

Gorwel Addysg Gwybodaeth



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Ysgol Gyfun

PORHCRAWL

Comprehensive School

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

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

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

15th July 2024

Dear parents / carers,

Once again, as another academic year draws to a close, I am pleased to reflect on the journey we have had since September 2023. It has been an excellent year filled with success, achievement, and moments that have enriched the lives of the students at PCS. The school's successes are judged by many in a whole range of ways but first and foremost it is our young people's success in learning that is important and will serve them best for the future. There has been so much to celebrate and some incredible 'success' and 'achievement' this year – well done!

To start, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all families for entrusting us with the education and development of your son / daughter. Your support, dedication and involvement has played a significant part in making this year a resounding success. In September 2023 we launched the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl' and throughout this academic year, we have thoroughly enjoyed delivering our new curriculum and watching your children develop through a wide range of learning, skills and experiences.

Across the curriculum in all year groups the thirst for knowledge creativity and enthusiasm has been infectious. Students have embraced new subjects, tackled difficult concepts, and taken on leadership roles with steadfast dedication. It has been lovely to witness their progress and to see them develop as the 'Porthcawl Pupil' ready to thrive in the adult world. My thanks to the incredible team of staff we have at Porthcawl Comprehensive School who provide a wide range of learning experiences for our students during the year.

As shared in the Porthcawl Post and at 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'.

The 'Porthcawl Pupil'

Pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are developing the:

- **P**orthcawl Purposes for Learning;
- **O**rganisational skills to always be prepared;
- **R**esilience to overcome setbacks;
- **T**houghtfulness to care and support others;
- **H**appiness that comes with belonging;
- **C**ritical thinking skills to search for meaning and truth;
- **A**uthenticity to understand their self-worth and the worth of others;
- **W**ondering desire to question; and
- **L**eadership skills to direct themselves and others.

Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl
Porthcawl Comprehensive School

To read the **Summer Term Edition of the Porthcawl Post** please follow this link: [Newsletters - Porthcawl School](#)

As we celebrate the end of this academic year, I would like to also acknowledge the collaborative effort of you, our families. Your involvement in school events, meetings and various initiatives has been invaluable. Your encouragement and support at home has undoubtedly played a significant role in your child's progress and achievements. We are looking forward to the new academic year and we will continue to innovate and refine what we do to ensure the very best!

As the summer holiday approaches, please take time to rest, relax and to enjoy quality moments with your families. Once again, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of you for being an integral part of the PCS school community. As I reflect on the academic year I do so with immense pride. The strong relationships that exist amongst staff, families and students enable us to achieve all that we do. I am proud of our school community for the way we work together to ensure a focus on the highest standards, the best education possible and the strongest care, support and guidance. I look forward to continued work in 2024-2025.

End of Term Arrangements

The last day of the Summer Term will be **Friday 19th July 2024**. Students will be dismissed at the usual time of 3:00pm.

New School Year

We plan to start the Autumn Term 2024 as follows:

- Monday 2nd September 2024 – INSET Day
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024 – INSET Day
- Wednesday 4th September 2024 – **All Students**

The first day of term for all students in Years 7 to Year 13 will therefore be Wednesday 4th September. At the start of the day staff will be on duty to guide students to the relevant venues. On this day all students will receive their timetables and spend time with their form tutor and some of their new teachers. Time is allocated for ‘induction’ for each year group.

I will write again at the start of the next term to share arrangements for all other parents/carers’ meetings, progress evenings, and key calendar events in 2024-2025.

School Day

For the 2024-2025 academic year we will operate a 50hr two-week timetable. Each student will receive 25 (x1 hour) lessons per week. The timing of the school day is as follows:

Registration/Wellbeing/Assembly	08:45 – 9:00
Lesson 1	09:00 – 10:00
Lesson 2	10:00 – 11:00
Break	11:00 – 11:20
Lesson 3	11:20 – 12:20
Lesson 4	12:20 – 13:20
Lunch	13:20 – 14:00
Lesson 5	14:00 – 15:00
Extra-Curricular Programme	15:00

Full details about our Extra-Curricular Programme (both lunchtime and after school) will be shared in our “What’s On” leaflet which will be shared at the start of next term.

INSET Days 2024-2025

Our **INSET days** for the forthcoming Academic Year are:

<u>Autumn Term 2024</u> Monday 2 nd September 2024 Tuesday 3 rd September 2024 Friday 29 th November 2024	<u>Spring Term 2025</u> Monday 17 th February 2025 Friday 11 th April 2025	<u>Summer Term 2025</u> Monday 21 st July 2025
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Results days

Official results days are **Thursday 15th August** for Years 12 and 13, and **Thursday 22nd August** for Years 10 and 11. A Level results will be issued to students in reception between 8:00am - 9:30am. AS Level results will be issued to students in reception between 8:30am - 10:00am. GCSE results will be issued to students, again in reception at 8:00am - 9:30am. For more information please see: [Results Day ARRANGEMENTS 2024 \(porthcawlschool.co.uk\)](https://www.porthcawlschool.co.uk/Results-Day-ARRANGEMENTS-2024)

Saying Goodbye, Thank You & Welcome

As always, the Summer Term is a time of change and I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the staff who are leaving us and who have made such a positive contribution to Porthcawl Comprehensive School. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them all the very best for the future and I hope that they will always keep in touch with us at PCS. I have written about each member of staff in the summer term edition of the Porthcawl Post and I am sure you echo my sentiment. We are also fortunate to have been able to recruit several new colleagues who will join us in September 2024.

The following staff will be leaving Porthcawl Comprehensive School at the end of this academic year:

- Mrs Helen Carpanini - Teacher of Computer Science
- Mrs Laura Cartwright - Head of Religious Studies
- Dr Rhodri Lewis - Teacher of Biology
- Mr Dave Parker - Operations Manager
- Miss Lara Morris - Teacher of Religious Studies (maternity cover)
- Mr Steve Dawkins - Curriculum Support Worker (temporary)

As I missed the opportunity to write about Mr Parker in the summer term edition of the Porthcawl Post, I would like to acknowledge his time at PCS in my final letter of the year. It is the end of an era at Porthcawl Comprehensive School as our long-established Operations Manager Mr Dave Parker retires at the end of this academic year. Mr Parker leaves PCS after almost 30 years in the school. It is very difficult for me to summarise all the work that Mr Parker has completed, overseen, and coordinated for our school. It is an understatement to say that he has been an asset to our school in every way! We have a wonderful school site and for over almost three decades Mr Parker has given an immeasurable amount of time, care and dedication to its running and presentation. I have worked in many schools, and I can honestly say our site is one of the best presented, cared for and maintained. This is down to Mr Parker's attention to detail and his management of the site teams and all associated works. Very simply, wanting to do the very best for the school site, the pupils, the staff and the Porthcawl community.

Mr Parker has worked for four of the seven Headteachers in the history of secondary education in Porthcawl – namely, myself (January 2023 – to date), Mr Slade (2012 - 2022), Mr Dykes (2002 - 2012) and Mr Jones (1988 - 2002). In fact, Mr Parker has worked for four of the five Headteachers who have led Porthcawl Comprehensive School since comprehensive education was introduced by the Glamorgan Education Authority in 1973 - quite some achievement and testament to his dedication and commitment to our school.

At PCS, we pride ourselves on a team approach. One very important part of our team is our Premises Team, managed by Mr Parker. So, on behalf of the Governing Body and everyone that you have worked with both past and present – a sincere thank you! I hope you keep in touch with the school, and I look forward to sharing the continued successes the future will bring. We wish you a healthy and happy retirement.

The following staff will be joining Porthcawl Comprehensive School in September 2024:

- Mr Simon Matthews - Teacher of Computer Science (2nd in department)
- Mrs Gemma Thomas - Head of Religious Studies
- Miss Angharad Thom - Teacher of Biology
- Ms Sarah Owen - Teacher of Mathematics and Science
- Mr Jason Morgan - Operations Manager

- Mrs Joanna Marshall- Curriculum Support Worker
- Miss Amanda Preece - Learning Support Assistant

I shall write again at the start of the next academic year. We are full of optimism for the prospects for our school in 2024-2025 and beyond. We have an ambitious programme for development and have the confidence and commitment to ensure the school prospers and excels.

On behalf of myself and the Governing Body, I wish you all a safe and memorable summer holiday, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Stephens

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Headteacher