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Ysgol Gyfun
PORTHCAWL
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)

7th April 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we come to the end of the Spring Term 2025, I would like to thank every member of the PCS community for their on-going support and dedication. Once again, it has been a term of considerable successes.

You may have already received the spring term edition of the Porthcawl Post which includes a collation of just some of the successes we have celebrated thus far this term. I am incredibly grateful to our staff who go above and beyond to make sure our students have lots of positive experiences and opportunities. This term, once again, there has been so many opportunities for extra-curricular enrichment.

For a digital version of the Spring Term 2025 Edition of the Porthcawl Post, please access: [Newsletters - Porthcawl School](#)

Some of the highlights this term include:

- A wide range of sporting fixtures – too many to list!
- Running several extra-curricular educational trips and visits which included a Skiing Trip to Voss, Norway and a Year 7 trip to Llangrannog.
- Year 12 Geography Fieldwork.
- 'Mr Phormula' Welsh language event, a Welsh language beatboxer!
- Science in Health Live Event – Sixth Form.
- Year 10 DofE Practice Walks.
- Year 9 Presentation Skills Workshop & the First Give Project Final!
- KS3, KS4 and KS5 Debating Events.
- Lots of fun at fortnightly "Enrichment" sessions in Key Stage 3.
- Saint David's Day celebrations / School Eisteddfod.
- The completion of our outdoor Forest Schools classroom.
- Year 6 transition days - we are looking forward to welcoming Year 6 pupils for further visits to PCS in the summer term.
- Year 9 have chosen their option subjects as they begin to prepare for GCSE subjects in September 2025.
- Our Sixth Form Opening Evening - this was a success; it was a popular evening, and we look forward to 130+ students joining our Sixth Form in September 2025.
- Year 11 students received positive results in their GCSE mathematics exam in November, near three-quarters achieved an A*-C grade and over a third of all grades awarded were A*/A.

- A small group of Year 11 students also received excellent results in their GCSE English Language exam in November too!
- Our Year 10 pupils also performed very well in their GCSE English Literature Unit 1 examination completed in January. The first GCSE written paper, these results provide a platform for summer success.
- Planning and rehearsals for our school production of "Joseph". This will be the 46th production in our school's history. Due to the building work taking place at the Grand Pavilion we are running evening performances and a matinee on site. To the cast and crew – I am sure that once again, the Porthcawl 'standards of excellence' will continue! (more information to follow)
- Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers Photos - their final photos at our wonderful school.
- Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 Progress Evenings, it was lovely to meet so many parents/carers.
- And finally, our Awards Evening - a wonderful evening, celebrating the rich success and achievement of our school community.

I thank the staff for providing these opportunities for our pupils. All this in a short term! As I said this time last year, time does fly when you're having fun!

Congratulations

We also end the term with 'celebration' as we congratulate Helen Christopher, Head of Computer Science and IT who has been awarded 'CyberFirst Teacher of the Year for Wales'. Helen Christopher plays a lead role in the development of digital learning and cyber education – a true 'expert' and 'ambassador' for all things digital. We are very grateful for all that Helen Christopher does for cyber/digital/computer education at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and this award is testament to and recognition of her continued excellence – congratulations from everyone at PCS!

Joanne Ralph, CyberFirst Area Lead, South West Wales said:

"Helen has gone above and beyond in shaping young minds in the world of cybersecurity. With passion, dedication, and a deep understanding of technology, she has inspired countless learners to pursue careers in computing education. Helen leads not a strong computing department that has created a learning environment where curiosity thrives but is a spearhead in developing and expanding computing and digital skills with educational consortia clusters. She has provided support to aspiring computing teachers with the new curriculum in Wales, shared innovative ideas regarding teaching computing and has actively promoted the benefits of becoming a CyberFirst school across the region. Her passion is also reflected in the achievement of a CyberFirst Gold school award this year. Her application highlighted how the school has fully immersed itself with the engagement framework, alongside numerous enrichment activities for learners in all year groups specifically to develop digital and computing skills and their knowledge of future career paths. Thanks to her guidance, many are now equipped with the skills to protect our digital future. Her enthusiasm for computing is infectious and hopefully many more learners will continue to get the bug!"



Supporting Service Children

Ms K. Owens, Assistant Headteacher, has been successful with a project application to the Supporting Service Children in Education (SSCE) in Wales Fund for 2024-2025. This is a Welsh Government funded programme to build networks and provide support for children of Armed Forces personnel. Our SSEC Cymru funding will be used to run extra-curricular projects and enrichment events to support pupils in our school.

School Standards

As we start the summer term of 2025, we will be focusing our efforts on standards and expectations across the school. Our 'Standards & Expectations' are an integral part of the characteristics, values and routines we believe in within 'The Porthcawl Pupil' and our 'Ready to Learn' approaches. High standards underpin all that we do at PCS, therefore these will be revisited and reinforced with all students when we start the summer term on Monday 28th April 2025. Our central focus will be:

- Standards of Uniform
- Mobile Phones
- School Site

To support a positive start to the summer term, this week, Senior Staff and Year Tutors will be delivering a series of assemblies to each year group across the school. Please note, there are no changes to any of the above. For example:

- Standards of Uniform – as per school policy.
- Mobile Phones – as per policy. Not seen and not heard on school site.
- School Site / Toilets – use facilities as intended.

We are a school of approximately 1200-1250 students, and it is only a very small percentage of students are failing to follow 'school standards' as expected. As a result, standards and expectations will be revisited; this ensures a positive school community for all.

I thank you for your continued support with all school policies and procedures.

School Site

During the spring term, there has been some school site and premises upgrades. I am very pleased that our Forest Schools Classroom is now finished. This is a much-welcomed

addition to our curriculum and community and is located near our school garden. Plans are already underway for an 'outdoor learning' programme to be included within our curriculum offer. In addition, the school reception area has been upgraded with new carpets, chairs and signs. Currently, the Sixth Form Facilities are also being upgraded as are the swimming pool changing room facilities.

I look forward to sharing the improvements with you soon. I would like to thank Mr Morgan, Operations Manager and the school's Premises Team for overseeing these projects.



Reminder:

The school is open for identified venues and days over the Easter holiday for additional revision sessions in preparation for the summer GCSE and A level exams. Please see the Easter revision timetable which has been sent by Mrs James, Assistant Headteacher.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you - families - for your ongoing support, it is very much appreciated. Have a wonderful Easter break, I look forward to welcoming all pupils back to PCS on Monday 28th April 2025.

Best wishes,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens

Headteacher

Key dates:

- **30th April 2025** - Summer Concert (TBC)
- **5th May 2025** - Bank Holiday
- **8th May 2025** - GCSE written examinations start
- **12th May 2025** - AS Level written examinations start
- **19th May 2025** – A Level written examinations start
- **w/b 12th May, w/b 19th May & w/b 2nd June** - Key Stage 3 Internal Exams Window