thank you to everyone involved.

Sofia Chayka from Year 13 described what the day meant to her,

"It was my first time donating blood, and it was an utterly fantastic experience! It was fascinating to learn the impact it would make on people's lives, and it was rewarding to know that I'd given back to the community. It also helped me overcome my fears about the blood donation process. I can only praise all the nurses, who were very supportive, caring, and knowledgeable. Thus, they helped me gain an insightful, life-changing, calm, and fulfilling experience of giving blood. I would do it again!"



High Sheriff Community Youth Awards 2024

A number of our pupils were successful in being recognised at the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan Community Youth Awards. The event took place at the Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel, and celebrated the excellent achievements of young members of the community. All winners were presented with a certificate and a monetary prize from the High Sheriff, Professor Jean White CBE MStJ.

The PCS award winners were:

Wil Morgans: Highly Commended (£100)

Jamie Beemer: Sports Award (£250)

The Year 11 PCS Wellbeing Ambassadors: 2nd place group (£500)

Kyle Furness: 2nd place individual (£500)

Congratulations to all award winners!



Fundraising for Velindre

As part of the GCSE Welsh Baccalaureate course - within the Enterprise & Employability Challenge, we asked the students to work with and support the cancer charity Velindre.

The current Year 11 have really shown their commitment and worth during this part of the project. The pupils worked in teams to come up with ideas to raise awareness, create a product or service to improve the experience of patients and families at Velindre and finally the option to raise money/funds for the charity. There were many different events that the pupils arranged and ran to raise money, such as cake sales, football matches, selling cold drinks at the tennis tournament, organising a film viewing and even running a triathlon. As a year group, the pupils raised a massive £786.93! This is a huge achievement for the pupils that took part especially as it is the first year we have run this project. Pupils that designed and made prototypes to raise awareness were also highly successful making tote bags, phone cases, keyrings, and t-shirts. All in all, the year group made me a very proud leader of the Welsh Baccalaureate with all the hard work and success that they achieved.

Thank you, Year 11!

Miss Lambert



Humanities Our World Final Project



We, the Year 7 pupils of Porthcawl Comprehensive School, have been working on the regeneration of Salt Water Car Park in our Humanities lessons. In our class there were 6 different groups which consisted of managers, researchers, physical creators, script writers, architects and promoters. Our Humanities class, like all classes, had to choose what to include in our plans for the regeneration of Porthcawl. We chose a shopping centre, with entertainment, food and retail included. The architects were tasked with drawing the design on paper, which was later created using scrap materials by the physical creators. Social media, videos, leaflets and the final presentation were created by the promoters to advertise the project. Speech writers put together the scripts that were adapted into the final PowerPoint presentation. Researchers ventured into the internet, finding out about the past successful projects in South Wales and the history of Porthcawl in general. Managers ensured that each group were focused and on task and they also relayed information. Each group worked tirelessly to make this project happen.

Suki Francombe Year 7



Duke of Edinburgh Award – Year 12

In March the Year 12 DofE group had their first navigation training session in the hills of Llangeinor. They had the opportunity to put their theory skills into practice and demonstrate a range of techniques such as:-

- How to set the map
- Locating their position from the map
- Determining geographical direction and direction of travel from the map
- Checking direction of paths and identifying features in the countryside
- Setting the map using a compass, taking and following a bearing

Pupils enjoyed the day and are looking forward to their next training walk in Margam before they complete their qualifying expedition in July.

This is what they say about their experiences...

"I have learnt what clothes I need to wear such as waterproof trousers and a coat. I am fully prepared! As well as clothes, I have learnt how to use a map and compass successfully while out walking, which was easy once learnt. There was rain once we got to the top which I was prepared for. However, I did not have a first aid kit so next time I will need to bring one!" (Carys Atyeo)

"Throughout my walk I have learnt how to properly read and follow a map. I had the correct kit for changing weather. I also brought a first aid kit and enough food and water. I used the features on the map to identify buildings, the stream, field boundaries, contours and trig points." (Gracie Davies)

"Firstly, the walk was not only very fun, but also extremely rewarding in terms of converting skills learnt in the classroom into real life situations. I had great success in finding bearings and proved

a great asset to our walking group. Secondly, I felt like I was adequately prepared for this walk as I came with a full first aid kit, and waterproof overclothes. Furthermore, I had plenty of food to keep me energised throughout the walk. Finally, I believe this walk developed my map reading and teamwork skills to help me prepare for future walks." (William Davies)

"In Llangeinor, using a map was more difficult at times than in the classroom as what's marked on the map is sometimes not as clear in real life, for example, borders of fields have sometimes been cut down or removed, so took more thought to find exactly. It also gave us a chance to properly use our knowledge of navigation using pacing and calculating speed. Pacing is slightly different when walking over rough, uneven terrain.

Walking in Llangeinor gave me a reference of my abilities to walk distances in difficult conditions. This gave me a better understanding of the conditions we need to consider as a group for the longer expedition in the Gower." (Joel Griffiths)

"During our walk we practiced our map skills by reading the map, taking bearings from point to point naming different features on the map. We also found our walking speed from point to point. I think I was prepared with my equipment. I just needed gloves as my hands were cold. I brought waterproof bottoms, but I found I didn't need them. It is better to bring it and not use it rather than not have it and need it." (Kate O'Leary).

"We used many techniques to find out where we needed to go. Also, we were prepared for a variety of weather conditions which was very useful when it rained. I enjoyed the walk as it was very fun and nice, and I liked the view." (Reuben Stroud).



Year 12 DofE Training Update

The group have continued with their training and completed route cards for their qualifying expedition in Gower in July. We finally had an opportunity with the weather to practice pitching tents in school. The group went to Margam Park on April 27th to complete a further training walk and practice walking with a full rucksack to get used to the weight needed for the expedition. Pupils also practiced using the Trangia stoves to make a hot drink. There were some very strange approaches observed on how pupils believe a hot chocolate should be made (Ellie Parry). Some pupils did forget some kit, but I am sure they will be fully prepared for the main expedition in July.

A big shout out to June's Sewing Services from Brackla, Bridgend. June has been very supportive repairing zips and rucksacks for our school DofE group.

Thanks June!



Pupil Running - 'Run with Liv' Event

A number of Year 12 pupils have taken up running as their 'Physical' section for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Olivia Purchase in my form was also keen to start running and decided to organise a 'Run with Liv' event. We set a target to train and complete the Porthcawl 5K Park Run. A number of pupils were apparently "ill" on the day but have promised to take part in a future event. However, a big well done must go to Ioan Cross, Ellie Parry, Olivia Purchase, Mr. Pucella, Amba Thomas, Kate O'Leary (and her Mum) for sticking to the date and completing the event. For many of the pupils this was their very first Porthcawl Park Run and they are keen to continue in the future.

Thanks Mr. Pucella



Wear a Hat Day for Jenna / Brain Tumour Research

On the last day of the Spring Term (Friday 22nd March), pupils in Year 11 arranged a charity event for 'Wear a Hat Day'. This is a charity very close to our hearts as we sadly lost a delightful pupil earlier this year. Jenna's friends within the year group wanted to raise as much money as possible to support the Brain Tumour Research Charity in memory of Jenna.

Wear a Hat Day was first introduced in 2010 and all money raised goes towards ground-breaking research at their Centres of Excellence. This year marked the 15th anniversary of this fantastic charity. Approximately £1700 was raised by the school and Jenna's mum was very grateful for the support. Thank you to all pupils, parents and carers that supported the non-uniform day and cake sale, this will make a massive difference to the charity.

There are also other events in the pipeline to support Jenna's Mum, Debra, who is continuing to raise money for Brain Tumour Research. We have a group of pupils and some staff that are getting involved in the Porthcawl 10K on the 7th July 2024. If you would like to support their fundraising page, please use the fundraising QR Code.



Pop-up Library at Porthcawl Comprehensive School

Porthcawl Library and Porthcawl Comprehensive School have joined forces to reach reluctant readers and busy students with a supply of free books. Since January, the town's library has been providing a selection of teenage fiction for a pop-up library at the school. Initially, the pop-library was aimed at Year 7 pupils but there are plans to offer the service to other year groups too.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School's Steve Howells said: "As the Literacy Coordinator, I strongly advocate for the close collaboration between our school and the library. A library should be the heart and soul of any town; reading itself offers children and adults alike the opportunity to access a boundless wealth of imagination, history and experience.

"With the library's strong community links and the close proximity to the school, it is clear that our students can benefit from the immense wealth of resources and knowledge the library has. In the words of the Manic Street Preachers, 'libraries gave us power' and, with this in mind, I firmly believe that this partnership will enrich our students' learning and empower them to become lifelong learners."



Porthcawl Comprehensive has appointed Library Ambassadors for the school: pupils Casper and Chloe from Year 7, who are thoroughly enjoying the role.

Casper said: "I think that reading tends to transport your mind to a different place and it helps you to overcome problems and imagine a different world where things are better whilst simultaneously improving your mind and helping the world".

Chloe said: "The Soul Hunter was really enjoyable and had lots of twists and jump-scares – a good guy could turn into a villain or vice versa! The second book I've taken from the

library is called Empress and Aniya: it's really relatable and I'm looking forward to reading more. I think libraries are important because when it comes to books, you may not like the book – being able to return a book at any time is really comforting as you know you haven't thrown your money away!"

Karen Wyatt, Porthcawl Library's Library Assistant added: "As a fairly new Library Assistant and an avid reader, it felt frustrating to see so many incredible teenage fiction books sat on a shelf, with so few issues. The pop-up library idea evolved out of a wish to widen the access to our books for young people".

Junior Maths Challenge 2024



On Thursday 25th April some of our Year 7 and 8 had a go at the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

For the Year 7 pupils it was their first go at this and I hope that they will, having enjoyed it this year take part and have another go next year. I also hope that the success of those this year will also encourage more to take part.

The UK Mathematics Trust is a registered charity and it organises national mathematics competitions and other enrichment activities for UK secondary school pupils. Further information about the trust is available at www.ukmt.org.uk.

The Junior Maths challenge is a 60-minute, 25 multiple choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. It is not about answering all the questions in the hour but about answering the ones that you think you can answer correctly.

Here is a selection of some of the questions at the start of the paper, how would you get on? (Answers on the back page).

Which of the following could have a capacity of 10 litres?				
A An aeroplane	B A bucket	C A cup	D A dustpan	E An egg
Gill is 36 this year. In which year will her age next be a square?				
A 2025	B 2037	C 2047	D 2052	E 2060
A drink is made by mixing one part of cordial with four parts of water. What percentage of the drink is cordial?				
A 20	B 25	C 40	D 75	E 80
What is the value of $1 + 2 - 3 \times 4 \div 5$?				
A 0.2	B 0.3	C 0.4	D 0.5	E 0.6
Which of the following has the same remainder when divided by 3 as it does when divided by 4?				
A 7	B 11	C 17	D 19	E 25

All participants get a certificate of entry as all score on the challenge. Those that score in the top 50% of entrants of which there are over 700,000 every year receive either a Bronze, Silver or Gold award depending on their scores. The top 8-9% are awarded the Gold and with a qualifying score, the top couple of thousand are invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo paper.

Dewi Thomas has for the 2nd year running been invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo Paper. Well Done and good luck Dewi!

Results

YEAR 8

Gold

Dewi Thomas and Best in School, Invitation to Kangaroo Junior Challenge
Samuel Thomas

Silver

Katelyn Bebb

Bronze

Caitlin Jenkins
Tom Tremain
Imogen Brown
Dexter De Celis

Participation

Alexander Dickenson
Molly Marchant
Logan Mowforth
Isabela Norman
Eloise Wyatt

YEAR 7

Silver

Eden Wong and Best in Year
Alexander Williams

Bronze

Umasuthan Mohanaraja
Sebastian Gregory-Pryke

Participation

Matthew Davies
Austin Habberley
Olivia Harvey
Jonas Joshy
Louis Morris
Spencer Phillips
Theo Richards
Owen Stephens
Max Unsworth
Casper Wren-Owens



ESU Competition



This term in the Drama Department we had four of our Year 9 pupils participate in an English Speaking Competition - Performing Shakespeare through Monologues and Duologues. We had the pleasure of entering two pieces. The first piece was performed by Lily Rees and Eli Nugent, who performed a section from Shakespeare's "Macbeth" where they both played Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. The second piece we entered was a piece from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" performed by Juno Francombe and Isabella Maynard.

Luckily, both pieces got through to the second round, which was held at

Birchgrove Comprehensive School in Swansea.

Unfortunately, only one of our pieces made it through to the third round which PCS happily hosted on 14/05/2024.

We all thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this as we loved the experience and it was a great way to grow our confidence.

We really enjoyed meeting new people and getting to know how important drama is to them and all of their experiences, and also developing our understanding of Shakespearean language.

Lily Rees Year 9

National Theatre Connections

During the Summer of last year, we as a school signed up for the National Theatre Connections Festival. An initiative that gives performing arts groups and schools an opportunity to work with new writers and stage their plays in professional theatres. As a group we chose to perform Charlie Josephine's 'Orchestra' a play that grapples themes of perfectionism, pressure and the joys of creating art. After two sold out home performances on March 21st and 23rd, which left audience's buzzing with excitement, we moved our production and staged our play at The Sherman Theatre in Cardiff. For the majority of the cast it was their first time being able to perform in a professional theatre, seeing the ins and outs of the performing arts from a completely different perspective. The performance at The Sherman was a complete success and the cast received many congratulations from Welsh directors, creatives and beyond. We are so incredibly proud of the cast and their hard work and cross our fingers as we wait for the next step in the Connections Festival.



Scarlett

Hi, I'm Scarlett and I have been a successful candidate to study a BA in Musical Theatre at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. I am delighted to have attained such a prestigious place at one of the UK's top Drama Schools. I applied through UCAS conservatoires. I submitted a self-tape on the 22nd



February, and was invited for a recall on the 27th March, where I participated in a dance workshop and a one-on-one singing and acting audition. For the dance workshop, we learnt a routine to "Toreadorables" from Gypsy, and practised pirouette and kick exercises. The dance was taught really quickly but was super fun and up tempo. I also sang "Spring Cleaning" from the Fugitive Songs, "If you hadn't but you did" from Two on the Aisle, "Fragmented" from Super You, and was asked to sing "Once Upon a Dream" from Jekyll and Hyde in the moment. Then I performed Jo's monologue from 'The One' by Vicky Jones and was redirected by the audition panel to talk as if I'm exposing my own insecurities, which was terrifying at first, but I got into it. Lastly, I had an interview with the audition panel, who were really welcoming and lovely to talk to. If I were to offer any advice, as cliché as it is, just be yourself because the audition panel want to see what you are like as a person and how well you would work with them. Overall it was such a fun and exciting experience despite the stress of it being an audition, and the people were really nice and talkative, so I'm so glad I have the opportunity to start studying here from September. I am so excited and am looking forward to it!

Enzo

Hi, my name is Enzo and I've been a successful applicant for the Stage Management and Technical Theatre course at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD). My course receives around 200 applications each year, but the college only takes on about 20 of those applicants. I applied through UCAS in November 2023. I applied to 4 different Drama schools and had interview offers from all 4. I was requested to submit further materials through the platform "Accepted", for this I submitted my portfolio and the video of my AS Level Drama Exam. My biggest piece of advice to people for university course interviews would be just to be yourself, the interviewer is looking for people with personality and they want people who they can teach on their course, they are not looking for perfection. My interview with RWCMD was conducted by Daz James and Emma Hale, both senior lecturers in Stage and Production. My interview was conducted online and lasted about 20 minutes. About 10 days after my interview, I had an email to confirm my Unconditional Offer, following this I accepted the offer and confirmed my place. My favourite part of the process has been attending performances and



events at the college and I'm looking forward to attending my offer holder day at the end of May and meeting the other people on my course. To anyone wishing to pursue a career in the events industry, my biggest piece of advice would be to go see live theatre and music, this hugely helped me in my interview as I had so many experiences to draw back on and talk about. I would also say that attending events that your university is hosting can be beneficial, I was lucky enough to attend a production-based summer school in 2023 and got to experience the teaching style of the college but was also able to talk to the small group of core teaching staff at the college and begin to form a relationship with the school providing me opportunities to see new productions and make connections.

Mary Poppins

On the 12th April, Year 8 Drama Club performed an abridged version of the classical musical Mary Poppins to a packed-out audience of parents/carers and friends in the Drama Studio. The piece was directed by Will and Lucy Aubrey, Year 10 GCSE Drama Students. Will and I loved the opportunity to direct the Year 8 pupils and we have definitely developed our directing and organisational skills as a result. It was a great experience and we are so pleased we get to do it again when working on the Young Playwrights' Festival in the Summer term.

Lucy Aubrey Year 10





Drama Practicals



Year 11 GCSE Drama Scripted Practical Exams

The Drama Department would like to say a massive thank you to all of the Year 11 Drama classes for producing strong Drama Practical work for their Scripted Examinations which took place on Friday 15th March in the Drama Studio. It was a hectic rehearsal process and not without its challenges. However, on the day all of the pupils gave their very best and we were proud of their efforts and enthusiasm - well done all!



AS Drama Practical Exams

In February and March this year, the AS Drama class completed their examined performance of a reinterpretation of a set text. There were five groups in total, reinterpreting a number of texts, such as, Blue Remembered Hills, Into the Woods, A Doll's House and the play Two. The pieces were re-interpreted using a variety of theatrical styles from Brecht to Artaud. The work created was excellent and thoroughly entertaining.

"I loved stepping out of my comfort zone and performing a style that I had never even heard of before." Wil Morgans

"I really enjoyed the process even though it was quite demanding at times." Ruby Richards

Goodbye to Year 13

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

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

We are so proud of what you have achieved!

"It was really fun engaging with the stimulus and to explore the topics we covered through our own writing and design".
Enzo Liple



Language Bake Off

There have been lots of entries for the language Bake off competition. What fantastic efforts and great cakes!

The German Pretzels were scrumptious. The winner was Carys Watkins from 7JB. Well done! Fantastic effort! Second place was Alana O'Keefe (9HR) and third place was Jessica Brown (7OP). Well done both!

The Welsh cakes looked amazing and were super tasty too! Thank you to all who took part.

Keep baking!



Year 7 Languages Easter Egg

In the week before Easter, the Languages Department organised an Easter Egg Hunt for pupils in Year 7. There were 10 posters hidden around the school with eggs and letters on and the pupils had to find them all to figure out a secret word.

Congratulations to Carys Watkins and Jessica Brown who were the first pupils to find the secret word! A huge well done also to William McGreiv, Kaiden Paul, Mackenzie Payne, Sebastian Gregory-Pryke and Casper Wren-Owens who also worked out the word! Très bien! Super gemacht! Da iawn pawb!

MFL Department

Dressing up for German!

In our German lesson we had lots of fun role playing at a German snack stand. It was an amazing opportunity to use our German vocabulary and knowledge. We dressed up in traditional German costumes and hats and asked for snack items like Pretzels and Bratwurst.

Lilia Sidoli-Kenny, Imogen Brown & Isabela Norman
Year 8



London Trip 2024 - French film review

In the beginning of February 2024, a group of 50 pupils and staff from Porthcawl and CCYD from Years 9- 11 went on a day trip to London at the French Institute to watch a French film called "Le temps des secrets" / "The time of secrets". This film was amazing!(check out the trailer in English: The Time of

Secrets / Le Temps des secrets (2022) - Trailer (English Subs) (youtube.com)) Before we watched the film, we had free time around Kensington to eat and go shopping. In my opinion, this trip was really fun. I would definitely recommend it if you like watching films or going shopping! The drive to London is usually around 4 hours but it felt more like 10 minutes as everyone was having such a fantastic time!

Emily Jordan Year 9

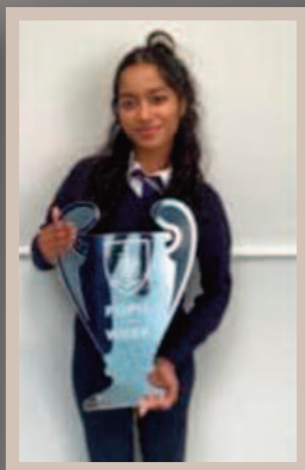




Hot chocolate
Friday!



Porthcawl Pupils of the Week



Eisteddfod 2024



Overall Scores:

1st Powys	1394
2nd Dyfed	1328
3rd Morgannwg	1287
4th Gwynedd	858



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

March 19th saw the exciting return of Eisteddfod Ysgol Porthcawl. This year, with the closure of the Grand Pavilion, we decided to hold this important and unique festival in the Jubilee Theatre, and Year 7 were given the opportunity to celebrate and enjoy the day as part of the Ysgol Porthcawl community.

Once again, the immense talent of our pupils impressed everyone involved with the event. The standard of competition was of the highest level and we enjoyed superb performances ranging from singing to recitation, instrumental pieces to folk dancing with each competitor showing off their talents to a very receptive audience. The standard of competition augers very well for the future!

No Eisteddfod is complete without the Chairing of the Bard which recognises a pupil for writing an outstanding poem in Welsh. This year Pollyanna Dutton from Year 7 won this prestigious accolade with her poem 'Cymru'. The colour and tradition of the ceremony was a fitting end to another Eisteddfod which was full of music, poetry and outstanding performances – in the

best traditions of this unique festival. And of course, no chairing ceremony would be complete without our very own Archdderwydd (Archdruid), Mr Alan Thomas, to host the ceremony.

The Eisteddfod drew to a close with an immense Battle of the Bands and we were treated to 4 amazing performances from our very talented pupils. The audience showed their support and voted for their favourite band and the winners were.....SEVERN STREET!!

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

"I am sad to have performed in my final Eisteddfod, but it will be an experience I will always remember, and I am very grateful for this performance opportunity." Poppy Shingler Y13



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

Ar Fawrth 19eg gwelon ni ddychweliad cyffrous Eisteddfod Ysgol Porthcawl. Eleni gyda'r Pafiliwn yn cau, penderfynon ni gynnal yr ŵyl bwysig ac unigryw hon yn Theatr y Jiwibili gan roi'r cyfle i Flwyddyn 7 ddathlu a mwynhau'r diwrnod fel rhan o gymuned Ysgol Porthcawl.

Unwaith eto, gwnaeth dalent enfawr ein disgyblion argraff ar bawb a oedd yn ymwneud â'r digwyddiad. Roedd safon y cystadlaethau o'r safon uchaf, a mwynheudon ni ystod o berfformiadau o ganu i adrodd, darnau offerynnol i ddrama gyda phob cystadleuydd yn arddangos eu talentau i gynulleidfa dderbyngar iawn. Mae safon y gystadleuaeth yn argoeli'n dda am y dyfodol!

Nid yw'r Eisteddfod yn gyflawn heb Gadeirio'r Bardd sy'n cydnabod disgybl am ysgrifennu cerdd eithriadol yn y Gymraeg. Eleni ein enillydd buddugoliaethus oedd Pollyanna Dutton o Flwyddyn 7 gyda'i cherdd 'Cymru'. Roedd lliw a thraddodiad y seremoni yn ddiwedd addas iawn i Eisteddfod

arall llawn cerddoriaeth, barddoniaeth a pherfformiadau eithriadol – yn nhraddodiad gorau'r ŵyl unigryw hon. Ac wrth gwrs, nid yw Seremoni Gadeirio Ysgol Porthcawl yn gyflawn heb ein Archdderwydd arbennig, Mr Alan Thomas, a wnaeth arwain y seremoni.

Gorffennodd yr Eisteddfod eleni gyda Brwydr enfawr y Bandiau gyda pherfformiadau eithriadol gan ein disgyblion talentog dros ben. Dangosodd y gynulleidfa eu chefnogaeth gan bleidleisio dros eu hoff fand a'r enillwyr oedd... ..SEVERN STREET!!

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





Year 7 Competition

Art Portrait (Year7)

1st	Lily Richards
2nd	Zoe Baldwin
3rd	Liana Sainsbury
HC	Elis Cosson

French

1st	Liana Sainsbury
2nd	Chloe Dunster
3rd	Martha Watts
HC	Jessica Brown
HC	Rebekah Baker

Art - Zentangle Owl (Year 7)

1st	Eliza Cinderby
2nd	Leo Birch
3rd	Matthew Attard

German

1st	Elsa Palmer-King
2nd	Suki Francombe
3rd	Brooke Elliot
HC	Chloe Barkhuysen
HC	Holly Chappell

ICT (Year7)

1st	Seb Hill
2nd	Theo Cannon
3rd	Pollyanna Dutton
HC	Liana Sainsbury
HC	Sebastian Gregory-Pryke
HC	Zoe Baldwin
HC	Louis Longthorn
HC	Matthew Attard
HC	Samuel Protheroe
HC	Daniel Verrells
HC	Sophie Liple
HC	Caleb Gilbert
HC	Amalie James
HC	Kelsey-Anne Jones
HC	Eira Kehoe

Maths

1st	Chloe Dunster
2nd	Kelsey-Anne Jones
3rd	Layla Anthony
HC	Ellis Leonard-Davies
HC	Nancy Cockel
HC	Pollyanna Dutton

HC	Leo Birch
HC	Matthew Attard

Geography

1st	Powys and Gwynedd
2nd	Morgannwg
3rd	Morgannwg
HC	Morgannwg
HC	Gwynedd
HC	Gwynedd
HC	Morgannwg
HC	Gwynedd
HC	Dyfed
HC	Gwynedd

Chair (Year 7)

1st	Pollyanna Dutton
2nd	Chloe Dunston
3rd	Elsie John

History

1st	Leo Birch and Elis Cosson
2nd	Suki Francombe, Pippa Carey, Chloe Barkhuysen
3rd	Joseph Hilman, Austin Habberley, Thomas Smith
HC	Chloe Dunster
HC	Eden Harris
HC	Amelia Eccles
HC	Sophia Warren
	Phoebe Lewis

Year 8 Competition

ICT

1st	Iris Winter
2nd	Sophia Johnson
3rd	Ellis Purchase
HC	Megan Jones
HC	Edyth Davies
HC	Riley Evans
HC	Gwendolen Adams
HC	Imogen Brown
HC	Amelia Chevalier
HC	Zachary Smith
HC	Tyler Loosemore
HC	Oliver Smith
HC	Grace Mahoney
HC	Maisy Walsh
HC	Libby Bowen

French

1st	Esther Morris
2nd	Rachel Morgan
3rd	Elsie Richards
HC	Will Sealey
HC	Imogen Brown
HC	Sadie Long

German

1st	Molly Marchant
2nd	Caitlin Jenkins
3rd	Lucy Pedler
HC	Mia Bater
HC	Sadie Long
HC	Imogen Brown

History

1st	Kayleigh Pugh
2nd	Elsie Richards
3rd	Katie Evans
HC	Gwendolen Adams
HC	Leah Williams
HC	Eloise Wyatt
HC	Logan Sparrow
HC	Imogen Brown

Year 9 Competition

ICT

1st	Atreyu Cummings
2nd	Roan Henderson
3rd	Jacob Tsui
HC	Jacob Hall
HC	Jack Parrott
HC	Poppy Rayner
HC	Rhys Stacey
HC	Jessyca Marsh
HC	Emily Jordan
HC	Herbe Morrison
HC	Stephannie Street
HC	Grace Steer
HC	Ewan Stanton
HC	Ben Thomas
HC	Serena Weale
HC	Elijah Cressey
HC	William John
HC	Natia Weaver-Setal



French

1st	Poppy Jenkins
2nd	Olivia Grimstead
3rd	Alana O'Keefe
HC	Isla Filby
HC	Emily Jordan

German

1st	Demi Sparkes
2nd	Emily Jordan
3rd	Evie Knight
HC	Isabella Holloway
HC	Sajithana Ravindran
HC	Philippa Elliott
HC	Hannah Davies-Jones

Overall KS3 Choir

1st	Carmen Rees
2nd	Elsie Richards
2nd	Evie Knight
2nd	Ava Jasperse
2nd	Cruz Cooper
2nd	Imogen Brown

History

1st	Zara Lewis, Poppy Watkins, Lilya Watkins
2nd	Matthew Bridges
3rd	Phoebe Lewis

Solo Piano

1st	Rhys Stacey
2nd	Jack Corish
3rd	Samuel Cubbage
HC	Eliza Cinderby

Solo Song from a Show or Film

1st	Casper Wren-Owens
2nd	Eira Kehoe
3rd	Philippa Elliott
HC	Summer Mainwaring
HC	Megan Jones
HC	Katelyn Bebb
HC	Elsa Palmer-King

Llefrau Unigol

1st	Elijah-Lee Matthews
2nd	Oliver Ward
3rd	Chloe Dunster
	Chloe McMurray



Welsh Vocal Solo

1st	Philippa Elliott
2nd	Summer Mainwaring
3rd	Yasmin Jenkins
HC	Megan Jones

Junior Instrumental Solo

1st	Samuel Cubbage
2nd	Rhys Stacey
3rd	Jessica Brown
	Maddison Westwood-Jones
HC	Annie Rees

Guitar Solo

1st	Henry Horton
2nd	Jayden Griffiths
3rd	Kian Poole

Junior Group Instrumental

1st	Jayden Griffiths and Henry Horton
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Junior Group Song

1st	Summer Mainwaring, Eira Kehoe, Yasmin Jenkins
2nd	Maiya Cooper and Ruby Gould
3rd	Megan Jones and Elsie Richards

Individual Champion

1st	Summer Mainwaring
	Henry Horton
2nd	Eira Kehoe
	Jayden Griffiths
	Samuel Cubbage
	Rhys Stacey
3rd	Philippa Elliott

Group Instrumental

1st	Larissa Clee and Rhys Bissmire
2nd	Poppy Shingler

Group Song

1st	Ruby Richards, Romy Francombe, Finty Kehoe, Ella Verderame, Scarlett Osborne
	Lois Evans and Evie Thomas
2nd	Ella Verderame and Wil Morgans

Senior Solo from a Show/Film

1st	Finty Kehoe
2nd	Wil Morgans

3rd	Scarlett Osborne
HC	Matthew Neeson

Welsh Vocal Solo

1st	Alfie Law
2nd	Finty Kehoe

Solo Performance on an Instrument - Wind

1st	Rhys Bissmire
2nd	Tamsin Jenkins
3rd	Larissa Clee
HC	Katie Palmer

Solo Performance on an Instrument - Drums

1st	Charles Rundle
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Solo Piano

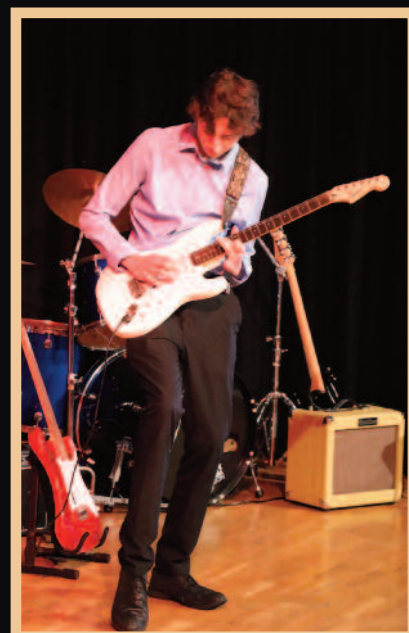
1st	Poppy Shingler
2nd	Elliott Leach
3rd	Charles Horton
HC	Adam Morris

Solo Performance on an Instrument - Strings

1st	Adam Morris
2nd	Naomi Edwards

Guitar Solo

1st	Jack Childs
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Ymweliad Mr Phormula

A Welsh beatboxer from Gogledd Cymru (North Wales) who captivates audiences with his multilingual rhythms. Recently, he brought his talents to Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl, where he seamlessly blended Cymraeg a Saesneg into his beatboxing performances. Beyond entertainment, he sees beatboxing as a means of cultural celebration and understanding. Through interactive workshops, he not only taught the students the basics of beatboxing but also instilled in them the importance of self-expression and embracing diversity. His visit left a lasting impact, inspiring students to find their voices and appreciate the power of music to transcend linguistic barriers, uniting people in a shared experience of rhythm a chreadigrwydd (creativity).

Dyweddodd Mr Howells "I thought the experience was exhilarating and memorable; a really exciting opportunity for our pupils to see how they can use their voice as an instrument."

Visit from Rhiannon



At the start of May, the Adran Gymraeg (Welsh Department) were lucky to be visited by the popular arlunydd Cymraeg (Welsh artist), Rhiannon. She spent the day designing and painting a bespoke murlun (mural) with some of our most hardworking pupils in Blwyddyn 7 ac 8. The pupils had an amser bendigedig and were given the opportunity to add their own unique stamp to the murlun. Some of our Year 11 pupils also joined in the hwyl by adding their own dedication to their friend Jenna Kaafar, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Mae'r Adran Gymraeg yn hapus iawn gyda'r murlun which will be hung outside the Welsh classrooms in P block.

Anyone wishing to donate in memory of Jenna to Brian Tumour Awareness, please use the fundraising QR Code.



"It was nice to be part of something that other students will admire years from now." Roman Jackson

"Really fun. Glad that the wall is being filled with colour. I hope students will enjoy seeing it." Gwennie Adams

"I really enjoyed being part of the painting and how I was able to put my ideas and so many others altogether to create an amazing painting. I hope students will like it." Harry Tinning

"Overall I loved how it turned out." Evan Morgan



Visit from the Royal Navy

The Royal Navy came into Year 9 for two days during the Spring term. They delivered an assembly on careers and job roles, and then undertook rocket building sessions with the pupils. They had an opportunity to launch their own rockets. Thank you to our friends from the Royal Navy for two great days.



Dare to Explore



With a focus on promoting wellbeing and skill development, the project Get Outdoors 'DARE TO Explore' strives to reduce stress, boost physical activity, foster hands-on experiences and strengthen connections to nature. The goal is to cultivate confidence, as well as social and emotional skills, for children who face barriers to accessing traditional classroom settings. Pupils venture beyond the classroom and into coastal and woodland environments, where they can explore the world, acquire new skills, and enjoy the outdoors in a refreshing manner. The pupils learn how to build campfires, cook on them, litter pick, bird hunt, build dens, make wooden ornaments, scavenger hunt and so much more!!

The weather doesn't stop the pupils and they enjoy visiting Gornwelion, the beach and Bryngarw.

ELSA

You may have heard of the term 'ELSA' in school and wondered what it's all about. It is not a lesson dedicated to singing 'Let it go' from Disney's Frozen movie but in fact a programme designed to help students understand their emotions. ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant.

The aim of ELSA is to help students have the time and space to think about their personal circumstances and how they manage their emotions. The sessions can be run on a 1:to:1 basis or in small group sessions and usually through the medium of fun craft activities.

We are lucky to have a few trained ELSAs in Tŷ Enfys who love thinking of ideas to get students to work through their emotions. This year our ELSA groups have enjoyed many activities such as creating personal mood charts, making Welsh cakes, creating Lego daffodils, stone painting, memory salt jars, mood slime plus much more!



Visit from Forces Fitness

During this Spring term, all pupils in Year 7 and 8 have had the opportunity to take part in team building challenges facilitated by the instructors of Forces Fitness. The instructors created a carousel of challenges to test not only the pupil's physical strength, but more their collaboration and communication skills. In teams, the classes were able to test their skills against the other teams in a fun and engaging way. Challenges included building the tallest towers that would stand up to the wind, travelling a distance without touching the ground and using the resources provided. Scores were taken for each challenge to decide which teams had gained the most points.

The highlight for the pupils was the tug-of-war competition that ended the session. Pupils were very thankful for the experience and the level of participation throughout the days was excellent. Well done to all that took part.



National Neurodivergence Team

The National Neurodivergence Team is funded by Welsh Government and hosted by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). They work closely with the Welsh Government, local authority autism leads and health boards, key stakeholders and advisory groups.

The Team develops free-to-access resources and information for people across Wales to understand more about neurodiversity. These resources are hosted on the Autism Wales website: www.autismwales.org

At Porthcawl Comprehensive, we regularly link up with the Team to support our pupils and their families, whether they are on the journey of the ND pathway or already diagnosed. The team are currently in the process of developing their information for parents

and carers and have created a Padlet, (online tool), to share information and ask questions:

My first padlet for Parent/carer advisory group meetings.

They also host live information sessions for parents to access help and support:

Parents & Carers Virtual Advice Sessions - Awtistiaeth Cymru | Autism Wales | National Autism Team

The work of the Team is an invaluable source of support for students and their families at home and school and we hope to continue this positive work with them.

If you would like further information on this, please contact Mrs Price - Tŷ Enfys



Project Dragon



Over the past few months pupils from Tŷ Enfys have been really busy transforming the flower bed at the entrance to the school garden into a wellbeing beach area.

As part of Project Dragon, and with the seaside theme of Porthcawl in mind, the area has been turned a lovely relaxing space where the pupils can come and have a chill, particularly if they are having a bad day and enjoy the surroundings of the garden. Under the guidance of Mrs Goodchild and Mr Dawkins and the kind support from Mr Clarke in the workshop, the children have really made a difference to the once overgrown area.

A tonne of sand was donated by Bracey's Timber Yard in Cornelly, to construct the beach area, which was hugely appreciated. A surfboard was donated by Porthcawl Lifesaving Team which was made into a seat by Mr Clarke, using wooden pallets, who also made an anchor to accompany our dragon, to resemble the school badge.

The area has been named Bracey's Beach and massive thanks goes out to everybody who was involved. We hope to have a BBQ on Bracey's Beach in the near future to celebrate this success and invite all those who played their part.

Mr Steve Dawkins



Year 9 Wellbeing Ambassadors

The Year 9 Wellbeing Ambassadors did some great work promoting positive mental health during Children's Mental Health Week. They arranged a Bake Sale where everyone was asked to answer one question on the topic of mental health and wellbeing. They also raised an incredible £188 for mental health charities. The group are currently planning some Year 6 transition activities which will be taking place during the Summer term.



Paris Trip 2024

We arrived at school at 6pm to get on the bus for 6 hours of travelling to Dover.

At roughly 12am we got to Dover and got on a massive ferry to cross the English Channel to France. We were all very tired as most of us got no sleep on the bus.

On the ferry we got free food and could see the beautiful sea of France. Once we got off the ferry we got back on the bus and started to go to Paris where we would go to Disneyland.

On the way we stopped at a service station to get food and stretch our legs.

After we got on the bus again, we started to head to Disneyland and once we got in we had so much to do. There were rides, shops and games everywhere and we all had a good time.

There was also a parade of all the characters in Disney movies as giant vehicles driving in a line together. After we had our time in Disneyland we went to the hotel to sleep and relax ourselves.

The next day we got back on the bus and went to the mall with all sorts of shops like fast food, game shops and clothes shops. Once we were done in the mall we went back to the bus and went to the Eiffel Tower where we queued for about 30 minutes and there were shops with knick-knacks, food and other random stuff. After we had finished at the Eiffel Tower we got on a river boat and went down the River Loire where we saw lots of landmarks such as the Louvre and Eiffel Tower. After the boat we went to a nice restaurant and had good food. After we had eaten our food we went back to the hotel to get

sleep for the journey back to Wales.

In the morning we ate breakfast and got back on the bus to start our way to the port.

Once we were there, we checked in past the border control but the ferry got delayed by an hour and once we got on the ferry we were waiting for a while but the engine broke down so we had to wait for another ferry! Once the other ferry came we got on and started to cross the English Channel again and went back to Dover. Once we were back in England we started the 6 hour journey back to Wales. We stopped at a service station to get food and stretch our legs. Once we were done at the service station we went back to Wales to finally get back to Porthcawl School at about midnight when we finally went home.

Tŷ-Enfys Firefighter for a Day!

Some of the Year 9 students have been taking part in the Tackle Program run through the Ospreys Rugby Team. We have been working on skills such as communication, problem solving, teamwork and resilience. We have been given an amazing opportunity to go on several trips. These include one to Bridgend Fire Station where the students were able to be firefighters for a day. They were able to dress in firefighting uniform, run through drills, have a tour of a fire engine and try out their own rescues.

"I enjoyed the day, my favourite part was crawling through the cages. We learnt about parts of a fire engine and the thing that surprised us the most is that they have stuff for traffic accidents." – Tia Hart.

On 22nd of February we took a trip to the Fire Station to see what the firefighters do in a day. We learnt about what all the equipment did in the Fire Station and all the tools on the trucks. We also watched a video on fires and wildlife to see how many fire trucks are taken up by fake calls. We also went into a blind cage and had to find our way out in blindfolds and we had to find 5 objects before we could leave. We also had a tour of the inside area of the station and met some firefighters. My favourite part was when we went in the blindfolded cage to get out.

Jacob Rose Year 9



Year 10 Seren Trip to Bath

Great trip to Bath University spending the day exploring the beautiful buildings and eating maggots! All for the love of Science! Year 10 attended various science workshops and talks with guest speakers.



Geography – Trip to Iceland

Early on a Sunday morning in our Easter holidays, 40 of us and 4 staff boarded our coach to Heathrow for the trip of a lifetime to Iceland. Everything went smoothly and we boarded and took off on time to Reykjavík.

On landing, our first port of call was a hot spring and geothermal area, smelly but amazing. We drove as close as we could to the Reykjanes Peninsula and could see plumes of smoke rising into the sky from the recent eruptions - quite scary it was so close! After a long day of travelling and sightseeing we then arrived at the City Hi Hostel in Reykjavik where we were staying for the week - Lasagna awaiting and bed.

Early morning call on Monday got us up and out for our excursion to the south coast. First stop a glacier walk. After being kitted out with a harness, crash helmet and crampons we set off to the ice field that feeds the glacier. We trekked up onto the glacier single file and aside the crevasses. Hard work but amazing - the views - just Wow! It didn't stop there though, we then saw spectacular waterfalls, black sands and basalt tubes and beware! - the sneaker waves. Excellent quiz organized by Mr Short and Mr Hutchison this evening to be won by an exceptional group!

Exhausted but excited we set off early again on Tuesday. This time we went to the Secret

Lagoon. An unknown gem to most tourists but used by locals. This was warmer than a bath, 38 degrees in some places. It was so relaxing and therapeutic, we just didn't want to get out into the cold, but refreshed and invigorated we made our way to the Thingvellir National Park. For you geographers out there, this is where the Rift Valley can be seen on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Off we went then to the Great Geysir and the wonderful Gullfoss waterfall. A lovely evening in Reykjavik was had by all.

Wednesday was another early start, this time to the port to board our whaling ship for whale watching. Kitted out in puffer suits from head to toe which were a must against the cold winds out in the ocean, we made our way out of port and into the ocean. What seemed like ages but well worth the wait a group of chunky dolphins or white nosed dolphins as they are called appeared alongside the boat and stayed with us for some time, jumping and darting around us. The 'icing on the cake' though was what we had all been waiting for - the spout of water from the ocean and the whale appeared, majestically flipping its tail outwards and upwards before diving again. Keeping our safe distance, we followed the whale and again and again it appeared. It really was an amazing sight and something none of us will forget, certainly Mrs Mackey who has had two previous failed

attempts to see the whales.

Sadly, like all good things we had to come back into port but after a good lunch in the town we boarded our coach to the Lava tube. Again, we were kitted out in crash helmets and extra grips for our shoes and we descended into the tube. Another Wow! This country is full of amazing sites and contrasts. After a great evening in the Hard Rock Café and a stroll back to the hostel it was time to grab our things together and be ready for the off the next day. Breakfast and a quick journey to the airport brought us all safely back to the UK and home to Wales.

What a truly great experience we all had, plenty of laughs and good times were had by all and plenty of memories were made.

Thanks to everyone, staff and pupils, this was a truly memorable trip.



Llangrannog 2024



On February 2nd, 79 excited Year 7 and 8 pupils, 6 teachers and 4 swogs boarded 2 buses for a fun-filled weekend at the Gwersyll yr Urdd Llangrannog. There was sun in the sky and a chill in the air but we were barod amdani!

The sun was still shining when we arrived and were shown to our rooms. We unpacked and assembled ready for our introduction to the gwersyll (camp). That done, we had some free time to explore and play pêl-fasged (basketball) and then it was time for swper blasus. We had a busy evening with dawnsio gwerin (folk dancing), taith nos (a night-time walk), Bingo and gemau potes (sports with a difference) and were all ready for bed – or at least the teachers were!

Dywedodd Spencer Phillips “By far the most favourite experience of my Year 7 life was folk dancing with Mrs Bennion!”

Bore dydd Sadwrn started at 8.00 with brecwast and then we were barod for a morning of activities with gwylltgrefft (bushcraft), ceirt modur (go carts), weiren zip (zip wire), gwibgartio (tobogganing) a sgio (skiing). “My

favourite thing was tobogganing and I had lots of fun!” Eden. Our luck had run out by this time and roedd hi’n bwrw glaw but the rain did not deter our enjoyment. A short break for lunch then we resumed the fun with y wal tŵr (the tower), beiciau cwad (quad bikes), nofio a chwrs rhaffau uchel (high ropes). Again, everyone really enjoyed the activities although some of us were suffering from illness and lack of sleep by this point.

“I loved getting to know lots of new people. My favourite memory was the midnight feasts and dry skiing!” Summer Mainwaring.

We managed to catch a bit of the Cymru a’r Alban 6 nations game but luckily the disappointing result did not put a damper on our penwythnos.

Nos Sadwrn was disco time and we all had a chance to strut our stuff on the dance floor. Acacia Thomas definitely stole the limelight in the disco! Roedd pawb wedi blino by now and a quiet night was had by all.

Bore dydd Sul again started with brecwast bendigedig and some tired eyes were spotted in the dining hall. We started with ceirt modur (go carts), rhaffau uchel (high ropes), saethyddiaeth (archery) a nofio which everyone enjoyed. The bus journey home was a lot quieter on the way home, with everyone (including Mr Stratford) having a little snooze to catch up on some sleep!

It really was an enjoyable weekend for all. Behaviour was superb and it was a delight to hear so many of our pupils using their Cymraeg with staff and each other. We’re looking forward



to future trips to the Urdd camps and a huge diolch yn fawr to staff for giving pupils this wonderful opportunity. Watch this space for Llangrannog 2025.

There will also be an opportunity for pupils in Years 9 and 10 to visit the Urdd Camp in Glanllyn during Summer 2025.

“I loved all the activities – they were really fun!” dywedodd Jess Brown.

“I had an amser ansbaradigaethus and I can’t wait to go back!” meddai Mr Stradling.



Educational School Trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau



On February 21st I attended a day trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau, organised by the Holocaust Education Trust. The essence of the visit was not to focus on the statistics of 6 million Jews who were killed, but to look at them as individuals. Ordinary, family people with aspirations, hopes and dreams that they would never attain. It is difficult to imagine 6 million people being murdered, that is because statistics are impersonal, so we were given the example of Eva Clarke, who was born in Mauthausen Concentration Camp, on April 29th, 1945. Eva was lucky to have been born, as pregnant women were executed by the Nazis; however, their supply of Zyklon B ran out the day before. Eva and her mother attribute “luck” to their survival, it’s hard to imagine these circumstances as being “lucky”. Many were not so lucky, the “Book of Names” in Auschwitz 1 records the names of 4.2 million victims who were killed, a further 1.8 million names remain lost to history. We must remember these victims and keep their legacies alive by never forgetting the atrocities of the Holocaust. As Eva Clarke said: “It is not 6 million but 1+1”.

Eve Linehan Year 12



History Trip to London



On Tuesday, 2nd April, our 6th Form students embarked on the History Department's annual educational journey to London, where they explored two iconic landmarks - the Houses of Parliament and the Imperial War Museum.

This longstanding tradition saw us eagerly board the coach in the early hours, filled with anticipation for the day ahead. As we journeyed towards the capital, excitement mounted, knowing we were about to embark on an enriching and enlightening adventure.

Our first stop was the historic Houses of Parliament, where we were greeted by the imposing Gothic architecture that has become synonymous with British democracy. Guided by knowledgeable hosts, we delved into the intricacies of the parliamentary system, gaining valuable insights into the workings of government and the importance of civic engagement.

Following our exploration of Westminster, we made our way to the Imperial War Museum, a revered institution dedicated to preserving the stories of wartime sacrifice and heroism. Here, we immersed ourselves in a world of wartime artefacts and interactive exhibits, gaining a deeper understanding of the human cost of conflict and the importance of remembrance.

One particularly poignant section of the museum that left a profound impact on us was the Holocaust exhibition. Through powerful displays and firsthand testimonies, we were confronted with the harrowing realities of one of the darkest chapters in human history. The solemn atmosphere served as a stark reminder of the importance of tolerance, compassion, and the ongoing fight against prejudice and discrimination.

Throughout the day, we were encouraged to reflect on the significance of our experiences and to consider the lessons that could be learned from the past. As we returned to Porthcawl, our minds buzzing with newfound knowledge and insights, it was evident that this annual trip had once again left a lasting impression on each and every one of us.

For the 6th Form students, this annual experience is more than just a day out - it's a journey of discovery and enlightenment that continues to shape our understanding of the



world around us. As we look ahead to future expeditions, we will carry with us the memories and lessons learned from this unforgettable experience.

Special thanks are extended to Mr. Pucella, Mr. Evans, Mr. Shutt, Madame Morgan, and Miss Redmond for their invaluable assistance and guidance throughout the day, ensuring the success of our memorable visit.

Mr. Short History Department



Seren Visit to the BBC

A recent school excursion to BBC Studios Cardiff offered Year 8 students a rare glimpse behind the scenes of one of the nation's most renowned broadcasting hubs. With the chance to immerse themselves in the fast-paced world of television and radio, students embarked on a full tour of the studios.

Upon arrival, the students were greeted by the vibrant atmosphere of BBC Studios Cardiff. Led by knowledgeable guides, the eager group embarked on a comprehensive tour of the facilities, eager to uncover the secrets of broadcasting magic.

Their first stop took them to the heart of the action where the Six Nations programme was being recorded, called Sin Bin. Here, students witnessed the ways in which studios could be adapted for the requirements of TV. Surrounded by computers and flashing screens, students gained a newfound appreciation for the dedication and skill required to deliver timely and accurate coverage.

But the real highlight awaited them in

the studio itself. Stepping onto the set of a news program, students felt the thrill of the spotlight as they took turns presenting the news or weather. With cameras rolling and lights blazing, they experienced first-hand the adrenaline rush of live broadcasting, mastering the art of clear communication and confident delivery.

As the tour continued, students explored the inner workings of television and radio production, from editing suites to sound booths. They marvelled at the state-of-the-art technology that drives modern media, gaining insight into the complex processes behind their favourite programs and broadcasts.

Pupils were told about the attention to detail that is needed in order to make the sounds accurate when people listen to sound on TV and how they ensure it matches the sound that watchers expect.

An enjoyable experience that we would love to repeat in future years.



Exciting skiing adventure in the Italian Alps: Year 10 and Year 8 pupils embark on an unforgettable Easter trip.

Over the recent Easter holidays, 42 enthusiastic pupils from Year 8 and Year 10 embarked on an exhilarating skiing expedition to the picturesque slopes of Italy. This thrilling adventure promised five days filled with skiing, evening entertainment, and unforgettable experiences.

The journey commenced with an exciting flight to the heart of the Italian Alps, where students were greeted by stunning snow-capped vistas and the promise of an action-packed itinerary. The group wasted no time in strapping on their skis and hitting the slopes under the guidance of experienced instructors.

For five consecutive days, our pupils immersed themselves in the thrill of skiing, honing their skills on a variety of slopes suited to all levels of expertise. From mastering the basics to tackling more challenging runs, each student embraced the opportunity to improve. However, the excitement did not end on the slopes. Evenings were equally engaging with a line-up of diverse activities designed to create lasting memories.

Among the highlights was an exhilarating bumboarding session, where students and teachers raced down the mountains. Snowshoeing provided another unique experience, allowing participants to explore the winter wonderland at a leisurely pace, soaking in the beautiful views. A fiercely competitive table football tournament also sparked lively rivalries, showcasing the students' strategic prowess off the slopes. Of course, what would a snowy escapade be without traditional snowball fights? These friendly battles became a nightly ritual.

Reflecting on the trip, Molly Marchant of Year 8 shared her experience "In late March, myself, some Year 8s and some Year 10s were given the privilege of going on a week-long ski trip to Marilleva, Italy. We did 5 full days of skiing and did some great evening activities like snowshoeing and swimming. The skiing was undoubtedly the best part. We were split into groups based on ability but on the last couple days we were able to do some group ski sessions which were very fun. I was a beginner, so I was very eager to learn and the instructors were great at helping us through challenges, tricks and countless falls in the snow. My favourite evening activity was bumboarding and I think almost everyone would agree with me on that. It was a great opportunity to have some quality time with all of our peers and an enjoyable way to spend the last evening. I am very thankful to all the teachers that organised the trip and looked after us while we were there".

With such an unforgettable experience behind them, it's safe to say that the slopes of Italy have left a mark on the pupils, inspiring dreams of future snowy escapades and adventures yet to come. Mr Stratford and Miss Barber are looking forward to another successful trip next February half term when we travel to Norway.



The Sony Sustainability Event

The Sony sustainability event was a great success and the Year 10 students who attended this event on 7th March were all a credit to the school.

Our students had a tour of the manufacturing centre to see the broadcasting camera manufacture and raspberry pie microchip production using robotics. They were set real life problems to solve and gave presentations to Sony Engineers.

The Sony visit was also attended by Huw Irranca-Davies AM and member of the Climate Change, Environment & Infrastructure Committee in the Senedd. Students gave a presentation to the Minister about sustainability and their ideas about slowing rising ocean levels and rising temperatures. The AM was really impressed with the students and the maturity of their responses to the challenges they were set.

Ava Wines-Jones was so engaged and spoke with real confidence during the challenges and the presentations that she was noticed. She linked up with an apprentice who came to the event to speak with her and the group as she is interested in an Engineering career path. The hosts Sony were so impressed with Ava that they have already offered her a week of work experience at the Sony UK Plant. This was a first for the Sony team and they also said that they were impressed with the level of engagement from the whole group.

After the event, I contacted Phil Williams who came into school a few weeks ago offering our students the opportunity to say a huge thank you for today. His reply was as follows:

" Thanks, I will pass your message on to the Sony Team. The Senedd members were really impressed by the students' ideas and views, it ended in the politicians staying much longer than planned and having an interactive chat with the students and the school should be very proud. Thanks for arranging the visit. Hope we can welcome you and your students again at Sony soon."

Well done to all the pupils who attended, I am very proud of you all.

Mr Pettit



News from the **Primaries**



Year 6 Computer Science Transition

We welcomed Year 6 to attend our Computer Science transition event in May. Pupils started the day by engaging in a variety of computational thinking skills challenges. They then completed the 'Hour of Code' activity based on a Star Wars or Minecraft theme.

The Hour of Code is a free introduction to computer science through fun activities and videos for learners of all skill levels. This year's celebration of both coding and AI is supported by over 400 partners, 20,000 educators, and 58,000 volunteers. The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Pupils can try any of the over 500+ one-hour tutorials, available in over 45 languages.

Pupils then used the BBC Microbits and finally created some programming activities using Scratch, based on the events being held at the Paris Olympics 2024. Pupils enjoyed the morning and we are looking forward to seeing them again in September.

Mr Pucella



Nottage Primary School

Nottage Time Hunters, over and out! Here at Nottage Primary School, we've safely returned to the present day as the curtain closed on our 'Time Hunters' topic. Nottage Entrepreneurs completed another successful rotation of enrichment, choosing from a variety of skill-based activities. For our grand finale, we were all treated to a spectacular performance of 'Aladdin JR' performed by our Nottage Entrepreneurs pupils as part of our drama enrichment.

Beijing, Rio, London, Nottage! We are very excited to begin on our new 'Olympic & Paralympic Games' whole-school Summer topic. Nottage Explorers have had a wonderful visit from the Beach Academy when pupils learnt that animals don't like coloured buckets because they warm up the water, they only like cold water in the rock pools. Pupils created their own rock pools and had to carefully pick up the animals using nets, spades and their fingers!

Over to our Nottage Explorers, Year 1 are learning all about France, the current venue for the Olympics. Years 2/3 are going to start visiting the town library on a weekly basis to develop reading skills and research all things Olympics. Year 3 are even developing an Olympic theme on their patio area, thanks for all the donations.

Nottage Entrepreneurs have been extremely busy, Year 4 pupils attended their first ever residential trip to Manor Adventure where they abseiled, climbed and took part in a range of outdoor activities. Year 5 and 6 pupils have been taking part in a blind trail in our Conservation Area. Pupils have been linking their Science learning about human skeletons by making stick skeleton models. Year 5 learnt about how humans affect global warming for Earth Day. Year 6 have been focusing on the historical element of the Olympic games identifying their origins and evolution over time.



Newton Primary School



We were very lucky to have been able to surprise the children today with a visit from current Welsh rugby international, Sam Costelow! He talked about his early years in Pencoed RFC, his club and international career, diet, training and hopes for the future. We are very grateful to Sam for giving up his time to share his experiences with the children, they asked some excellent questions and he also explained how it is important to enjoy taking part in sport and exercise from an early age.

This term the children have enjoyed regular cricket and basketball matches with other schools in the local area. We have also completed in several tournaments including cricket, rugby and football. Years 4, 5 and 6 have also participated in swimming lessons in Pyle pool, practising an important life skill. Following on with the theme of sport, we also played our first basketball and cricket fixtures of the season, winning at home to St Clare's.

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 were part of the whole process for creating a lasting mural in the school grounds in collaboration with Encon Construction and Fresh Creative. They designed and painted the piece of artwork themselves which brightens up the school yard beautifully.



Porthcawl Primary School

Summer term is finally here! It has stopped raining and the sun is shining at PPS. The start of the Summer term means we have already started to prepare for our big end of year show. This year we will be performing 'Panto Pandemonium.' Auditions have taken place and the Fairy Godmother and Wicked Witch are learning their lines as we speak. This year is even more exciting because we have kindly been donated our own light and sound system from some very generous parents. This means that this year as well as shining on stage our pupils will be in charge of all the light and sound! The show will take place in July and tickets will be available soon.

One of our topics this term has been bridges. Year 6 researched all the different types of bridges and became experts in all bridges from suspension and arch to truss and cantilever. After all our research we then built a variety of bridges from different materials. We designed bridges on Minecraft then built bridges from wood, Knex and spaghetti. Our stongest pasta bridge had an incredible design and was able to hold over 5 kilograms in weight!

West Park Primary School

Summer has arrived and with it our brand-new exciting themes. The whole school is learning through the topic of OUR INCREDIBLE OCEANS.

Step 1 were delighted to discover their classroom transformed into an underwater adventure playground complete with 4 new fishy friends to care for as they become 'Deep Sea Divers' this term!

Where better for our Step 2 pupils to launch into 'Pirate Protectors of Our Ocean' than down on the beach! They picked litter, enjoyed a dramatic pirate storytelling session and learned from the RNLI how to keep safe and protect our beaches.

Step 3 are planning a visit to Bristol Aquarium to broaden their experience and knowledge of marine life and how rising global temperatures and plastic pollution impacts the oceans. Pupils visited the local zero waste shop to raise awareness about ecofriendly shopping choices and will now implement these ideas into our own Eco Green Leaf plastic free school shop.

There has been much sporting success to celebrate recently, and we are proud to announce West Park are not only the WSRU Junior National 10-a-side rugby champions but also the winners of the Library Book Quiz.

We are now looking forward to Year 6 transition events with Porthcawl Comprehensive, open days to welcome prospective new families and the first West Park Ogi Jogi Family Fun Run!



Bridgend Schools 7s Competition 2024

Despite uncharacteristically wet and cold weather for 7s rugby, the weather didn't dampen the excitement at this year's Bridgend 7s Rugby Tournaments. Each tournament in May was a success, with players displaying skill, determination, and sportsmanship.

For Year 7 students traveling to CCYD School, it was their first experience with 7s rugby, but they adapted quickly, winning three of their four games. This promising start showcased the team's potential and left Mr Card excited for their future development.

The Year 8 team, competing at Cynffig Comprehensive, bounced back from a disappointing 15s season and seemed to find their rhythm in 7s rugby. They came close to reaching the final but narrowly missed out due to a better try count by two other schools in their group. Their energetic and agile style of play suggests that they are on track for success in future tournaments.

Hosting the Year 9 competition, our school faced the challenge of managing the event in the midst of rain and wind. However, the players rose to the occasion, with two teams representing us: the Porthcawl Pirates and the Porthcawl Predators. The Predators, predominantly composed of forwards, dominated their group matches and secured a spot in the final, where they defeated a strong Bryntirion team 28-7. Tactical control, and excellent ball handling and retaining possession were key to their victory.

The Year 10 team had a lot to prove after missing out on last year's tournament due to a scheduling conflict with the Welsh Cup final. They were determined to showcase their skills as reigning Ospreys Champions. The group stage went smoothly, allowing all players to gain experience and keep fresh for the final. In a high-scoring and fast-paced final against Maesteg, the game came down to the wire. A last-minute try secured a thrilling 31-28 win, highlighting the team's resilience, teamwork, pace and vision.



YEAR 9 BRIDGEND SCHOOLS RUGBY SEVENS COMPETITION 2024									
GROUP B									
TEAM	W	D	L	PTS	TRY GOALS	TRY GOALS	TRY GOALS	TRY GOALS	TRY GOALS
PORTHCAWL A	4	0	0	1	18	17	1	1	1
MAESTEG	3	0	1	3	19	16	2	2	2
CYNFFIG	2	0	2	0	11	10	3	3	3
PENCOED	1	0	3	0	9	7	4	4	4
CCYD	0	0	4	0	5	4	5	5	5

YEAR 10 BRIDGEND SCHOOLS RUGBY SEVENS COMPETITION 2024									
GROUP A									
TEAM	W	D	L	PTS	TRY GOALS	TRY GOALS	TRY GOALS	TRY GOALS	TRY GOALS
PORTHCAWL	4	0	0	4	26	20	1	1	1
PENCOED	3	0	1	3	25	16	2	2	2
BYNNTIRION A	2	0	2	2	16	12	3	3	3
CCYD	1	0	3	1	12	8	4	4	4
BYNNTIRION B	0	0	4	0	5	4	5	5	5



Porthcawl Year 10 Rugby Team Wins Ospreys Championship for Third Straight Year

The Year 10 Rugby Team from Porthcawl School secured their third consecutive Ospreys Championship title after defeating Maesteg in a thrilling final. The match, played in front of a lively crowd, saw Porthcawl's dynamic backline and solid defence make the difference. Despite a strong start by Maesteg, Porthcawl's strategic plays and key turnovers led to crucial tries. A late surge by Maesteg wasn't enough to close the gap, with Porthcawl sealing the win. The victory marks a remarkable achievement for the team and deserved success.

U15 Girls' Indoor Cricket Plate Tournament

The U15 girls travelled to Sophia Gardens Cricket ground for the Wales Indoor Cricket Plate final. The team of 9, mainly consisted of Year 9 girls, some never having played an indoor game before, were nervous and excited to play.

They were placed in a pool with 3 other schools, playing against mainly Year 10s. The first match was against Trecorchy and we scored 89 runs to their 53! Confidence was high going into the next match and the team worked well to keep the opponents score low, coming away with another win, 74-53. The final match was the decider for where we finished in our pool, 2 wins so far, would we get a clean sweep? The girls dominated this game, comfortably winning, scoring an impressive 101 off 40 balls to the other team's 67.

Special mention must go to Tesni and Daisy, not only for their skill level but for their knowledge and support with the rest of the team, encouraging and giving advice throughout the day.

As the winners of our pool we went against the winners of pool B, Bro Morgannwg, who had also won all their matches. We fielded first, keeping their score down needing 15 runs off 40 balls. Unfortunately, we lost by 1 run, after a few of our balls were hit up and caught.

I look forward to the outdoor session, as the girls all greatly improved over the day and, hopefully, the team takes on all they have learnt and the confidence they build to show what they can achieve. Well done, Ladies.



Tom Surfs for Wales in El Salvador!

Congratulations to Tom O'Leary who represented Wales at the ISA Junior World Championships in May in El Salvador. Tom, as the youngest in the team, had the honour of the 'sand pouring'. This is a tradition that each team brings sand from their home beaches and they fill the glass trophy with a layer of sand from each team. At the opening ceremony they each pour their contribution into the trophy. Tom had an amazing trip, and even had dinner with the British Ambassador of El Salvador! Good luck with any upcoming competitions Tom!

Past Pupils Celebrating Success:



Daf Jenkins's Journey from West Park Primary and Porthcawl Comprehensive school to International Rugby Captain

In the world of sports, there are stories that inspire, stories that showcase resilience, dedication, and sheer talent. Daf Jenkins's journey from his early days at school to becoming an international rugby captain is one such tale that resonates with determination and passion. The following is an article written for BBC Wales following the announcement of Dafydd Jenkins appointment as Welsh Rugby captain for the 2024 6 Nations Tournament.

"I had the privilege to sit down with Andrew Stradling, Head of PE at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, where Jenkins honed his skills and left an indelible mark on the rugby field. Stradling, reminiscing about Jenkins's formative years, shared insights into the budding athlete's remarkable journey. "He was a fantastic all-round sportsman," recalls Stradling. "At the beginning, he was equally as good a swimmer as a rugby prospect." This versatility showcased Jenkins's natural athletic ability and determination to excel in any sport he pursued. Stradling reflects on Jenkins's exceptional cardiovascular endurance, highlighting his prowess as a young athlete. "It wasn't apparent he was going to be an international rugby player as he could equally have had representative honours in the pool."

Despite his early potential, Jenkins faced challenges along the way, including a significant foot injury that side-lined him temporarily. "He showed real grit and resilience to overcome that setback and come back stronger again," says Stradling, emphasizing Jenkins's determination to persevere through adversity.

Jenkins's talent didn't go unnoticed, and he was selected by Bridgend Schools in Year 10, marking a significant milestone in his rugby career. Stradling recalls a key moment when Jenkins stepped in at the pivotal fly-half position and delivered a stellar performance, showcasing his adaptability and leadership on the field.

Reflecting on Jenkins's achievements, Stradling expresses immense pride not only for the school but also for the Porthcawl community. "It's the biggest achievement in Welsh sport, to captain your country in rugby," he states, acknowledging the collective effort of the school and local rugby club in nurturing Jenkins's talent.

As we celebrate Jenkins's journey from humble beginnings to international rugby stardom, his story serves as a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and community support. Whether on the field or off it, Jenkins's legacy continues to inspire generations of aspiring athletes to chase their dreams relentlessly."

In the halls of Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Jenkins's name will forever be synonymous with excellence, leadership, and the unwavering spirit of determination. As we bid him congratulations on his remarkable achievements, we eagerly anticipate the next chapter in his illustrious career, knowing that the lessons learned and the values instilled during his formative years will continue to guide him on his path to greatness.

Former Porthcawl Comprehensive School Pupil Lewys Benjamin Signs Professional Contract with Wolverhampton Wanderers

In a momentous occasion for both the school and the local sports community, former Porthcawl Comprehensive School pupil Lewys Benjamin has secured a professional contract with Premier League football team Wolverhampton



Wanderers. Benjamin's signing marks a significant milestone in his burgeoning sports career, highlighting his exceptional talent and dedication to becoming one of the best young goalkeepers in the UK.

Having excelled in multiple sports during his time at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Benjamin's versatility and athleticism have been evident since his early years. From football to rugby, athletics, and basketball, Benjamin's passion for sports knew no bounds, making him a standout athlete among his peers.

Described as a humble young man with an unwavering dedication to his craft, Benjamin has emerged as an exceptional role model for current and future pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. His journey from the school's sports fields to the professional ranks of one of England's top football clubs serves as a source of inspiration and pride for the entire school community.

Reflecting on Benjamin's achievements, Head of PE at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Andrew Stradling, expressed his admiration for the talented athlete. "Lewys Benjamin epitomizes the values of hard work, dedication, and humility. He has been a shining example for our pupils, demonstrating that with determination and perseverance, anything is possible."

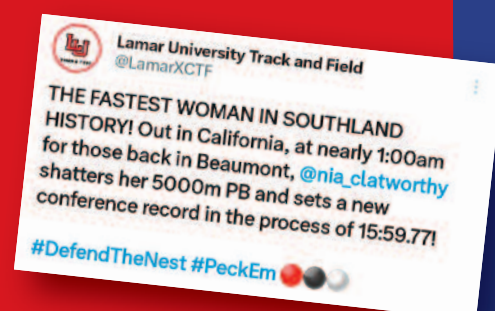
As Benjamin embarks on this new chapter in his career with Wolverhampton Wanderers, he carries with him the best wishes and support of the entire Porthcawl Comprehensive School community. His signing serves as a reminder of the school's commitment to nurturing talent and providing opportunities for students to excel both on and off the field.

With his talent, humility, and determination, Lewys Benjamin embodies the spirit of sportsmanship and achievement that Porthcawl Comprehensive School strives to instill in all its pupils. As he continues to pursue his dreams at the highest level of football, Benjamin remains a source of inspiration and pride leaving an indelible mark on the school's sporting legacy.



Nia blows away the competition in the States

Former pupil Nia Clatworthy continues to do great things in the States. Nia, who attends Lamar University in Texas, has had a really successful year in her cross country and track season. She was conference champion in cross country in November and then won the 5000m and 3000m in the indoor championships in Alabama in March. To add to her success, she broke the southland conference record for the 5000m in a time of 15.59 in California. Fantastic effort, keep it up Nia!



Pupil Achievements

Summer 2024

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Dafydd Jenkins Leaver

Captained Wales for the Rugby Union 2024 Six Nations

Lewys Benjamin Leaver

Professional Contract Wolverhampton Wanderers

Nia Clatworthy Leaver

Representing Lamar University in Texas, was conference champion in cross country in November and then won the 5000m and 3000m in the indoor championships in Alabama in March

Roddy Evans Year 13

Played in the Duncan Putter, a World Amateur Golf Ranking event, at Southerndown Golf Club

Matthew Clatworthy Year 10

Selected to represent Wales Rugby League U16's in the 4 Nations Championship

Jude Jenkins Year 8

Selected by Welsh Athletics to represent Wales at the London Mini Marathon on 20 April

Chloe Hall Year 9

Selected for Wales U15 Basketball Team for European tournament in Barcelona in June

Dewi Thomas Year 8

Selected to represent Wales in Judo in the Netherlands in May

Bethan Price Year 11

Selected to attend Bridgend Swimming Squad's Easter Training Camp in Lanzarote.

Tom O'Leary Year 11

Competed for Wales in the ISA Junior World Championships in El Salvador (Surfing)

Jude Jenkins Year 8

Selected for Cricket Wales U13s

Tesni Morgan Year 9

Selected for Cricket Wales U15s

Seren Salberg Year 10

Represented Team Wales in the Scottish Open World Championship Qualifiers for Kickboxing

Evie Liple Year 10

Hockey Wales Young Ambassador

Maths Challenge answers from page 10

B	Of the options given, a cup, a teaspoon and an egg would have capacities far smaller than 10 litres, while an aeroplane would have a capacity far greater than 10 litres. However, a bucket could well have a capacity of 10 litres.
B	As 36 is the square of 6, Gill's age will next be a square when it is the square of 7, namely 49.
A	That will be in thirteen years' time - in 2037.
A	The cordial makes up one-fifth, that is 20%, of the drink.
E	Multiplication and division take precedence over addition and subtraction.
E	Therefore $1 + 2 - 3 \times 4 \div 5 = 1 + 2 - (3 \times 4 \div 5) = 3 - 12 \div 5 = 3 - 2.4 = 0.6$.
E	The lowest common multiple of 3 and 4 is 12 so any number which is 1 more than a multiple of 12 or 2 more than a multiple of 12 has the same remainder when divided by 3 as it does when divided by 4. Of the options given, only 25 satisfies that requirement.

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
Jack Corish	Year 9	Piano	Grade 5 MERIT
Tamsin Jenkins	Year 10	Violin	Grade 1 DISTINCTION
Sebastian Gregory-Pryke	Year 7	Acoustic Guitar	Grade 1 PASS
Lucy Stephens	Year 11	Piano	Grade 5 MERIT
Mimi Hotchin	Year 9	Flute	Grade 1 DISTINCTION
Hallie Maine-James	Year 10	Saxophone	Grade 2 Merit
Imogen Brown	Year 8	Clarinet	Grade1 DISTINCTION
Oliver Chitty	Year 8	Clarinet	Grade1 DISTINCTION
Annie Rees	Year 8	Oboe	Grade 1 DISTINCTION
Aimee Leach	Year 9	Flute	Grade 3 Merit
Adam Morris	Year 10	Violin	Grade 4 Merit
Olivia Harvey	Year 7	Violin	Grade 1 Merit
Poppy Shingler	Year 13	Piano	Grade 7 Merit
Zara Lewis	Year 9	Violin	Grade 4 Merit
Emily Baker	Year 9	Violin	Grade 2 Merit
Emilie Carless	Year 9	Piano	Grade 2 Distinction

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