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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)

14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear parents / carers,

Once again, as another academic year draws to a close, I am pleased to reflect on the journey we have had since September 2024. The school's successes are judged by many in a whole range of ways but first and foremost it is our pupils' success in learning that is important and will serve them best for the future. There has been so much to celebrate and some incredible 'success' and 'achievement' this year – well done!

As I said last year, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all families for entrusting us with the education and development of your son / daughter. Across the curriculum, in all year groups, the thirst for knowledge, creativity and enthusiasm has been infectious. Pupils have embraced new subjects, tackled difficult concepts and taken on leadership roles. It has been lovely to witness their progress and to see them develop as the 'Porthcawl Pupil' ready to thrive in the adult world. My thanks to the incredible team of staff we have at Porthcawl Comprehensive School who provide the very best for our pupils.

As shared in the Porthcawl Post and at school events throughout the academic year, together we have achieved a lot! Your children have excelled in competitions, showcased their talents in art, participated in drama productions, engaged in new experiences via outdoor learning and demonstrated excellence in sport (to name a few). We have celebrated their continued progress, their community work and their efforts that embody the 'The Porthcawl Pupil'. We are very proud!

**The 'Porthcawl Pupil'**

Pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are developing the:

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

Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl  
Porthcawl Comprehensive School

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

As we celebrate the end of this academic year, I would like to also acknowledge the collaborative effort of you, our families. Your involvement in school events, meetings and various initiatives has been invaluable. Your encouragement and support at home has undoubtedly played a significant role in your child's progress and achievements. We are looking forward to 2025-2026 and we will continue to ensure the very best!

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

School. We are a school built on strong values, positive relationships, the highest standards and 'togetherness' – I am proud of this and I look forward to continued work and partnership in 2025-2026.

As we conclude the year and prepare for September 2025, I reflect on several of this year's achievements.

### **Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools - Gold Award**

At the start of the academic year we were awarded the Carnegie Mental Health Gold Award in recognition of our excellent 'whole school' approach to mental health and wellbeing provision. Mental health and wellbeing are at the heart of our school community; we value emotional wellbeing and caring for one another as much as academic success. I continue to be very proud of our outstanding 'whole school approaches' which involve pupils, staff, governors and several professional partners. At PCS, we are committed to creating an ethos which puts mental health and wellbeing at the forefront of what we do and the achievement of this award is not just recognition of our excellent whole-school approach to mental health, it is a recognition of our commitment to improving the life chances of our pupils whilst also highlighting the excellent work we are doing to promote mental health for the children and adults in our community.



### **Cyber First - Gold Award**

During the autumn term, we also celebrated achieving the Cyber First Gold Award for recognition to 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. This award recognised our whole school commitment and dedication to delivering excellence in cyber education. We have an excellent computing and digital curriculum at PCS, and I am proud to say we are able to offer a specialist experiences to our pupils – there will be lot's planned in 2025-2026!



### **Estyn Interim Visit**

In the autumn term we received an "Interim Visit" from Estyn. This interim inspection visit focussed on two of the recommendations from our previous Core Inspection and centred around teaching & learning and self-evaluation. We were particularly pleased that the inspection team noted:

- The substantial amount of work undertaken by senior leaders to revise processes for self-evaluation and planning for improvement;
- How senior leaders have collaborated with staff to develop a set of pedagogical principles to improve consistency and create a culture of high-quality teaching and learning;
- How our team of teaching and learning champions have developed useful resources, such as the teaching and learning toolkit, to support teachers in developing their practice;
- How leaders support departments helpfully to provide pupils with opportunities to develop their literacy skills across the curriculum;
- That our self-evaluation and planning for improvement work has a stronger focus on learning and teaching;
- That teachers are supported to improve their practice with a helpful professional learning offer, which includes useful support material for developing teaching; and
- How the 'Porthcawl Pedagogical Principles' provides a beneficial framework for evaluation and is helping teachers to develop a shared understanding of the school's strategic approach to teaching and learning.

We will continue to develop and improve all that we do, to ensure the very best for the pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

School improvement is a continuous journey and is one that staff at PCS are committed to!

## School Results

In the spring term 2025, the Welsh Government published our summer 2024 school performance data via the “My Local School” website. I continue to be very pleased with our pupils’ performance, and our national performance in Literacy, Numeracy, Science and the Skills Challenge Certificate was excellent! The school’s performance in Numeracy (top 9%) and Science (top 7%) placed the school in the top 10% of secondary schools nationally. The school’s performance in Literacy placed the school in the top 5% nationally. School results are one measure of our success, and I would like to thank all pupils and staff for their hard work, effort and commitment and I am sure more success awaits in 2025-2026.

## End of Term Arrangements

The last day of the Summer Term will be **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025**. Pupils will be dismissed at the usual time of 3:00pm.

## New School Year

We plan to start the Autumn Term 2025 as follows:

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 – INSET Day
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 – INSET Day
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 – **All Students**

**The first day of term for all pupils in Years 7 to Year 13 will therefore be Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025.** At the start of the school day staff will be on duty to guide pupils to the relevant venues. On this day all pupils will receive their timetables and spend time with their form tutor and some of their new teachers. Time will be allocated for ‘induction’ for each year group.

I will write again at the start of the next term to share arrangements for all other parents/carers’ meetings, progress evenings, and key calendar events in 2025-2026.

## School Day

For the 2025-2026 academic year we will operate a 50hr two-week timetable. Each student will receive 25 (x1 hour) lessons per week. The timing of the school day is as follows:

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

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

## INSET Days 2025-2026

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

<b><u>Autumn Term 2025</u></b>	<b><u>Spring Term 2026</u></b>	<b><u>Summer Term 2026</u></b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025 Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025 Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026 Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026

## **Results days**

Official results days are **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August** for Years 12 and 13, and **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August** for Years 10 and 11. A Level results will be issued to students in the 6<sup>th</sup> form hall between 8:00am - 9:30am. AS Level results will be issued to students in the 6<sup>th</sup> form hall between 8:30am - 10:00am. GCSE results will be issued to students, again in the 6<sup>th</sup> form hall at 8:00am - 9:30am. For more information please see: [Results Day ARRANGEMENTS 2025](#)

## **Saying Goodbye, Thank You & Welcome**

As always, the Summer Term is a time of change and I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the staff who are leaving us and who have made such a positive contribution to Porthcawl Comprehensive School. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them all the very best for the future.

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

- Miss Angharad Thom – Temporary Teacher of Science (Biology)
- Mrs Amanda Preece – Temporary Learning Support Assistant

**The following staff will be joining Porthcawl Comprehensive School in September 2025:**

- Mr Alex Jenkins – Teacher of Science (Biology)

I shall write again at the start of the next academic year. We are full of optimism for the prospects for our school in 2025-2026 and beyond. We have an ambitious programme for development and have the confidence and commitment to ensure the school prospers and excels.

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

Best wishes,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens  
Headteacher