

Porthcawl POST

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter | Cylchlythyr Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl



National Theatre Connections

Last year the Drama Department led by a Year 12 pupil, Wil Morgans, entered into the National Theatre Connections Festival. We staged a series of concerts to fundraise for the project, some branching out to the local community performing in the Piccolo Bar and also staging 'Roles We'll Never Play' within the school. As a department we chose to stage Charlie Josephine's 'Orchestra'. The play revolves around the National Youth Wind Orchestra and the relationships within the group, which explores themes such as growing up, pressures placed on young people, and the constant want to be perfect and perform.

The play was directed by the Year 12 Performing Arts student, Wil Morgans and featured an ensemble of actors from Year 9 to Year 13. We first began rehearsing in the September of last year before performing to an audience in the Drama Studio during late March; then moving to the Sherman, our local partner theatre festival in April.

The experience was an indescribably valuable one and we were able to workshop with theatre professionals and work amongst directors and other theatre makers as well as performing alongside other schools and youth groups from across the UK. The performances were a complete success and our cast gained

so much from both. It wasn't until a few weeks later we found out that our production of Josephine's 'Orchestra' had been selected to be performed on The Dorfman Stage in the National Theatre London, an experience of a lifetime.

The National Theatre leads the way in all of mainstream theatre in the UK and getting to perform on that stage was an absolute privilege. We were able to completely immerse ourselves in a professional, working theatrical environment, an opportunity that most young people and adult working actors would never see to that scale.



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National Theatre Connections



Our production was a complete success, as our cast performed to a sold-out audience. There was an overwhelming support for our cast and the experience as a whole was genuinely a highlight of most of the group's schooling life. After performing we were able to meet the author of the piece, Charlie Josephine who was incredibly complimentary of the physical theatre piece and said that "It was better than I ever could have thought". This achievement as a group of pupils is immeasurable and displays the true strength of the performing arts in our school.

Wil Morgans ~ Year 13



Headteacher's Introduction

A very warm welcome to all associated with Porthcawl Comprehensive School. As we embark upon the academic year 2024-2025, may I especially welcome all those who are new to our school. I do hope all our new learners have settled in quickly and have started to enjoy the experience that is Porthcawl Comprehensive School. We are very proud of all that we do and achieve, and I am sure that this academic year will be full of successes.

As I did at the start of the last academic year, I would like to offer a few words to summarise our excellent Summer 2024 examination performance at GCSE and A Level. In August 2024, it was such a delight for students, staff, and families to celebrate our examination successes, and it was a special occasion for all students as they embark and plan the next stage of their lives. GCSE and A Level achievements represent many hours of work and commitment from students, staff and families so I would like to start by offering my sincere congratulations to everyone associated with our examination outcomes.

In broad terms we have had another 'excellent' year at both GCSE and A Level with some notable performances. These outstanding results are testament to the hard work undertaken by our students and their teachers, and they once again confirm our reputation as a high performing school both at GCSE and A Level. I am delighted with the Summer 2024 results, and I would like to congratulate all the students in last year's Year 11 and Year 13. It gives me a real sense of pride seeing the young people in our community rewarded for their hard work. All at PCS are very pleased that our students have been able to successfully move on to the next phase of their education and lives.

Throughout their time at PCS, all students have all shown such resilience and determination. I would like to also congratulate the dedicated staff and our community of families for their hard work and continued support.

At GCSE, there were 3861 examination papers completed at PCS this year!



The provisional headline figures for our GCSE results in Summer 2024 show that:

- 75% of students achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-C including English Language and Mathematics.
- Almost 90% of students achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-C.
- Nearly all students achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-G.
- Importantly, all pupils left school with a recognised qualification.
- An incredible 35% of students achieved five or more GCSEs graded A*-A grades. With a significant percentage achieving 10+ A*-A grades.
- In 'Best Literacy', 88% of students achieved an A*-C grade with approximately 41% of all grades awarded at A*-A.
- In 'Best Numeracy', 76% of students achieved an A*-C grade with approximately 34% of all grades awarded at A*-A.
- In 'Best Science', 83% of students achieved an A*-C grade with approximately 34% of all grades awarded at A*-A.
- Between 35%-40% of grades awarded in the core subjects of English Language/Literature, Mathematics/Numeracy and Science were graded at A*-A.

Excellent achievements I'm sure you'll agree!

Provisional data released by the Welsh Government and the examination board indicate that our school's performance in the core subjects of English Language and Mathematics is recorded as being +30% and +25% higher than the Wales average, again, quite some achievement by our students. We are incredibly proud of all our Year 11 students. However, special congratulations need to be awarded to those students who have shown consistent improvement and to those students who have shown high levels of achievement throughout their time at PCS – well done everyone! Examination achievement and success can be measured and judged in a variety of different ways and once again we have seen so many of our students achieve their own personal success. So many students have worked extremely hard to move D grades into C grades; to move A grades to A* grades; to secure 5 A*-C grades; to achieve English and Maths in combination; to follow college courses; to return to the Sixth Form at PCS – the list goes on. Very simply, to achieve their very best to move onto their own personal next steps in life and learning.

We are really pleased that so many of our Year 11 cohort have returned to the Sixth Form and will continue their journey with us at PCS. We have welcomed back approximately 180 students into Year 12, which includes a high percentage of last year's Year 11 along with a high number of new students from other local schools. I extend a warm PCS welcome to all new students and families.

The table below illustrates the school's Key Stage 4 performance in the key indicators of Literacy, Numeracy, Science, and the Capped 9. The Capped 9 is a point score average generated for the school which is based on each student's best 9 GCSEs including English Language and Mathematics and/or Numeracy. Our Provisional score of 400 points is positive and continues to be high when compared to similar schools. These are points scores as calculated by Welsh Government. Please note they are provisional at this stage as they do not take into account any examination remarks.

	Literacy	Numeracy	Science	Capped 9
School	46.7pts	43.4pts	44.8pts	400pts

As noted above, one very remarkable fact was that 35% of our Year 11 cohort entry gained at least 5 A*-A grades, this is very similar to what we achieved in 2023 and in 2019.

Once again, we are also very proud of our Year 13 students. Approximately 60% of all grades awarded in all A Level subjects were graded at A*-B and over 40% of all grades were awarded at A*-A. Almost all students have moved onto a place at a university this year and a high percentage of our students will be attending a Russell Group University. Our students will be studying a range of degrees including Law, Languages, Science, Drama, Medicine, Art, Mathematics and Sport – to



name a few! Other students have secured or are looking for employment and some have chosen to take time out before continuing their studies or embarking on a career. I wish all of them every success in the future and look forward to welcoming them back to school whenever they are in Porthcawl.

The performance at A Level (or Key Stage 5) was equally as resilient as GCSE and exceeded school performance figures in 2019 (pre-pandemic) grade boundaries. Again, like our GCSE performance, several of our A Level school performance measures continue to be some of the highest in the history of our school.

The table below summarises our Key Stage 5 outcomes. The wider points score is an average score generated for a school based on each student's A Level performance and a score greater than 850+ is very good when compared to local, regional and national comparisons. Please note, as with GCSE results are provisional at this stage as they do not take into account any examination remarks.

	Level 3 Threshold	A* - A Grades	A* - B Grades	A* - C Grades	Wider Points Score
School	100%	31.9%	60%	81%	880pts

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students have also performed well, and their results provide a strong foundation for future success in Summer 2025. Most Year 10 students completed GCSE English Literature in the Summer and 95% of students achieved an A*-C with 72% of grades awarded at A*-B and 36% of grades awarded at A*-A. Year 10 also achieved some excellent results in their GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules along with strong performance in the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate and several optional GCSE subjects/units - my sincere best wishes to all students.

Attendance continues to be an on-going focus and priority for the school. In the 2023-2024 academic year, our whole school attendance figure was 90%. Whilst this was above our previous year's attendance and above the Local Authority and Wales average it was a long way short of our target and the figure we aim for at PCS. This year we aim for much higher and to date attendance has significantly improved when compared to last academic year. This is a priority for the school and the Local Authority. Once again, may I plead with families not to succumb to the cheap term time holiday and support our attendance drive.

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



At the end of the last academic year, we were very proud to be awarded the Cyber First Gold Award, in recognition of delivering excellence in cyber security education. We are one of a few schools and colleges in Wales to receive this award which is led by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) – part of GCHQ. Our successful application evidenced our commitment and dedication to delivering excellence in cyber security education. Being a CyberFirst School comes with several benefits including official recognition from the NCSC and opportunities to collaborate with more than 130 CyberFirst partner organisations from a range of sectors on cyber related activities – we look forward to this work in 2024-2025. I pass on my sincere thanks to our Head of ICT & Computer Science, Helen Christopher for her work coordinating and submitting our successful application. The Gold Award is awarded for a period of 3 years.

I am also very pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Carnegie Mental Health Gold Award in recognition of our excellent 'whole school' approach to mental health and wellbeing provision. This award is titled the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools – Gold Status. It validates all the work we have completed for many years around mental health and wellbeing, and over the last 18 months we have implemented a range of different strategies to secure the 'Gold Award'.

Our work towards this award has been led by Miss Kath Owens, Assistant Headteacher: Director of Planning and Communication, who has developed our leadership strategy whilst also coordinating and planning our structure, culture and support for pupils and staff. I am proud to say we have an outstanding 'whole school approach' involving pupils, staff, governors and several professional partners. We hold this award for three years, and we will continue to develop all that we do to support mental health and wellbeing for everyone within our school community.

It is also the end of an era at Porthcawl Comprehensive School as our long-established Operations Manager Mr Dave Parker retired at the end of the Summer and has left 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 Premises Team 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 and 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.

On other matters, all new staff have settled into our school and are thoroughly enjoying their first taste of PCS! I would like to conclude this piece by thanking all those who contributed to and attended our Year 6 Open Evening. Crowds of learners and their families enjoyed a wide range of events and activities, and we are really looking forward to all joining the wonderful PCS in September 2025. Following on from this, our transition programme has commenced for September 2025. Should anyone require any further information about the school or may be seeking a place, please contact Miss Painter (Deputy Headteacher) at school to arrange a visit. Once again, I look forward to meeting you again over the course of the year.

Best wishes,
M Stephens ~ Headteacher





Enrichment at PCS



Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been enjoying a new subject in their curriculum this year called 'Enrichment'. Enrichment lessons have been designed by teachers to share interests, hobbies or pastimes which they enjoy and would like to share with pupils. Pupils heard about the different options running in their first lesson and then made choices about which options they would like to take part in. Topics this year range from learning how to code, outdoor bushcraft skills, pickle ball, investigating your personal ancestry and yoga! We hope these lessons truly enrich pupils' experience of school and benefit the wellbeing of pupils and staff alike.





FLOURISH Class of 2023/2024

We are very fortunate at Porthcawl Comprehensive to have the FLOURISH Project; this is facilitated by visitors to the school, Mr Steve, Lydia and Nina who deliver eight sessions, focused on building a young person's self-esteem and resilience. The project is delivered in a fun way and involves lots of activities. The end of the 8 weeks culminates in a 'graduation ceremony' which was attended by parents and carers.

Kyle's BIG Cycle Ride for **GOSH**

Great Ormond Street Hospital is a place close to Kyle's heart, after they helped save his life; Kyle continues to be supported by the hospital.

In June, Great Ormond Street Hospital completed a London to Paris bike ride to raise funds for the amazing hospital and charity. Kyle heard about this challenge and wanted to replicate it right here in Porthcawl Comprehensive School. Kyle gathered his team and had support from over a hundred and fifty other pupils and staff members to complete the challenge of cycling the total distance between London and Paris; a whopping 500 kilometres!



Mr Stradling kindly allowed Kyle and the team to use the static bikes from the PE Department and the pedals didn't stop for the whole of the school day, including break time and lunch time! The event, which took place on Thursday the 11th of July, was based in the Sixth Form Hall and everyone who visited, whether cycling or not, offered their support and encouragement.



This was **QUITE THE CHALLENGE**, but due to everyone's commitment we managed to cycle double our target, over 1000 kilometres!!! It was a fantastic day and it was incredible to witness the school community come together in support of Kyle and Great Ormond Street.

Due to everyone's generosity, Kyle and his team raised £400 for Great Ormond Street. Well done to them and everyone who gave up their time to support.

Year 10 Race for Life 2024

The Race for Life is a fundraising event that is organised by Cancer Research UK, in order to raise money for research, diagnosis and treatments for cancer. As a school, Year 10 pupils participate in this event each Summer term. Diolch yn fawr to all the pupils and staff who took part in the event last summer. We raised a total of £105.00



CyberFirst- Gold Award!



The school is pleased to announce we have been recognised with the top award of Gold for commitment and dedication to delivering excellence in cyber security education. The school is now recognised as a 'CyberFirst School' by the National Cyber Security Centre. The school had to show its commitment to providing a structured approach to excellence in cyber security education over the past few years. As a school and department, we are very proud of the award and to be the first and only school in Bridgend to achieve Gold status.

This award will ensure our pupils have bespoke support and opportunities to develop their computing and cyber education alongside access to exclusive events and activities. We would like to thank Mike Hillman from Wales & West Utilities who is our industry partner and we look forward to working alongside him to

develop our curriculum and experiences for our pupils

This term our Year 8 girls have had a taster session on Cryptography to give them an opportunity to take part in this year's girls' national competition which begins on 18th November 2024. Pupils have been encouraged to sign up via a google classroom – code i2k3xko, for more information. The competition is a team event where girls tackle challenges from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking for the chance to be crowned cyber security champions. Last year one of our teams came 8th in Wales!

Years 12 and 13 have been given the opportunity to take part in a national competition called 'Capture the Flag' later this month and Years 10 and 11 are taking part in a

competition run by Cardiff University. We wish all the teams Pob Lwc!

Year 13 have been given a careers talk and an opportunity to apply for a bursary for university.

Year 11 have been given an opportunity to become a Cyber Defender with an online course, where they will learn about identifying the source and impact of common cyber security threat, applying first-line cyber defences, securing a home network and managing their digital footprints.

And finally, Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be taken to Newport University in December for a Careers Pathways experience exploring all aspects of Cyber Security. A busy term with lots of opportunities and experiences for our pupils.

Mrs Christopher – Head of ICT



CyberFirst



Technology is shaping our world, the way we bank, shop, how we get from A to B. We are living in a digital world; technology is evolving at an incredibly fast pace. Compare technology today to ten years ago, today we have smart fridges, cameras, lights, hoovers, lawn mowers. All these devices are hackable. Who is going to keep us safe?

Cyberfirst Competition

Our Year 8 girls have been given the opportunity to enter a 'Cyberfirst Girls' Competition' which aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security. Currently only 17% of females (2024) are working in the cyber industry and the number of jobs in this area is growing all the time. The competition opens on the 18th November and lasts 10 days.

The competition is a team event with each team consisting of up to 4 girls in Year 8. They tackle challenges from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking for the chance to be crowned Cyber Security Champions.

Every girl from the winning teams will take a brand-new laptop home and have a chance to win prize money for their school.

For further details, please visit:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberfirst/girls-competition>

Good luck girls!

Computer Science Dept

Senior Maths Challenge

1. What is two-fifths of the recurring decimal $0.\dot{2}5$?
A 0.1 B 0.01 C 0.01 D 0.10 E 0.10
2. A *twip* is a very short unit of length, derived from imperial units, and is equal to approximately 0.000018 metres. A *league* is a long unit of length which is equal to approximately 4800 metres. Roughly how many twips are there in a league?
A 270 000 000 B 27 000 000 C 2 700 000 D 270 000 E 27 000
3. Two standard dice are placed on a table, with one on top of the other, so that only nine of the faces of the dice may be seen. The touching faces have the same number on them. The sum of the numbers on the visible faces is 33. What is the number on the touching faces?
A 1 B 2 C 3 D 4 E 6
4. The sizes of the three angles in a triangle, in degrees, are x , $7x$ and x^2 . What is the size of the largest angle?
A 10° B 18° C 100° D 120° E 121°

The Senior Maths Challenge is going from strength to strength with 28 students taking part in a difficult problem-solving mathematical challenge.

Year 13 did fantastically well with 8 students achieving a Bronze Award and Ffion Thomas achieving Best in School and a Silver Award. Many congratulations to all that took part and to Bronze Award winners, Toby Abraham, Rhys Bissmire, Finlay Cannon, Ioan Cross, Finley Denley-Ansen, Benjamin Dingle, Josh Jones, and Alfie Smallman.

Year 12 numbers are also up, and I hope the students got a lot out of taking part and they will come back with increased knowledge and skills participate again next year.

Meryn Bridge was Best in Year with only a couple of marks off a Bronze Award.

Again, thank you to all those that took part hope you will again next year.

Mr McKenzie
Maths Department

Have a go at these example questions.
(Answers on the back page).

European Day of Languages



On September 26th, we celebrated European Day of Languages by hosting a Eurofest. Students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 joined in the fun with a language hunt, exploring the amazing diversity of languages and cultures within our school. And various prizes were won! We also had a photobooth, where everyone got to try on French and German accessories. Our language teachers joined in by wearing colourful outfits from France, Germany, and Wales, which brought lots of entertainment! Our snack stall was an absolute success, we sold treats from German, French, and Welsh cultures, helping us to raise £60 in just 15 minutes, which was split between the 2Wish and ROHHAD charities. Everyone had a great time at this year's Eurofest, learning more about culture and language, all whilst raising money for good causes. Can't wait for next year!

Saoirse Moulton ~ Student Leader for Languages.



Year 9 Berlin Project

During the last couple of weeks of the Summer term our class was learning about West and East Germany, as well as the Berlin Wall. We did a project looking at the differences between West and East Germany and we talked about how people escaped from the East in many different ways, such as the film we watched called Balloon.

We also created our own graffiti for the Berlin wall and Mrs Guest displayed them in her room.

Erin Bassett 10C



Gwawdluniau Blwyddyn 8 Caricatures

Ym mis Mehefin 2024, roedd Blwyddyn 8 wedi cymryd rhan mewn gweithdy gwawdluniau gyda Siôn Tomos Owen.

In June 2024, Year 8 took part in a caricature workshop with Siôn Tomos Owen.

The session started with an introduction to gwawdluniau (caricatures). Everyone was asked to draw a squiggle on a page and swap papers. They then had to try and find a wyneb (face) within the squiggle. Year 8 certainly used their imagination here and found some very original facial features in the squiggles.

In the next squiggle they were asked to find an anifail (animal).

The session started with an introduction to caricatures and by the end, everyone had a go at drawing a caricature of Siôn, trying to exaggerate some of his key features. As part of the workshop, Siôn also drew a gwawdlun o a disgybl (pupil) in each session.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i Siôn for giving Blwyddyn 8 this opportunity!





Murlun Cymraeg

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.

Diolch yn fawr iawn to our hardworking site staff, Mr Parker and Mr Peterson for hanging our murlun in P Block outside the ystafelloedd Cymraeg (Welsh rooms) for all to see.

Dywedodd Mrs Lloyd, Pennaeth yr Adran Gymraeg (Head of the Welsh Department) said "Dw i'n teimlo'n falch iawn i edrych ar furlun mor brydferth bob dydd. Mae'n gwneud i fi deimlo'n hapus iawn." "It makes me very proud and happy to come to work and see such a beautiful picture outside our classrooms."

History Club Porthcawl Museum

As part of our work in History Club we visited Porthcawl Museum with Mr Holt in July 2024. As soon as we entered the museum, the volunteers who run it were very friendly and enthusiastic. We were given an introduction to the museum and were then allowed to explore ourselves. The museum contained some incredibly interesting exhibitions, especially on the World Wars. We really enjoyed the Victorian classroom, and it was fascinating to see the differences between the nineteenth century and the present day. There was also a lot of information on Porthcawl itself and it was interesting to see how the town has developed. Overall, the visit was enjoyable and educational, and we are now working on a project to celebrate 200 years since Porthcawl started as a town.

History Club



How does the General Election work?



- 1) Voters will vote for their MP (member of parliament) in their area.
- 2) The person with the most votes will be the MP for that area and have a seat in the House of Commons.
- 3) Most MP's will be a member of a political party.
- 4) The Party with the most seats becomes the government.
- 5) The leader of the party with the most seats then becomes Prime Minister (PM).


 Boris Johnson
 Leader of the Conservatives

Pupils at PCS vote for the first time!



On 4th July 2024, Porthcawl Comprehensive School held a mock general election to give pupils practical experience with the voting process. The event aimed to increase political awareness and highlight the importance of democratic participation. Pupils across the school took part, casting their ballots in a simulation of a real election. The exercise helped them understand the value of voting and civic responsibility. The mock election was a success, sparking interest in current political issues and encouraging pupils to engage with democracy from a young age.

Mr Short ~ History Department

Year 10 Mock Interviews



Diolch yn fawr to Careers Wales for arranging the mock interviews for Year 10 during the Summer term. It was an incredibly successful event with all pupils in Year 10 being offered an interview with a visiting employer. Well done to the Year 10 pupils who spent time completing their application forms and preparing for the interview during lessons with their form tutor. It was lovely to welcome back some past pupils as interviewers too!

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings

This June marked an important milestone in history—the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, a pivotal event during the Second World War that changed the course of history. Here at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, we joined the world in remembering the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of those who took part in the Allied invasion of Normandy on 6th June 1944.

To honour this historic occasion, our school held assemblies across each year group, allowing pupils and staff to reflect on the bravery shown by those who fought to protect freedom and democracy. Each assembly highlighted the immense planning and unity that made D-Day possible, shedding light on the individuals—both soldiers and civilians—who contributed to the success of Operation Overlord. A blend of informative presentations and moving testimonies helped convey the scale of the landings and the human stories behind the headlines.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to the members of our History Club, who provided valuable support to the History Department in preparing for the Year 7 assembly. Their enthusiasm and efforts added an extra layer of depth to the commemoration, ensuring the event was both meaningful and memorable.



Through these assemblies and commemorative events, we not only honoured the legacy of those who took part in the D-Day landings but also learnt valuable lessons about courage, cooperation, and the importance of remembering our shared history. A huge thank you to everyone involved for making this commemoration an inspiring moment for our school community.

Mr. Short ~ History Department

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Elin James and Mai Lau are Year 7's Porthcawl Pupils of the Week. Both pupils worked really hard and produced beautiful pull string paper products. Once finished they offered to help others, cleaning and washing up.



Stead Owen and Tegan Thomas are Year 11's Pupils of the Week.



Tegan is incredibly hard working. She has consistently put the almost entire time her work throughout her GCSE group work course, whilst always being helpful, polite and cheerful. She is a model Porthcawl Pupil. Tegan has had recent sporting success in playing women's tennis.

Finlay Williams is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Since he got into Porthcawl, this young man has been a big part of it's reputation. He has shown us many lovely things, supported all garden events and is consistently helping the team he and help. On Wednesday, pupils hosted a giant sale and Finlay was instrumental in setting up and running the event. He even took home plants for his room. As a result of his constant help, it is now on the pathway to a garden.



Shaneel is named as month and Wednesday's Pupil of the Week. Shaneel is a very hard working young man who is always ready to help others. He has been instrumental in setting up and running the event. He even took home plants for his room. As a result of his constant help, it is now on the pathway to a garden.



Sasha Carr is Year 10's Pupil of the Week. As part of her Welsh Baccalaureate, she has produced an outstanding, thought provoking Social Creativity project on Childhood Poverty. Sasha is now team leader for her Creativity and Empathy project. She is proving to be an inspirational leader who is taking the rest of the group on the journey with her, helpful and thoughtful at all times. Sasha is a pleasure to teach.




Tyler Woodard is Year 8's Pupil of the Week.

Tyler has only been at a matter of weeks. Tyler taught in the Welsh Schools Boring (Chomelwyn) on the weekend and was a remarkable silver medal in the final, being on count back against a much more experienced opponent. On team Tyler we are all super proud of you!



Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled



Poeth

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Kaiden Paul is Year 7's Pupil of the Week. He always works so hard and seeks to improve on his work. Excellent results in his German and Technology exams. He is always polite and behaves impeccably.



Adam Wells is Year 10's Pupil of the Week. Adam is making an excellent effort with his Encryption & Cryptography project for WBO. He is really leading his group and working above and beyond to ensure the project is completed to a high standard.



Carren Ross is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Carren is working hard in her Computing and German exam and has achieved 100% in both.



Sophia Johnson is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Sophia is working hard in her performance and hard work in Cymraeg. Sophia consistently struggles with the language but consistently tries her best and all her hard work has resulted in her achieving a high score in her exam - I am so proud of her. Da iawn Sophia!



Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl


Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled Poeth




Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

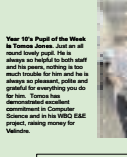
Year 7's Pupil of the Week



Year 9's Pupil of the Week




Year 10's Pupil of the Week




Year 7's Pupil of the Week

Year 7's Pupil of the Week is a student who has consistently shown excellent work in their English and Science subjects. They are a pleasure to teach and are always ready to help others.



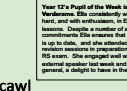
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Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled Poeth




Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Year 7's Pupil of the Week



Year 9's Pupil of the Week



Year 10's Pupil of the Week



Year 7's Pupil of the Week

Year 7's Pupil of the Week is a student who has consistently shown excellent work in their English and Science subjects. They are a pleasure to teach and are always ready to help others.



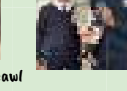
Year 9's Pupil of the Week

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Year 10's Pupil of the Week

Year 10's Pupil of the Week is a student who has consistently shown excellent work in their English and Science subjects. They are a pleasure to teach and are always ready to help others.



Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl


Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled Poeth




Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

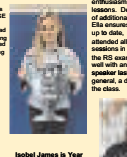
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Year 10's Pupil of the Week

Year 10's Pupil of the Week is a student who has consistently shown excellent work in their English and Science subjects. They are a pleasure to teach and are always ready to help others.



Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

Hot Chocolate Thursday

Iau Siocled Poeth



Mr Stephens was joined by some of our Pupils of the Week, as well as the 6th Formers who performed at the National Theatre in London.

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Year 7's Pupil of the Week



Year 9's Pupil of the Week



Year 10's Pupil of the Week



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Year 10's Pupil of the Week

Year 10's Pupil of the Week is a student who has consistently shown excellent work in their English and Science subjects. They are a pleasure to teach and are always ready to help others.



Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled Poeth



Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

George Robinson is Year 7's Porthcawl Pupils of the Week. George has demonstrated excellent contribution during our Welsh lessons this week. Da iawn!

Willow Smithen is Year 7's Pupil of the Week. Willow has a brilliant attitude to learning and is always prepared to help others.

Theo Richards is Year 7's Pupil of the Week. Theo has demonstrated excellent participation, tried really hard to speak German and worked out Disgibl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl.

Martha Cockell is Year 10's Pupil of the Week. Last Friday Martha participated in the Rome dance cap. She came 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the events she entered. Da iawn!

Ella Hogen, Evie Brent & Siomed Owen are the 6th Form Pupils of the Week. They prepared and presented to year 11. They talked about how to prepare and get the best grade possible in the November GCSE Maths exam. Their efforts were so powerful. I hope that year 11 take the advice given.

Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled

Poeth

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Oliver Ward is Year 8's Pupil of the Week because he is always first to class to help give out books and collect them all in at the end. Very helpful and a lovely positive attitude to learning.

Sofia Romanova is Year 10's Pupil of the Week. Sofia participated in the Rome dance cap. She came 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the events she entered. Da iawn!

Harry Evans is Year 7's Pupil of the Week. A very positive start to year 7 and great effort across the board this week!

Mallo-Jo Shore is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Mallo-Jo finds maths challenging, but is working extremely hard in class and has even completed her homework a week early! Keep up the good work.

Disgibl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

Belton Price is the 6th Form Pupil of the Week. Belton was selected for the Junior Women's Water Polo Squad completed in BMC Cup, Dunfermline, Scotland.

Elise Spillars is Year 11's Pupil of the Week. Elise has demonstrated a incredible fantastic attitude to the work given in Engineering. Despite being the only girl, she remains focused and all work is completed 100%. Willing to help the boys out too!

Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled

Poeth

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Eddie Cross is Year 7's Pupil of the Week. What a polite and pleasant boy. A pleasure to have in Art & languages.

Chloe McMurray is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Chloe has produced excellent work in History and enrichment. Chloe always has a positive attitude and asks thoughtful questions in lessons. Da iawn!

Maddie Clewerbury is Year 11's Pupil of the Week. Maddie has worked hard to improve her work and attitude in Textiles. This is shining through in her new sketchbook and chosen project.

Jacob Washbourne is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Jacob won a Gold medal at the BMX Welsh Racing Championships. Fantastic achievement! Jacob has also been invited to coach / mentor within the Welsh Racing organisation. We are so proud of you Jacob.

Poppy Watkins is Year 10's Pupil of the Week. Poppy always approaches tasks with a positive attitude and has produced some high quality written work in History. She has been very motivated in Maths too. Da iawn!

Disgibl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

Harrison Wesley-Williams is Year 12's Pupil of the Week. Harrison is working at an amazing pace in Computer Science and Digital Technology. He has done extra work outside of the lesson and has completed outstanding work in his own time.

Scarlett Ryan is Year 12's Pupil of the Week. Scarlett has made an excellent start to Computer Science, she is organised and working hard outside of the lessons. She has completed extra recap sessions also online in her own time.

Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled

Poeth

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Mattia Bagler is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Mattia always gives 100% in every lesson. She is always willing to help her peers with their classwork. This is always done with a smile and no hesitation. I second Mattia for Cymraeg, she gives 100% in class every lesson and is always ready to answer questions.

Oliver Williams is Year 7's Pupil of the Week. Oliver has demonstrated fantastic work ethic and behaviour during all of his lessons, including PE, Welsh, French & German. Da iawn!

Joshua Davies is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Joshua consistently shows real engagement with all his History work and has made fantastic progress this year.

Hani Mamed is Year 11's Pupil of the Week. A young man who lives his best in every Physics lesson. His attitude to work is excellent and his hard work is impressive. Well done Hani!

Scarlett Annot-Jones is working very hard in Art. Using free periods and lunchtime to complete her coursework, it has not gone unnoticed. All her teachers agree she is working extremely hard!

Disgibl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

Year 10's Pupils of the Week are Eliot Owens, Emily Baker, Tegan Morgan and Malissa Burgess-Jones. For showing compassion, kindness and love to others.

Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled

Poeth

Suki Franccombe was last week's Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Suki always has a positive attitude in lessons and has produced some excellent work in History so far this year. She has also played a key role in History Club by leading the lesson project with a focus on celebrating 200 years of Porthcawl as a town.

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Honey Morrison is Year 7's Pupil of the Week because she is always very enthusiastic about everything we do in P.E. Her enthusiasm rubs off and helps to motivate and encourage others too.

Stuart Cummings is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Stuart is a brilliant pupil who is completing work at GCSE level but is always prepared to help others. A high level of problem solving skills and extremely self-motivated. A real talent in Computing.

Keegan Mulvihill is Year 10's Pupil of the Week. Keegan has done very well in both Chemistry & Physics. Achieving 100% in the most recent Physics test. Keegan started PCS in September and is already demonstrating a very impressive work ethic. Da iawn Keegan!

Martha Hardwick is Year 11's Pupil of the Week. Martha is working really hard in Food and Nutrition, PE and Business Studies. Demonstrating great determination, commitment and enthusiasm to do her very best. A pleasure to teach!

Suki Franccombe is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. Suki always has a positive attitude in lessons and has produced some excellent work in History so far this year. She has also played a key role in History Club by leading the lesson project with a focus on celebrating 200 years of Porthcawl as a town.

Disgibl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

Steady Burns is the 6th Form Pupil of the Week. He recently made the jump to playing ice hockey for the senior Cardiff Canals team. Amazing achievement!

Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled

Poeth

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Uma Mohanaraj and Sonny Williams are Year 9's Pupils of the Week. Uma is a lovely and thoughtful pupil who completes her work in DT. They were amazing, very polite and sensitive. What lovely young men. Both went above and beyond to help.

Libby Bowen is Year 9's Pupil of the Week. For excellent effort and engagement with History this term. Polite and hard working in class. Produced some superb research on the Porthcawl soldiers of the Great War. Da iawn.

Chloe Cull is Year 10's Pupil of the Week. Nominated by 4 of her teachers! Chloe is such a lovely and thoughtful pupil, she has been so positive in lessons recently working hard to put skills into practice. She always greets you with a smile and is a pleasure to have in lessons.

Lucas Chapman is Year 11's Pupil of the Week. Lucas has demonstrated a huge improvement in Cymraeg. Lucas is really trying his best and I am proud of his efforts.

Disgibl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

Ellie Parry is the 6th Form Pupil of the Week. Ellie is showing commitment to work, revision and learning subjects as well as some fantastic debate points and arguments.

Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled

Poeth

Congratulations to all those pupils who have become 'Pupils of the Week'



July 2024 Sony Trip

The Order Of Events

As we got there, we got given blue jackets and a lanyard. The blue jacket was used to ground electricity so that when you went near an electrical component you wouldn't cause it to not work by your static electricity destroying it. They showed us a presentation on the history of SONY, how it started, why it was formed, their work ethos and who formed it. This was interesting as you would not know any of this if you didn't research SONY or work for them. Then after the presentation we got a factory tour and they showed us where the cameras were made and by how many people. They told us that it would take one person roughly 2-3 hours to make one handheld camera. Then they showed us where the Raspberry Pi's were made and the robots that make, package and complete all the Raspberry Pi's. We then got to do coding; coding a game on scratch using the Raspberry Pi's. They showed us how to do most of it, but we got to customise it how we wanted it (by changing the boat and adding obstacles/boosters). Then we had some food and did some more coding where we made circuit boards using LED's, variables, wires and a breadboard. We had to code our game to include the LED's, we used the LED's to show when something important had happened like finishing or hitting an obstacle. We then got to do a little bit of Python coding and we could either use block or python coding to try and upgrade our game. We then had a Japanese culture session to finish the day and finally got to do Origami where we made little hearts and wrote a personal message in Japanese.

My Opinion

My personal favourite part of the trip was where we did the coding as it was fun, and we got to use the Raspberry Pi's. I also did like the tour of the factory as I didn't realize that Bridgend SONY had the state of the art "clean room," they said that this room was almost 50x cleaner than a hospital operating room. "The filters get changed weekly and the room is cleaned everyday after use." I also liked that the Raspberry Pi's are fully automated but when the robots make a mistake, or something is placed slightly wrong they are put on a separate conveyor belt and fixed manually. They use a "Solder bath" to fix the components to the Raspberry Pi's by using a metal called solder.

Summary

Overall if I had the chance to go back I would as the people who were there were really nice and if you made a mistake they would help you to try and resolve it no matter how big or small they were really nice and kind.

The Sony trip was a very good experience. Everyone really enjoyed the day. Thanks to Mr Pucella and Ms Christopher for organising the trip for us!

Matthew Davies, Posey John and Rosa Hurn



The **Sony trip** was a very good experience. Everyone really enjoyed the day.



Whole School Summer Rewards Assembly

What a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of our pupils at PCS! During the final week of the Summer term, the entire school excitedly gathered in the Sports Hall for the end of year prize giving ceremony, where Ms Crook and Mrs Bennion spun the wheel to announce winners of fantastic prizes earned through positive points. From surfboards to tennis gear and signed rugby memorabilia, the event was a thrilling conclusion to the school year and a reminder that as we embark on a new academic year, accumulating points will lead to even more exciting rewards! Thank you to all the very kind individuals and businesses in the local community who enabled this to happen by donating such fantastic prizes!



Head Team 2024/25



Hi, I am Carys Atyeo and I am very pleased to be Faculty Leader for ALN and Inclusion. I very much look forward to working with the faculty who supports so many pupils of the school and putting together some exciting projects. I presently study Chemistry, Welsh Baccalaureate, Criminology and Biology at A Level.



I'm Saoirse Moulton and I am the Faculty Leader for Languages. At the moment, I'm studying German, Maths, Biology and Physics. I'd like to study Physics in university, but before that I plan to take a gap year and spend some time in Germany developing my language skills!



Hi my name is Sabine Guillerm and I am the Faculty Leader of the Humanities Department. I study English Literature, Religious Studies, Sociology and Welsh Baccalaureate. In the future I would like to study Sociology and Anthropology at university.

I'm Alfie Smallman, I'm the Faculty Leader for Maths and IT. For A Level, I chose to study Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Welsh Baccalaureate. For my project, I will be promoting Maths and Further Maths at A Level as well as mentoring and arranging school trips.



I'm Wil Morgans, I'm Faculty Leader for the Performing Arts, and at A Level I study Drama Textiles and Performing Arts as well as Welsh Baccalaureate. I am a keen performer and passionate about the performing arts within the school. I've been lucky enough to play Jekyll and Hyde in last year's school show as well as playing Joseph this year. Through being on the Head Team I want to promote the arts in our local community and create more access for the arts since the closure of the Grand Pavilion.



My name is Molly Tweedy and I am the Faculty Leader for the PE Department and my main aim is to increase participation levels in sport throughout all years of the school. The subjects I am currently studying are PE, Business and Welsh Baccalaureate. In the future I definitely want to travel, and I am looking at going to University in Cardiff Met, studying either PE or Business Management. I would either like to be a PE Teacher or operate the day-to-day running's of a business.



My name is Ella Verderame and I am the Leader for PR and events. I am currently studying Philosophy and Ethics with Christianity, Performing Arts, Drama and Welsh Baccalaureate. I have always loved being part of the school's events and community outreach such as the carol service and school show, so I am excited to play a leading role in these events. I am hoping to carry on into the creative industry after Sixth Form in either acting or production through either an apprenticeship or studying at a conservatoire.



My name is Megan O'Leary and I am part of the Art Textiles and Technology team. I am so excited to raise more visibility towards the department with my new project of an art exhibition. I am currently studying Art, Textiles and Media so I recognise how much talent there is within the department and would love the rest of the school to see it!



My name is Ava Davies and I am the Faculty Leader for Science in the Head Team. My project this year is a Science Fair that every year group can participate in and vote for their winner! I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Criminology for A Level. In the future I would love to follow a career path into Marine Biology.



My name is Tammy Igbenehi, I'm the Faculty Leader for the English and Media Department. As an A Level English Literature student, I am very passionate about my work. In addition to English, I also study Biology and Sociology in addition to the Welsh Baccalaureate. I hope to study Law and become a Human Rights and Immigration Barrister in the future.



My name is Nayyer Hopkin, and I am the Student Leader for Diversity! I am currently studying Biology, Physics, Sociology and Welsh Baccalaureate. In the future, I would love to go into the field of Zoology and hopefully specialise in the conservation of endangered species.



Dragon's Den 2024

A fantastic day was had by all. Thank you to our dragons for their wise words!



In the Summer term, our Year 8 (current Year 9) pupils spent four weeks building their creativity and enterprise skills through our Dragon's Den project. The students created an 'app' that they then presented to their teachers. The best presentations of the day made it to our Dragon's Den final. In the final our staff and pupil Dragons decided who was worthy of winning awards for creative ideas, team work and effective communication skills!





Art and Textiles

A and AS Level and GCSE

Once again, we were blown away by the incredible work that our students produced for their examinations in the Summer. Congratulations to you all.



Goodbye and Good Luck to our lovely Year 13!

On 17 May, our Year 13 pupils enjoyed a special leaver's tea in the Sixth Form Hall where they were presented with their Porthcawl Comprehensive School leaver's mugs. They were about to start study leave and the long slog of the examinations season.

After all the hard work of their A Levels, they celebrated in style with their Prom in the St David's Hotel in Cardiff Bay on Friday 5th July. It was lovely to see many of them again when they came in to school to collect their A Level results on 15th August.





Leavers' Tea



Good luck to you all as you embark on your **exciting futures**, and please keep in touch with us!



Leavers' Prom



The School Song Final

A group of us from Newton Primary School went to a singing competition in London because we entered a competition and schools from all over Britain entered and there were over 1000 entries. Newton Primary entered and we came top ten and we were invited to Hertfordshire where 8 pupils from Porthcawl Comprehensive School performed alongside some current Year 6 pupils: McKenzie, Harvey, Jenson, Willow, Cariad, Gracie, Macy-Belle, Sophie and Amelia. Newton was the only school from Wales. Thanks to Mr Jenkins and Miss Williams from Newton Primary School who made this all happen. Overall, we came 4th and we had the best time performing on stage and watching the other schools!

Mckenzie Cole
Year 7



Drama





Performing Arts Pupils Relish the London Experience - My Experience

In the Summer term the Performing Arts Department took a trip to London, where we immersed ourselves in the theatre and culture for two days. The group began with a singing workshop focusing on the show 'Phantom of the Opera', where they sang "Masquerade", concentrating on the tricky harmony work. The workshop was delivered by a band member of the show who then gave us a 'Q & A' answering the pupils' questions all about the world of theatre and the show itself. This got all the

pupils really excited to watch 'The Phantom of the Opera' in His Majesty's Theatre that night, but not before a quick stop for some pizza. The show was incredible and thoroughly enjoyed by all, but after a long day of singing, excitement and London traffic, we were all ready for bed!

The next day the group headed straight to the National Theatre to watch 'London Tide'. This was a brilliant and abstract piece of theatre which many of the pupils had not experienced before. With some of these pupils about to

perform in the National Theatre themselves in a couple of days, it was a brilliant opportunity and created a feeling of excitement in the air. The group then hopped quickly on the bus and prepared themselves for the 'Tower Bridge Experience'. We dared to enter nervously hand in hand and braced ourselves for the scares to come. After making it out in one piece we were exhausted and ready to head on home. The trip was a brilliant experience for all the pupils and we can't wait for our next adventures!



The Crucible

Following the success of the National Theatre Connections Festival, this year a group of Year 10-13 students are staging Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' directed by Performing Arts student Wil Morgans. 'The Crucible' centres around the Salem Witch Trials and how Abigail Williams (played by Poppy Shears) leads a group of girls to send the women of the town to trial. The production will completely challenge the strong cast and will be a new challenge facing a more naturalistic text. We hope to perform the production within the school around March 2025 before branching out to other local theatres and performing spaces.

Please Think of The Narwhals!

From July 25th to July 27th a number of Year 7 pupils were selected to be part of the cast for a short film with It's My Shout, titled 'The Narwhals' which promoted environmental issues.

Louis Morris – Harry
Elliot Evans – Gwilliam
William Jenkins – Extra
Grace Peacock – Extra
Brianna Hemming – Extra

Summer Mainwaring – Gwen
Elsa Palmer-King – Extra
Max Unsworth – Extra
Suki Francombe – Extra

"It was an amazing experience to be able to work with professionals. I learnt how to be in front of a camera and I was surprised that I wasn't nervous! Would love to do it again!"

Elsa Palmer-King (Year 8)

"It was cool to see 'behind the scenes' on a film set. I felt so lucky to be able to play the main character and the chaperone kept giving me cookies!" Louis Morris (Year 8)

"It was fantastic to be part of the film and it was so much fun! I loved being in front of the camera and learnt some new skills! William Evans (Year 8)

"I loved working with the 'Tik Tok' stars and I felt really famous for a minute!" Max Unsworth (Year 8)



Acting for Film Workshop

In June 2024, It's My Shout the film production company visited PCS to provide some Year 7 and Year 8 pupils the opportunity to participate in an 'Acting for Film' Workshop.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and after the event, several pupils were asked to audition for a short film which was filmed over the summer holidays!

Playwriting Workshop

In May 2024 over 50 Key Stage 3 pupils participated in a Playwriting Workshop with Francesca Pickard (Creative Engagement Manager) and Davina Moss (Literary Manager) at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff. The one day workshop helped pupils to develop their creative ideas and playwriting skills in preparation for the annual Young Playwrights' Festival.

The Drama Department was delighted that Fran and Davina were able to work with our pupils sharing their professional knowledge to provide them with a valuable and memorable experience to help them grow and develop their skills.





Sports Day

The annual Sports Day of 2024 concluded with outstanding performances, thrilling competitions, and a spectacular display of athletic prowess. The competition was fierce among the four Houses, but ultimately, House Gwynedd emerged victorious, amassing a total of 572 points, outpacing House Dyfed with 549 points, House Powys with 514 points, and House Morgannwg with 443 points.

Significant individual performances marked the day, with several pupils achieving remarkable feats across multiple events. Will Sealey from Year 8 was a standout athlete, clinching victories in three events: the 100m sprint with a time of 13.3 seconds, the 200m sprint clocking 27.3 seconds, and the triple jump with an impressive 9.0 metres. His consistent excellence across these disciplines demonstrated his versatility and commitment to his training.

Another notable multi-event winner was Regan

Kimpton from Year 10, who also secured three first-place finishes. Regan showcased his dominance in the 100m sprint, completing it in 12.2 seconds, and excelled in the high jump with a height of 1.4 metres. He further demonstrated his range of skills by winning the javelin throw with a distance of 22.52 metres. Regan's exceptional performances were a key factor in his House's overall standing. Regan and Will share the award this year for top performing male athlete; Victor Ludorum.

Ottile Hollenbach from Year 7 also made headlines with her victories in the 100m sprint (14.1 seconds), the triple jump (7.7 metres, a new year record), and the high jump (1.1 metres). Her achievements at such a young age highlight her potential to become one of the school's top athletes in the future. Ottile is this year's recipient for the award for top performing female athlete; Victrix Ludorum.



Final Table	1st	Gwynedd
	2nd	Dyfed
	3rd	Powys
	4th	Morgannwg

	D	G	M	P
Year 7	149	178	117	125
Year 8	165	132	154	143
Year 9	135	171	93	145
Year 10	100	92	79	101
	549	572	443	514

In addition to these multi-event winners, there were numerous other notable performances that contributed to the excitement of the day. Martha Cockel from Year 9 displayed impressive speed and endurance in both the 100m and 800m events. Bethan Deeks was often the lone competitor in the Year 10 girls' category, her competitive spirit will be greatly missed by the PE department especially as this was her last ever Sports Day.

Overall, Sports Day 2024 was a resounding success, filled with unforgettable moments and athletic excellence. The triumph of House Gwynedd, driven by the stellar performances of its athletes, will be remembered as a highlight of the school year. As the athletes look forward to their next challenges, the spirit of competition and camaraderie fostered during this event will undoubtedly inspire them to even greater height.





School's Trip to Wimbledon: A Day of Tennis Thrills and Culinary Delights

On July 11th, our school's fortunate tennis teams embarked on an unforgettable trip to the world-renowned Wimbledon Tennis Championships. With exclusive Court 1 tickets in hand, students and staff were treated to a day filled with exhilarating doubles and mixed doubles matches, showcasing the very best in tennis talent.

The group arrived at the iconic grounds in high spirits, and the excitement only grew as they settled into their seats on Court 1. From the very first serve, it was clear that the day would be one for the books. The matches were fiercely competitive, with teams displaying exceptional skill, coordination, and athleticism. Students were left in awe, witnessing live the incredible precision and power that professional players bring to the court.

But it wasn't just the on-court action that left a lasting impression. The students also had the opportunity to soak up the unique atmosphere of Wimbledon, enjoying the legendary Henman Hill experience. Amidst cheering crowds and a sea of picnic blankets, they immersed themselves in the shared excitement of the sport. Some opted to watch matches on the big screen, while others simply basked in the sunshine, savouring the collective enthusiasm that makes Wimbledon so special.

Of course, no trip to Wimbledon would be complete without indulging in the traditional tournament treats. Mr Davies and Miss Barber fully embraced the Wimbledon spirit, delighting in what seemed like their weight in strawberries and cream—an indulgence that drew both amusement and admiration from the pupils. In contrast, Will and Annie opted for a more substantial, yet equally enjoyable, choice of fish and chips, demonstrating that even at Wimbledon, everyone's tastes are catered for.



Reflecting on the trip, students expressed how the experience not only deepened their appreciation for tennis but also provided a wonderful day of camaraderie and fun. The outing was a perfect blend of sport, tradition, and the unique character of Wimbledon. Maisie Jenkins commented,

"Wimbledon was such an inspiring experience. Watching elite athletes play tennis was incredible; watching their techniques and learning off of them was all a great learning point."

As the group made their way back home, there was plenty of time for talk of next year's tournament and the hope of returning to experience the magic once more. Until then, the memories of a day spent watching world-class tennis, relaxing on Henman Hill, and enjoying iconic Wimbledon delicacies will surely linger.

It was a school trip that truly served up everything - a feast for the eyes, the taste buds, and the spirit.





Iolo Thomas Swimming Update

Congratulations to Iolo Thomas who has been invited to join Swim Wales Performance Foundations Squad. In July he managed to control his nerves coming in at fractions of a second under his personal best and finished in 15th place for his event at the British Championships. Well done Iolo!

Netball Update



Congratulations to Evie Richards and Cerys Jones in Year 12 who have been selected to represent U18 Glamorgan Valleys County Netball Team for the 2024/2025 season. We wish you a very successful season! Work hard at training and take everything on board. Da lawn!

A massive congratulations to Elsie Spillees who has been selected as a training partner for the Cardiff Dragons' U17 Netball Super League team this year. This is a huge achievement for Elsie to have been selected into the U17's squad at 15 years old. We are very proud of you! Go and smash it!

Miss Barber – PE Department

Catrin Bounces to Victory

Catrin Sainsbury of Year 11 did well in the Welsh Open Trampoline and DMT competition at the beginning of September. She won Gold in Synchro, Gold in DMT and Silver in Trampoline. Many congratulations!



Roman Jackson

Roman Jackson (8RE), (now in Year 9) competed in the Welsh Athletics Under 15 Championships on the 15th and 16th June. He achieved two personal bests and a Gold medal in the Hammer throw and a Bronze medal in the Discus. He is now the number one Hammer thrower in Wales with a distance of 30.72m

Surfing Update

PCS students topped the podium again this year at the Welsh Nationals in June, with difficult surfing conditions, (very small surf) and all kids surfing well.

U16s

Luca Owen 1st
Tom O'Leary 3rd
Coby Williams 4th

U18

Tom O'Leary 3rd
Coby Williams 4th



Liana Sainsbury Dances to the Top

Liana had an amazing time at the dance world cup in Prague. She won gold in the commercial team dance, 4th in Street, 4th in contemporary and 14th in jazz. There were over 9500 competitors from 55 countries so it was quite an achievement.

Tennis Tournament

Summer 2024

The PCS Tennis Tournament 2024 was an electrifying event that captivated both participants and spectators with its display of exceptional skill and fierce competition. This year's tournament saw a mix of seasoned players and emerging talents vying for the top honours in various categories, making for an exciting and unpredictable series of matches.

In the boys' singles competition, the spotlight was on Jack Davies, who delivered a series of impressive performances to clinch the title. The final match was particularly thrilling, as Davies faced off against Alex Evans in a closely contested battle. Demonstrating remarkable resilience and strategic prowess, Davies secured a 7-5 victory, showcasing his ability to stay calm under pressure and execute his game plan with precision. His journey to the final was marked by significant victories over formidable opponents, solidifying his reputation as a top contender.

On the girls' side, Leila Williams emerged as the champion, displaying consistency and tenacity throughout the tournament. Williams faced tough competition, particularly in the semi-finals and finals, where she battled against Martha Cockel and Annie Rees, respectively. In the final match against Rees, Williams' determination and tactical acumen were on full display as she fought hard to win 6-5, 6-4. Her performance was a testament to her perseverance and ability to thrive in high-pressure situations.

The Year 7 tournament introduced a new wave of talent, with Oliver Rixon and Lottie Dickinson winning the boys' and girls' singles titles, respectively. Rixon's exceptional serves and strategic play set him apart from his peers, while Dickinson's agility and precise shots were crucial to her success. Their victories not only highlighted their potential but also added a fresh dynamic to the competition.

The Plate Competition offered a platform for players who had been eliminated in earlier rounds to continue showcasing their skills. Carter Evans stood out in the boys' category, demonstrating his determination and technical ability to secure the title. In the girls' category, Maddie Clatworthy's resilience and precise gameplay earned her the top spot, reflecting her strong competitive spirit and skill.

Overall, the PCS Tennis Tournament 2024 was a resounding success, marked by remarkable performances and a vibrant display of sportsmanship. Congratulations also go to Chloe Hall and Jack Davies who won the mixed doubles event. The tournament underscored the depth of talent among the participants and set a high bar for future competitions.

high bar for future competitions. Jack Davies and Leila Williams were standout performers, their victories serving as a testament to their hard work and dedication. The emergence of young talents like Oliver Rixon and Lottie Dickinson promises an exciting future for PCS tennis, ensuring that the sport continues to thrive and inspire. As the athletes look ahead to future tournaments, the lessons learned, and experiences gained from this year's event will undoubtedly propel them to even greater heights.

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1st Round	2nd Round	Final	Winner
<div>Luella Williams</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>1</div> </div>	<div>Luella Williams</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>	<div>Luella Williams</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>	<div>Luella Williams</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>
<div>Naomi Croft</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div>Naomi Croft</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div>Naomi Croft</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div>Naomi Croft</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>
<div>Willie Smith</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>1</div> </div>	<div>Willie Smith</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>2</div> </div>	<div>Willie Smith</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>2</div> </div>	<div>Willie Smith</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>2</div> </div>
<div>Erin Morgan</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>1</div> </div>	<div>Erin Morgan</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>1</div> </div>	<div>Erin Morgan</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>1</div> </div>	<div>Erin Morgan</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>1</div> </div>
<div>Lee Ann Stevenson</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>	<div>Lee Ann Stevenson</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>	<div>Lee Ann Stevenson</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>	<div>Lee Ann Stevenson</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>
<div>Helen Parkinson</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div>Helen Parkinson</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div>Helen Parkinson</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div>Helen Parkinson</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>
<div>Joanne D Williams</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div>Joanne D Williams</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div>Joanne D Williams</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div>Joanne D Williams</div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>0</div> </div>
<div>Anna Evans</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>	<div>Anna Evans</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>	<div>Anna Evans</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>	<div>Anna Evans</div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>4</div> </div>



Tennis Update

In June, our tennis teams were successful at the Bridgend stage of the South Wales Schools' Tennis Competition, where we won both the U13 Boys and U15 Boys. Both teams then progressed to the South Wales Regional Final in September.



Congratulations to:

U15s - Isaac Windibank, Oscar Jones, Alex Evans, Jack Davies, Matty Timms and Josh Sealey.



Congratulations to:

U13s - Josh Davies, Jak Kelly, Ellis Price, Will Sealey, Oliver Rixon, Theo Windibank and Logan Mowforth.

The U13 Girls' Tennis team were also successful making it through to the South Wales Schools' Tennis Finals.



Congratulations to:

Willow Smithen, Leila Williams, Lottie Dickinson and Pippa Carey.

Helping Hands



The Helping Hands Project is an additional transition programme that supports Year 6 pupils, from the primary feeder schools, to Porthcawl Comprehensive School. This year, 23 pupils attended the programme which consisted of three action-packed morning sessions during June, delivered by staff from BCBC Communications and Relationships Team, members of our own Pastoral Team, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Dancer and the Year 10 Wellbeing Ambassadors. The pupils also had the opportunity to meet several other key members of staff, during 'People Who Help Us' session, including the Head of Year 7, Mr Card.

Pupils were nervous and full of anticipation. Introductions were made, team rules established and following a few games, the pupils appeared more settled and friendships with pupils from other feeder schools were now being forged. Then there was an opportunity to create our own 'Helping Hands' in one of the amazing Art classrooms. The pupils thought about who they wanted to put on their hand, as people they could rely on for help and support. Some identified other pupils they had met on Helping Hands!

During the second session, it was lovely to see the same faces returning and it was evident that the pupils were far happier, and they automatically mixed with children from the other schools, without being encouraged to do so. The pupils were then split into teams for the 'Treasure Hunt'. They eagerly set off with maps of the school, tasked with finding the answers to some challenging questions! The answers were strategically pinned to the relevant classroom doors and the 'Hunt' took the pupils to all areas of the school. Fun was had by all, including the Wellbeing Ambassadors supervising the pupils.

The pupils then had an opportunity to discuss their feelings about arriving at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. This exercise helped pupils identify their concerns, which they wrote down on a post-it note, in readiness for the question and answer session with Year 7 in week three. The second day ended with a mindfulness-based relaxation session, which focused on strategies to help the pupils deal with their stresses and anxieties.

The final day involved the pupils discussing strong feelings and identifying ways to deal with and put strategies in place for dealing with such feelings. They then had the opportunity to make cookies and cakes which they found this very exciting, and this was an excellent session for the pupils to demonstrate their team-work skills, which were very evident.

The final activity, we saved the best until last, was the Question and Answer session with Year 7. This forum proved to be an excellent way for the Helping Hands pupils to have their concerns answered by the Year 7 pupils. The answers provided by Year 7 panel were delivered with sensitivity, they were appropriate and well considered, thus giving Year 6 the reassurance they needed. Parents and carers were then invited into school to join us for a cup of coffee and shortly after the pupils then joined the parents in the Sixth Form Hall when a presentation of certificates was made.





Computer Science Transition October 2024

At the start of October, the Computer Science Department invited all four of our primary feeder schools up to Porthcawl Comprehensive for a transition morning. Students participated in a range of activities to improve their awareness of cyber security and computational thinking.

Students started the day with finding out about how secure their own passwords currently are and how to create stronger passwords. They developed their understanding of other cyber security threats by playing the CyberSprinter game, where they can unlock another playable character by completing an additional word search or crossword challenge in their take-away booklet. Students finished the session by working as groups of investigators trying to spot phishing, vishing and smishing suspicious contact attacks from emails, texts and voice messages.

After a much-needed break for squash and cookies, students developed their coding and computational skills by completing a Minecraft themed hour of code challenge where they learnt about key terminology such as loops and selection to improve the efficiency of their algorithms.

It was a fun morning, enjoyed by all that attended. To continue their learning, they can play the CyberSprinter game by searching for "CyberFirst CyberSprinter" into Google and if they complete the word search and crossword in the booklet, they can unlock a new character. More puzzles can be found by searching for "Hour of Code" too!

We look forward to seeing these budding Computer Scientists next year in Year 7.

Computer Science Department



News from the PRIMARIES

West Park Primary School



We were happy to return to school full of new energy and ready to learn! Our Year 6 pupils took their long anticipated residential trip to Llangrannog! We were so grateful for the perfect weather conditions and the children enjoyed three nonstop days of activities including climbing wall, high ropes, horse riding, swimming, go karting, quad biking, dry slope skiing, tobogganing, bushcraft as well as a lively disco and a wonderful beach walk along the coastal path to Llangrannog village. Year 6 also began their transition sessions and have already met some of their teachers in preparation for next September. Thank you to Porthcawl Comprehensive for providing this valuable opportunity. We have elected our new pupil committee representatives who we are sure will continue the good work of their predecessors by contributing to school improvement and delivering the pupil voice. Last academic year we were thrilled to win the Climate Action Award which was testament to our dedication to be climate conscious and our ethos to be globally aware citizens.

Back at school, our Step 1 topic was Marvellous Monsters. The children have been on a creative journey, designing and labelling their own marvellous monsters, giving them personalities and emotions and then bringing them to life! They are excited to showcase their hard work in a mini enterprise exhibition for their families. Step 2 have been bringing joy to us all through their Bucket Full of Kindness topic. They have been celebrating similarities and differences and learning how to show compassion and kindness through words and actions.

Nottage Primary School

We are rolling out the red carpet for our exciting whole-school topic: "Lights, Camera, Action!". Students are diving into the captivating world of storytelling, exploring how it has evolved over time.



Our youngest stars, the Nottage Explorers, have entered the magical world of animation, using Adobe Express to bring their own voices to life through animated characters - a fantastic way to develop both creativity and digital skills. Meanwhile, our inventive Nottage Experimenters hosted their very own cinema experience in the school hall! With 'Toy Story' as their inspiration, they investigated different materials and designed parachutes to help Buzz Lightyear "fall with style."

The spotlight is also on our Nottage Entrepreneurs in Year 4/5, who have been hard at work creating shadow puppet shows inspired by Welsh legends. In Year 6, students are busy with the Pavilion Puppet Project, where they are working hard to design, produce, and perform their very own puppet shows - encouraging teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity as they prepare for secondary school. Year 6 pupils have also enjoyed transition lessons in Science, French, and German from Porthcawl Comprehensive School, sparking curiosity for what's ahead.

Lastly, we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Mrs Bloomfield and Mrs Pugh-Bevan, who are embarking on exciting new adventures in their well-earned retirements. They will always be a cherished part of the Nottage family.

Porthcawl Primary School

We have had a busy and exciting start to the new school year. Our first topic of the year was India and we have completed a wide variety of activities. We have created Rangoli patterns and researched Diwali and also created a travel guide of India in Welsh. At the end of the unit, pupils selected their final task and created a celebration of India. It was amazing to see the pupils follow their interests and the end results were incredible. We had elephants made out of clay, Indian animal computer games made on Scratch, online cookbooks, The Taj Mahal made on Minecraft and two pupils became experts in the Indian Football Super League!

Next half term we will be completing our annual 'Great Porthcawl Bake off'. We will be researching different chocolate brownie recipes and then budgeting the ingredients we need. After coming up with a brand name, all pupils will then get the chance to bake and more importantly taste their brownies. It will be good to see if we have the next Jamie Oliver or Nigella Lawson at PPS. We are also looking forward to continuing to work with Charlie from the Osprey's who will be coming in to work with us throughout the next half term.



Newton Primary School



Newton Primary School embarked on a 400 mile round trip to London to compete in 'The School Song UK Final'. The group represented Wales in a national songwriting competition that featured schools from all corners of the Britain. They gave an outstanding performance of our original song 'Back to the sixties' and it was a hugely proud moment for all the children, parents and the school. They are such a talented and enthusiastic group and were one of only ten other schools who qualified for the final from over 1000 entries.

It was a brilliant day and the children gave absolutely everything but just finished outside the top 3. The standard of the talent was incredibly high and the winning school gave an amazing performance. The atmosphere in the event was very supportive, encouraging and appreciative. We are so grateful for the opportunity to participate and are already planning next year's entry. Our music is also available to download or stream on all the major music services, just search for Newton Singer Songwriters!

Pupil Achievements

Winter 2024

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Iolo Thomas Year 10

Qualified to swim 200m backstroke at the British Championships at Ponds Forge in Sheffield in July, having ranked at 16th fastest in Britain

Daisy Barnfield and Tesni Morgan Years 11 & 10

Selected for Cricket Wales U15

Roman Jackson Year 9

Welsh Athletics U15 Championships in June, achieved 2 personal bests and a gold medal in the hammer throw – 30.72m (best in Wales) and a bronze medal in the discus

Liana Sainsbury Year 8

Represented Wales in the Dance World Cup in Prague in July

Dewi Thomas Year 9

Represented Wales at the Kent Open Judo competition in June

Gruff Roberts Year 13

Rugby Union – Selected to play for the Ospreys and Wales

Iwan Frole Year 12

Selected to represent Wales in the School Games in Triathlon in September

Dylan Morgan-Rowe Year 10

Independently achieved a Grade B in GCSE Astronomy

Jacob Washbourne Year 9

Won Gold in the Welsh BMX Racing Championships

Dan Whittaker, Anna-Rose Merchant & Lewis Morgan Year 13

Wales Surf Lifesaving Celtic Cup

Oliver and Joshua Chitty Years 9 & 7

Competing in Tang Soo Do at the ATO Open European Friendship tournament in the Netherlands in November

Matthew Clatworthy & Jack Parrott Years 11 & 10

Selected to play in the European Touch Rugby Championships for Wales U15 in Vichy, France

Sofia Rotmanova Year 10

Member of the Strictly School Dancing Elite Squad

Tomos O'Leary Year 12

Represented Wales in the Surfing GB Cup in Jersey in October (U18 Open Competition)



Answers to Maths Quiz from page 8.

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, 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	Instrument	Grade
Tamsin Jenkins Year 11	Alto Saxophone	Grade 5 Distinction
Caitlin Jenkins Year 9	Clarinet	Grade 3 Merit
Lucy Stephens Year 12	Music Theory Piano	Grade 5 Distinction Grade 4 Distinction
Owen Stephens Year 8	Piano	Grade 2 Distinction
Ellis Leonard Davies Year 8	Piano	Grade 2 Distinction
Pollyanna Dutton Year 8	Piano Music Theory	Grade 1 Distinction Grade 2 Pass
Oscar James Year 11	Electric Guitar	Grade 5 Distinction
Jacob Harris Year 9	Drums	Grade 2 Merit
Emilie Carless Year 10	Piano	Grade 2 Distinction
Owen Stephens Year 8	Piano	Grade 1 Merit
Grace Peacock Year 8	Piano	Grade 1 Merit
Thomas Tremain Year 8	Piano	Grade 1 Merit
Neve Beale Year 12	Piano	Grade 3 Pass
Samuel Cabbage Year 10	Piano	Grade 4 Pass
Evie Brent Year 12	Piano	Grade 6 Merit
William Bloomfield Year 13	Piano	Grade 6 Merit
Ellie Parry Year 13	Piano	Grade 7 Merit
Grace Phillips Year 13	Piano	Grade 3 Merit
Sophia Evans Year 12	Piano	Grade 7 Merit
Adam Morris Year 11	Piano Violin	Grade 4 Merit Grade 3 Merit
Ben Harris Year 11	Piano	Grade 1 Distinction
Esther Morris Year 9	Piano	Grade 6 Merit
Eleri Owen Year 10	Piano	Grade 3 Distinction
Sioned Owen Year 12	Piano	Grade 5 Distinction
Benjamin Bloomfield Year 7	Piano	Grade 2 Pass

PARENTS/CARERS

We rely on you for our information!
Has your child achieved success or recognition relating to an extra-curricular activity? If so, please email
pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk