

Porthcawl POST

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter | Cylchlythyr Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl



Awards Evening 2025

On 19th March, we were absolutely delighted to welcome pupils, parents and carers to celebrate their achievements in our traditional Awards Evening. It was fantastic to be able to host families again this year to share in the experience and to publicly congratulate our pupils on their outstanding achievements.

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



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



Many congratulations to the following pupils:-

(This Year's)

Year 7 Form Prize

7P	Jack Baker	Ellie Norris
7R	Siena Moss	Dinaakaran Mohanaraja
7T	Anna-Maria James	Alfie Harding
7H	Edward Cross	Mya Morgan
7C	Hannah Palmer	Oliver Edwards
7W	Summer Jury	Osian Stacey
7L	Honey Morrison	Danny Richards



Last Year's

Year 7 Excellence

7JC	Matthew Attard
7JB	Thomas Smith
7OM	Suki Francombe
7RL	Cohen Evans
7LM	Sebastian Gregory-Pryke
7OP	Jessica Brown, Chloe Dunster
7RM	Grace Peacock

Progress

Samuel Protheroe
Joseph Hillman
Holly Chappell
Elijah-Lee Matthews
Matilda Bugler
Sophia Warren
Florence Williams

Honours

Liana Sainsbury
Nancy Cockel
Pippa Carey
Summer-Marie Moore
Summer Mainwaring
Umasuthan Mohanaraja
Ottillie Hollenbach



Last Year's

Year 8 Excellence

8LC	Layla Anthony
8RE	Roman Jackson
8JG	Joshua Davies
8JW	Samuel Thomas
8RP	Tabitha Williams
8NS	Caitlin Jenkins
8OW	Imogen Brown

Progress

Oliver Smith
Travis Williams-Barker
Maya Roberts-Murphy
Owen Thompson
Molly Marchant
Alyssa Keepins
Amelia Howard-Chevalier

Honours

Hattie Edwards
Emily Davies
Lucy Pedler
Leila Williams
Sadie Long
Tyler Woodward
Dewi Thomas



Last Year's

Year 9 Excellence

9AM	Jacob Hall
9JM	Lewis Thomson
9HR	Alana O'Keefe
9HG	Alexis Dickinson
9LK	Dylan Morgan-Rowe
9EW	Rhys Stacey
9CD	Zachary Jones

Progress

Jac Bendrey
Grace Holmes
Katie Collins
Eleri Owen
Sofia Rotmanova
Poppy Cole
Martha Cockel

Honours

Imogen Ward
Luis Towell
Olivia Grimstead
Lily Rees
Jacob Tsui
Chloe Hall
Emily Jordan



Year 10

Academic Effort
Grace Maund
Benjamin Foskett

Year 11

Academic Effort
Jemima Dutton
Larissa Nyabango

Year 12

Academic Effort
Ellie Parry
Darcie Rose

Year 13

Academic Effort
Illia Zhuravok
Finty Kehoe

Sports Awards

GCSE PE
Holly Jordan
Harrison Burke

Key Stage 3

Chloe Hall
Jack Parrott

Drama Awards

Junior Drama Student of the Year	Lily Rees
Senior Drama Student of the Year	Finty Kehoe
Drama Performance of the Year	Scarlett Osborne
Porthcawl Little Theatre Award	Enzo Lipley

Miscellaneous Awards

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



Annabelle Brooks
Lily Slaughter
Enzo Lipley
Illia Zhuravok
Harri Nicholas
Kyle Furness
Henry Horton
Rhys Stacey
Poppy Shingler
Sioned Owen
Bethan Deeks
Grace Munday & Elizabeth Geddes
Holly Jordan



Presentation to Head Team 2024-25

Alfie Smallman, Ava Davies, Carys Atyeo, Ella Verderame, Megan O'Leary, Molly Tweedy, Nayyer Hopkin, Sabine Guillerm, Saoirse Moulton, Tammy Igbenehi and Will Morgans





Awards Evening 2025

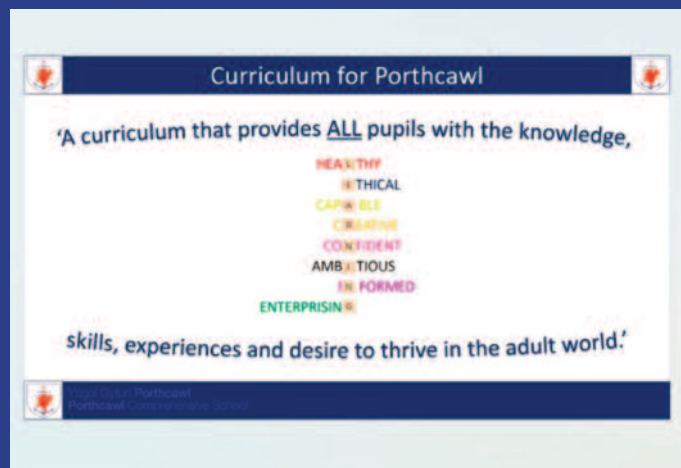




Headteacher's Summer Newsletter Introduction

Once again, another academic year has flown by and as the term draws to a close, we reflect on the many and varied successes of our pupils over the academic year 2024-2025. The school's successes are judged by many in a range of different ways but first and foremost it is our pupils' success in learning that is important and will serve them best for the future. Our curriculum vision is to "provide all pupils with the knowledge, skills, experience, and desire to thrive in the adult world", and the 'desire to thrive' has been demonstrated in abundance by the pupils this year! There has been so much success and achievement to celebrate, and each year I am incredibly grateful to the staff at PCS who go above and beyond to make sure our pupils have lots of positive experiences and opportunities.

We have had a busy and thoroughly rewarding academic year. In October 2024 we received an "Interim Visit" from Estyn. This visit focussed on two of the recommendations from our previous Core Inspection in 2020 and centred around teaching and learning and self-evaluation.



We were particularly pleased that the inspection team noted:

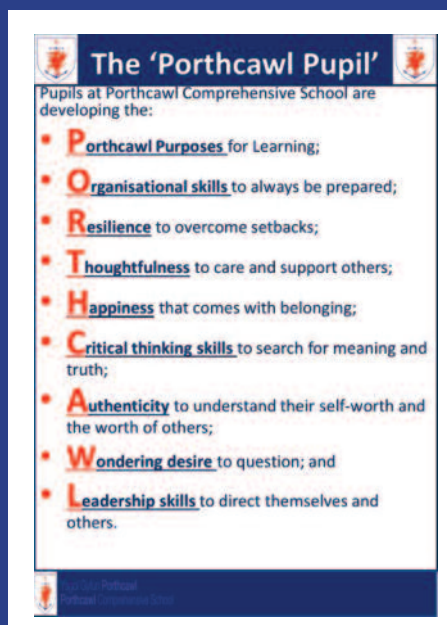
- The substantial amount of work undertaken by senior leaders to revise processes for self-evaluation and planning for improvement;
- How senior leaders have collaborated with staff to develop a set of pedagogical principles to improve consistency and create a culture of high-quality teaching and learning;
- 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. In January 2025, the Welsh Government published data, released via the "My Local School" website which presented school outcomes for the Summer 2024. I was very pleased with our pupils' performance. 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. I would like to thank all pupils and staff for their hard work, effort and commitment.

I would like to thank everyone across the PCS community for your continued support. At the time of writing this piece, pupils in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 are just starting their Summer GCSE, AS and A Level examinations and by the time this edition of the Porthcawl Post is published I imagine that most, if not all, are already completed – to all pupils in Year 10 through to Year 13, I wish you all the very best for the Summer 2025 examination series and your future. I look forward to seeing you all on GCSE and A Level results day and I am sure the hard work will pay off! Once again, I also look forward to welcoming a large number of Year 11 pupils back to the Sixth Form at PCS in September 2025, we expect approximately 135 pupils to join us and for our sixth form numbers to reach 280 - we look forward to you all joining us!

At the time of writing, we also look forward to our school production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. This is the 46th production in our school history and one which will be delivered on our school site while works are completed to the Grand Pavilion. Rehearsals and final touches are underway; the talent, tradition and all the associated standards of excellence once again continue at PCS. To the cast and crew – I am in awe of your talent! I look forward to the production and we look forward to sharing more information in our next edition of the Porthcawl Post.

This year, pupils have embraced new subjects, tackled difficult concepts, and developed their leadership skills. It has been great to witness their progress and to see them develop as the 'Porthcawl Pupil' ready to thrive in the adult world. As shared in previous editions of the Porthcawl Post and via school events during the year, together, we continue to achieve remarkable milestones. Pupils have excelled in competitions, showcased their talents in art, participated in drama productions and demonstrated excellence in sport. We have celebrated continued progress, community work and overall efforts that embody the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl' and 'The Porthcawl Pupil'. Progress and academic attainment have once again been excellent! I have particularly enjoyed "Enrichment" lessons which we launched for the first time in September 2024 – a wellbeing and learning hour for pupils and staff! This year our pupils have experienced a range of activities including ancestry, pickle ball, coding, community projects, gym, yoga and of course "Just Dance" to name a few. I look forward to seeing this curriculum provision develop further in 2025-2026.



This year we have also been awarded with two prestigious awards - the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Gold Award and the Cyber First Gold Award. I am very proud! We have many whole school approaches to a range of different areas, and I am very pleased that our work towards mental health and wellbeing along with digital provision have been recognized – well done to all involved.

During the Summer term 2025 we report our whole school attendance figures to the Welsh Government. I am pleased to report, that for the third successive year our whole school attendance has increased. In 2024-2025, our whole school attendance has increased by 0.3% compared to the previous academic year. I thank you for supporting all that we do to increase and improve pupil attendance. Very simply, there is a direct link between attendance at school and overall achievement! We aim for continued improvements in 2025-2026!

There are a few staff updates from me this term as we say farewell and best wishes to a number of staff who leave Porthcawl Comprehensive School. We say goodbye and good luck to Teacher of Biology, Miss Angharad Thom and to Teacher of Science and Maths, Miss Sarah Owen – thank you for your work at PCS during the 2024-2025 academic year.

In September 2025 we also welcome new teaching staff: **Mr Alex Jenkins**, Teacher of Science (Biology).

As I have written this piece before the end of the Summer term there may well be further staff changes, and I will provide a further staffing update in September 2025.

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

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers, pupils and staff for their continued support. Once again, it has been another successful year at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, and I look forward to many more.

I wish you all a warm and pleasant Summer.

Kind regards,
M Stephens



Cyber First – Bletchley Park

A big thank you to TechnCamps who came into school and did a complete makeover of one of the ICT rooms to look like Bletchley Park. Bletchley Park was the main British code-breaking centre during World War II, and it played a crucial role in the Allied victory. The facility, located near Milton Keynes, was home to the Government Code and Cipher School where brilliant minds, including Alan Turing, broke German codes, particularly those created by the Enigma machine. Pupils in Year 7 have been learning about encryption in their lessons. Pupils completed a workshop to work in teams as 'code breakers' to complete challenges to identify positions of submarines just like the teams did at Bletchley Park during World War 2. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the activities.





Year 9 Outdoor Learning Review

So far, this outdoor learning term, we have completed many tasks from putting up tents to reading maps. Once we arrived for our first lesson, we got a quick introduction to what we would be doing for our new enrichment term and then got into groups and went straight to putting up tents. This soon proved to be very difficult as most of us had little to no experience putting up tents, however it ended up being a good laugh and we managed to complete the task in the end.

Our second challenge was to make a survival outdoor natural water filter. We got into pairs or 3s and then were provided with half a plastic bottle to fill with things such as grass, moss, rocks and leaves. We had to work out which materials may be more useful for cleaning water. After we had filled our plastic bottles with our natural resources we gathered into a group and started pouring dirty water into our filters, some pairs' filters didn't filter any clean water

through. However, we then developed the strategy to pour the filtered water back through and each time it got cleaner and cleaner but was still definitely not drinkable. In the end Jude Jenkins and Harry Denny had the cleanest water by quite a mile.

We then did some map work looking at map symbols and grid references. We also prepared conkers in preparation for a class tournament. We then had our conker tournament, some pupils opted for smaller conkers, some went for larger ones, some went for smooth or odd shaped ones. Some pupils e.g. Jude Jenkins even named their conker 'Dark Matter' and was favourite to win. Cruz Cooper denied his victory by smashing his conker in round 1. Harry Gander went on to successfully win the tournament.

We look forward to learning first aid and using the Trangia stoves next.

Josh Davies 9T



UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Success!

On Thursday 1 May 2025, 46 enthusiastic pupils from Years 7 and 8 took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Maths Challenge – a national competition that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision, and problem-solving.

We are delighted to announce the fantastic results achieved by our students. A total of 13 certificates were awarded across all three levels of achievement:

- Bronze Certificates were awarded to:

Harvey Davies, Samuel Protheroe, Brogan Moynihan, Anna-Maria James, Eden Wong, Oliver Jones, and Umasuthan Mohanaraja.

- Silver Certificates went to:

Joshua Chitty, Sebastian Gregory-Pryke, and Alexander Williams.

- Gold Certificates, the highest accolade, were earned by:

Olivia Harvey, Charlie O'Neil, and Noah Jones.

A special congratulations to Noah Jones, a Year 7 pupil, who not only achieved a Gold certificate but was also named Best in School. His outstanding score has earned him a place in the prestigious Junior Kangaroo 2025 follow-on round, taking place in June.

1. What is $\frac{1}{2}$ of 10% of 20 ?
A 1 B 2 C 5 D 10 E 20

2. What is the value of $\frac{4444 + 5555}{1111 + 2222}$?
A 3 B 6.5 C 33 D 333 E 3333

3. How many of the following are factors of 2025?
15 25 45 75 225
A 1 B 2 C 3 D 4 E 5

4. In March 2024, the British runner, Jasmin Paris, became the first woman ever to finish the 100-mile 'Barkley Marathons' in Tennessee. Her finishing time of 59 hours, 58 minutes and 21 seconds meant that she narrowly beat the cut-off time of 60 hours for the event. By how many seconds did Jasmin beat this cut-off time?
A 99 B 109 C 119 D 129 E 139

5. The diagram shows the square PQRS and the equilateral triangle PTS. What is the size of the angle RPT?
A 10° B 12° C 15° D $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ E 30°

(Answers on the back page).

Well done to all pupils who took part in the challenge – your hard work and mathematical talents have made us all proud!

Interact Group - Aberdare Park Run – Organ Donation Awareness



Our school Interact group organises activities to try and help a wide range of charities. Through the recent "Guess the Sweets in a jar" won by Josh Howells (Year 7) to the "Valentine's Hamper" won by Mrs. Harris (English), the group raised £130 which they are going to donate to Noah's Ark that have been supporting Aston with his recent diagnosis #AstonsArmy.

Mr. Pucella was recently contacted by Tim Trawsbaniad Cymru (TTC, the Welsh Transplant Team), the Donor Family Network and Organ Donation Wales. They had teamed up with the Aberdare Park Run to raise

awareness of organ donation and asked if we would like to support the event. The Interact Group welcomed the opportunity to be involved!

TTC supports transplant recipients and live donors get back into sport following an organ transplant, by facilitating participation at the annual British Transplant Games. The Games are like a mini Olympics, with sports from archery to running, swimming to cycling and football to tennis, to name a few.

Sport is a great way to get active again after a transplant, and helps transplant patients and live donors with their recovery. Last year TTC was made up of 29 adult competitors, 5 junior competitors, and 5 adult live donors and 1 junior live donor. The medal haul last year included 17 gold medals, 21 silver and 13 bronze across various events.

The best athletes from the British Transplant Games are selected to represent team GB at the world transplant games, which take place in August this year in Germany.

As well as live donors, many transplant patients rely on deceased donors for their life

changing transplant. Mr. Pucella and his family were representing the Donor Family Network, a charity who support the families of deceased donors. Mr. Pucella's son Luca gave the gift of life by donating organs after his untimely passing at just 11 years old. He gave the gift of life to two adults and one child in the UK. There are currently almost 8,000 people in the UK waiting for a transplant, and 300 in Wales.

In Wales, organ donation is 'deemed consent', although you can still choose to either opt in or opt out to register your decision. And it takes just 2 minutes to do this online, visit <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-your-decision/>

At the finish line, pupils from Years 10 and 12 involved in the Interact Group helped out by handing out information leaflets and directing people to staff who were available if anyone wanted a chat afterwards.

On behalf of TTC, the Donor Family Network, NHS blood and transplant, and all of TTC's sponsors, thank you for everyone who was involved in supporting the event.

Mr Pucella



Rotary International Evening

On Monday 3rd March the Interact group in school were invited to attend the Rotary International Evening at the Hi-Tide. There were 10 international students from Atlantic College who spoke about their culture, background, aspirations and their link to the Rotary values which is "service above self". The vision of the Rotary Club is "Enjoyment through FELLOWSHIP, PARTNERSHIP and SUPPORTING CHARITIES, we see a world where people unite to transform ideas into actions, applying the IDEAL OF SERVICE to create lasting change and improve life in our COMMUNITIES".

As part of the entertainment, we also had the opportunity to view excerpts from the school show Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The standard was really high, and we look forward to the full performance in the Summer. Well done to all pupils who took part. Our school group also met with Interact members from Brynmawr School and we hope to meet up again in the future on a future community project.



Year 9 First Give Project

From the months of November to February everybody in Year 9 got the amazing opportunity to participate in the First Give project in our health and wellbeing lessons. First Give is a programme that partners with secondary schools all over the UK that aims to ignite a spark of social consciousness in young minds like my own. Throughout the programme each form picks a social issue and a charity to focus on. At the end of the project pupils from each form present what they've done to support their charity and the winning form's charity is awarded £1000.

This programme taught us many things including research skills, decision making skills, planning skills and, most importantly in my opinion; just how easy it is to make a difference. Every single form produced at least one social action which aimed to raise awareness and money for the charities. This really unleashed the creative sides of our year group, from live action squid games (much less violent than the tv show, I promise) to a sponsored treadmill run there really was a huge variety of unique activities to partake in. Some of the best social actions weren't the ones that raised the most money, but the ones that raised the most awareness and those that linked back to the cause. For example, 9P asked everyone to bring in signed birthday cards for their social action, because they'd learnt from their charity, Follow Your Dreams, that a lot of the children they care for don't receive cards on their birthdays. My form chose to do a bake sale alongside a dodgeball match to 'Dodge the Drugs' as our charity, Recovery Cymru, supports those suffering from drugs and alcohol dependence. My form managed to raise £181 which we were all very impressed with.

Another great part of this programme was that it wasn't teacher led. This meant that as students we had a huge chance to do things exactly how we wanted and learn how to get tasks done more independently. This included organising and coordinating with our charities. Most forms did either video calls or in person meets with a charity representative to establish a stronger grasp on the charities' goals and ideas and some forms continued emailing with their charities throughout the entirety of the project.

On the day of the final, the entire Jubilee Theatre was buzzing with excitement and nerves. All the presentations were well delivered, creative and showed just how much everyone had come to care for their social issues and charities. One form wrote a poem about their charity and my form showed the fun video we had created to promote our dodgeball match. We were judged by two of last year's winners (Year 10 pupils), Miss Painter and a local councillor. Presenting was admittedly quite nerve wracking, but we managed to get through it with an air of professionalism and care that I think all the charities would be proud of. In the end, my form, 9C managed to win the £1000 grant for Recovery Cymru, who we were so happy for. It felt amazing to make a true, visible difference and it's something I'm sure myself and others will remember for a very long time.

Molly Marchant ~ Year 9



Samtampa Memorial RNLI Run 2025

In 1947, 47 people lost their lives just off Sker Point including 8 courageous RNLI crew members. The RNLI held a memorial run to remember their sacrifice and raise vital funds for the RNLI.

Well done to all staff who took part including Mr. Pucella and Mrs. Dutton. The event raised over £3500 for the RNLI. The route went from the Harbour to Rest Bay and back, finishing at the Lifeboat Station, a distance of approximately 7km.

Thank you to all who took part. A big thank you to all the volunteer marshals and to Porthcawl Runners for organising a great event!

#Porthcawl #RNLI #SamtampaRun





A Tale of how Kyle Furness Swam, Cycled and Ran for Great Ormond Street Hospital!!

Hi, my name is Kyle and I'm in Year 11.

Great Ormond Street Hospital is a place close to my heart, after they helped save my life a few years ago. I was diagnosed with a condition called Vein of Galen Malformation and I continue to be supported by the hospital to this day.

I have previously organised events in school to raise much needed funds for Great Ormond Street, which has included a 5Km swim and a Cyclathon from London to Paris! These events were a great success!

This year, I organised a sponsored run with the aim of running the distance from Porthcawl Comprehensive School to Great Ormond Street Hospital, some 175 miles. We mapped out a 200-metre course for volunteers to run, as far as

they wished, within a 15-minute time slot.

The event took place on a warm sunny day on Friday the 2nd of May and the response from pupils in school was quite overwhelming. There were some occasions when we had more than 50 pupils running at any one time. I was most impressed with the teachers, Miss Thomas, Mr Pucella, Mr Matthews, Mrs Stanton and Mr Stratford who volunteered their lunch time to support the event. I was also joined by Mr Stephens and my Dad. During the day, we managed to run to Great Ormond Street Hospital and back again with the distance we covered. My thanks go to all who helped me achieve this.

I would also like to thank my core team (my best mates) for their support on the day. They are

Lucas Chegwen, Dylan Evans, Ethan Robins, Tomos Jones, Tomos Davies-Cooper, Ben Harris and Lucas Merchant. They have supported me not just with the events I have organised, but they have supported me on some of my most difficult days.

The event raised over £400. In total over the three events as a school community we have raised over £1500. This will make such a difference to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

This is my final fundraiser as I am leaving school to go on to college. I will miss everyone at Porthcawl Comprehensive School but most of all I will miss the staff in Tŷ Enfys.

A final BIG thank you from me!

Kyle Furness

Wear A Hat Day



Thank you to all pupils and staff who supported Wear a Hat Day 2025. We raised over £1,000 in support of the 'Brain Tumour Awareness' charity in memory of past pupil, Jenna. The funds raised during 'Wear A Hat Day' go directly to research aimed at improving the understanding of brain tumours and developing more effective treatments.

Cardiff Met University Outreach



On Friday 14th and Wednesday 19th March, staff specialising in cyber security from Cardiff Met University Outreach came to visit us at Porthcawl Comprehensive School to carry out activities involving coding and cyber security.

In Year 7 pupils took their first steps into text-based program where they created a simple Chat Bot in Python, which asked the user for a series of inputs such as their name and age and output a certain response based on this.

Following on from Year 8 creating their cyber security maze games in lessons, pupils delved deeper into the understanding of cyber security to learn new key terminology and how the new vocabulary relates to real world examples. Pupils also did some programming using Python.

Pupils in Year 10 and Year 13 focused on cyber security topics which were related to their upcoming GCSEs and A Level to help them prepare to answer exam questions. They were taught theory concepts and had live demonstrations of common social engineering tricks used online today such as phishing and pharming. It was quite shocking how easy it was to break someone's password and it really highlighted the importance of having a strong secure password.

Congratulations Mrs Christopher – CyberFirst Teacher of the Year!

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Mrs Christopher has been awarded 'CyberFirst Teacher of the Year Wales'.

As we know, Mrs Christopher plays a lead role in the development of digital learning and cyber education at PCS – she truly is an 'expert' and 'ambassador' for all things digital.

I am very grateful for all that Mrs Christopher does for cyber, digital and computer science education at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and this award is testament to and recognition of her excellence and dedication.

On behalf of myself, the Governing Body and everyone at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, congratulations on this well-deserved National Teacher of the Year Award.

Mr Stephens – Headteacher

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 only 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!"





FLOURISH

Class of 2024/2025

We are very fortunate at Porthcawl Comprehensive School 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.

FLOURISH is delivered in a fun way and involves lots of activities. The project has had a positive impact on our pupils and has helped them manage their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs. It has also equipped pupils to manage challenging situations they face.

The end of the eight weeks culminates in a 'graduation ceremony' which was attended by parents and carers. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to listen to feedback from the facilitators regarding their young person and how they have 'FLOURISHED'.



Design your own Easter Egg!

Pupils in Tŷ Enfys took part in an Easter Egg design competition. They had a blank template of an egg and had to use their imagination and creativity to create the best design. We had over 40 entrants and with the help of staff from Tŷ Enfys, we narrowed it down to one winner from each year group, Years 7-9. Well done all!

Year 7 Winner
Lucas Medhurst

Year 8 Winner
Carys Watkins

Year 9 Winner
Kayleigh Pugh



PORTHCAWL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL,
by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Limited, presents

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

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Lyrics By
Tim Rice

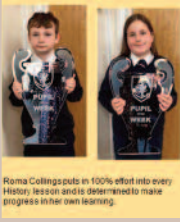
Music By
Andrew Lloyd Webber

Porthcawl Comprehensive School
2nd July - 5th July 2025

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Year 7's Pupil of the Week are Jacob Stretch and Roma Collings.
Jacob has completed a term of swimming despite being terrified of water. Demonstrating excellent determination and resilience. Jacob Stretch has also been nominated by his English teacher. He always tries his very best and is a great help with playing out and collecting books every lesson.



Roma Collings puts in 100% effort into every History lesson and is determined to make progress in her own learning.

Year 8's Pupil of the Week is Daniel Bowen. Since joining the school, Dan has instantly been a very visible member of the music department. He dedicates time at break and lunch to practice piano and guitar and is a valued member of string group. He has even been passionate about helping to raise awareness of saving the music service, encouraging pupils to have their say and collating their responses both in school and within county ensembles. Daiawn, Dani



Year 9's Pupil of the Week is Maisie Jones. Maisie has shown 100% engagement in the first class project. She shows such maturity and has volunteered to deliver the presentation without hesitation.

Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

Year 10's Pupil of the Week is Emma Jones. Emma always puts in top effort and is a pleasure to have in English. Emma is the only girl in her Computer Science class. She works so hard and is out performing everyone due to her hard work and diligence. Always pleasant and polite and willing to help others.



Year 11's Pupil of the Week are Emily Caffrey and Poppy Elliott. Emily has produced fantastic effort in her English, making a very creative and highly stylized top. Poppy Elliott - a resilient approach to learning, working incredibly hard in History and is determined to succeed. Calan.



The 6th Form's Pupil of the Week is Lewis Markey. Lewis has worked incredibly hard for his A-level Performance exam. He has shown such determination and hard work.

Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled Poeth

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

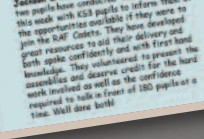
Year 7's Pupil of the Week are Katie Evans & Katie Edwards. Both girls have worked so hard for the last couple of weeks on 9's first year project. They have given up their own time to help the students, volunteering to deliver the presentation and going out of their way to help the students. The majority of the success for their project will be down to how hard they have worked both inside and outside lessons.



Year 8's Pupil of the Week are Alex Williams and Olivia Harvey. They completed the team challenge event with great effort and showed exceptional levels of enthusiasm and behaviour.

Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

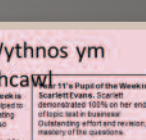
Year 10's Pupil of the Week are Josh Jackson & Michael (Oscar) Smith. These two pupils have combined their abilities to create a fantastic project. They have developed their own business plan and have been successful in their delivery and presentation. They have also been successful in their delivery and presentation. They have also been successful in their delivery and presentation.



Year 11's Pupil of the Week is Will Mitchell. For a while Mitchell has been working hard in his English, making a very creative and highly stylized top. He has shown such determination and hard work.



Year 12's Pupil of the Week is Darrin Duff. Darrin has been working hard in his English, making a very creative and highly stylized top. He has shown such determination and hard work.



Year 7's Pupil of the Week is Zean Morgan. For resilience in his recent assessment in History. He always strives to do his best and is incredibly polite. Zean is regular in rugby training and again always polite and hard working.

Year 11's Pupil of the Week is Corey Clark Medley. Despite his recent injury at school, Corey continues to push himself to succeed. He is working with a scribe to achieve his potential and never gives up. So proud of his resilience!



Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled Poeth

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Year 7's Pupil of the Week is Evelyn Heath. An outstanding pupil. Evelyn participates really well in lessons and despite not learning much for very long is making excellent progress. Do what Evelyn.



Year 8's Pupil of the Week is Sophie Liley. Sophie has worked so hard on her confidence and is now achieving excellent results in many of her subjects. Sophie is a very hard worker and is always willing to help others. Sophie is a very hard worker and is always willing to help others.



Year 9's Pupil of the Week is Molly Marchant, Sadie Long, Dexter De Cella, Tom Treanor and Ailie Magnuson. They presented the first class work in their class. They have shown such determination and hard work.



Year 10's Pupil of the Week is Sean Freney. Sean has helped to deliver assemblies on neurodiversity. He spoke so confidently about his own experiences even though public speaking does not come naturally to him. He always gives 100% in chemistry and is always willing to help others.



Year 11's Pupil of the Week is Scarlett Evans. Scarlett demonstrated 100% on her end of year exam. She has shown such determination and hard work.



Year 12's Pupil of the Week is Freney Benley. Freney is a highly conscientious student who continues to perform well in every assessment. He always gives 100% in chemistry and is always willing to help others.



Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled Poeth

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

Year 7's Pupil of the Week is Elsie Holyoake who came 1st in her Tairwmdd grading yesterday. She also got an A grade which is very rare. Elsie has been doing Tairwmdd since she was 5. She only has one left until she achieves her 1st place. Demonstrating amazing dedication.



Year 8's Pupil of the Week is Riley Versa. Riley has shown such improvement in his behaviour and focus. He is very engaged in lessons and his verbal contributions in lesson and assembly this year are very thoughtful. Riley always gives maximum effort every lesson in chemistry and produced a really great Pop Art mood board for textiles.



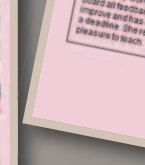
Year 9's Pupil of the Week is Riley Howe. Riley has achieved a B in both English Literature and A in his English Literature. He has shown such determination and hard work.



Year 10's Pupil of the Week is Helen Davies. Helen has shown such determination and hard work. She has been successful in her delivery and presentation. She has also been successful in her delivery and presentation.



Year 11's Pupil of the Week is Helen Davies. Helen has shown such determination and hard work. She has been successful in her delivery and presentation. She has also been successful in her delivery and presentation.



Year 12's Pupil of the Week is Helen Davies. Helen has shown such determination and hard work. She has been successful in her delivery and presentation. She has also been successful in her delivery and presentation.



Hot Chocolate Friday

Gwener Siocled Poeth



Eisteddfod 2025



Canlyniadau terfynol Final results

1af	Powys 1326
2il	Gwynedd 1289
3ydd	Morgannwg 1153
4ydd	Dyfed 1103



The Eisteddfod is a distinctive cultural celebration with roots stretching back to 1176 in Wales, when lords would gather musicians, poets, and dancers to honour the Welsh language and traditions. Today, three major Eisteddfodau take place annually in Wales: the Urdd Eisteddfod in May/June, the National Eisteddfod in August, and the International Eisteddfod in July. The tradition has also been embraced around the world, including in countries like Argentina, Australia, South Africa, and North America.

This year, our Eisteddfod Ysgol Porthcawl was held on Tuesday, April 8th, in the Jubilee Theatre. Year 7 students had the wonderful opportunity to participate in and enjoy this rich cultural event as part of the Ysgol Porthcawl community.

As always, the event showcased the incredible talents of our pupils, leaving everyone involved thoroughly impressed. The standard of the competitions was exceptionally high, with outstanding performances in singing, recitation, instrumental music, and traditional folk dancing. Each student brought their best to the stage, captivating a supportive and enthusiastic audience—an encouraging sign for the future!

A key highlight of any Eisteddfod is the prestigious Charing of the Bard, an honour awarded to a pupil for an exceptional poem. This year, Alyssa Keepins from Year 8 earned this distinction with her Welsh poem Cymru, while Mya Morgan

received recognition for her English-language poem. The vibrant and traditional ceremony marked a perfect end to an event filled with poetry, music, and memorable performances. And of course, the occasion was made even more special by the debut of our very own Archdderwydd (Archdruid), Mr Mark Booth, as host of the charing ceremony.

The celebration concluded with three show-stopping performances from our incredibly talented school band R.E.D, sending the Jubilee Theatre into an enthusiastic finale.

It truly was a fantastic day for everyone involved. A heartfelt thank you goes to all the competitors, judges, Heads of House, Mrs K Owen, and the staff from the music, drama, and Welsh departments who made the event such a success. And of course, diolch to everyone who attended for their wonderful support and appreciation. Diolch enfawr i bawb!



Mae'r Eisteddfod yn ŵyl ddiwylliannol unigryw sy'n dyddio'n ôl i 1176 yng Nghymru, pan fyddai arglwyddi'n dod â cherddorion, beirdd a dawnswyr at ei gilydd i ddathlu'r iaith a'r traddodiadau Cymreig. Heddiw, cynhelir tair Eisteddfod fawr bob blwyddyn yng Nghymru: Eisteddfod yr Urdd ym mis Mai/Mehefin, yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ym mis Awst, a'r Eisteddfod Ryngwladol ym mis Gorffennaf. Mae'r traddodiad bellach wedi ei fabwysiadu mewn sawl gwlad ledled y byd, gan gynnwys yr Ariannin, Awstralia, De Affrica a Gogledd America.

Eleni, cynhaliwyd Eisteddfod Ysgol Porthcawl ar ddydd Mawrth, Ebrill 8fed, yn Theatr y Jiwbil. Cafodd disgyblion Blwyddyn 7 y cyfle i gymryd rhan ac i fwynhau'r ŵyl ddiwylliannol arbennig hon fel rhan o gymuned Ysgol Porthcawl.

Unwaith eto, roedd talent anhygoel ein disgyblion yn amlwg i bawb a gymerodd ran, gan greu argraff fawr. Roedd safon y cystadlu'n eithriadol o uchel, gyda pherfformiadau anhygoel mewn canu, adrodd, cerddoriaeth

offerynnol a dawnsio gwerin. Rhoddodd pob cystadleuydd ei gorau i'r llwyfan, gan swyno cynulleidfya gefnogol a brwdfrydig—sy'n argoeli'n dda iawn ar gyfer y dyfodol!

Un o uchafbwyntiau pob Eisteddfod yw Cadeirio'r Bardd, sef gwobr bwysig a roddir i ddisgybl am ysgrifennu cerdd ragorol. Eleni, enillodd Alyssa Keepins o Flwyddyn 8 y wobwr fawreddog hon gyda'i cherdd Cymru, tra enillodd Mya Morgan gydabyddiaeth am ei cherdd yn Saesneg. Roedd lliw a thraddodiad y seremoni'n ddiwedd perffaith i ddigwyddiad llawn cerddoriaeth, barddoniaeth a pherfformiadau cofiadwy. Ac wrth gwrs, fe wnaeth ein Harchdderwydd ni ein hunain, Mr Mark Booth, ymddangos am y tro cyntaf fel cyflwynydd y seremoni gadeirio, gan ychwanegu at y naws arbennig.

Daeth y dathliadau i ben gyda thair perfformiad anhygoel gan fand dawnus iawn ein hysgol R.E.D, a chafodd Theatr y Jiwbil ei hysgubo gan egni'r perfformiad!

Roedd yn ddiwrnod gwych i bawb. Diolch o galon i'r holl gystadleuwyr, y beirniaid, y Pennaeth Tŷ, Mrs K Owen, ac aelodau'r adrannau cerddoriaeth, drama a Chymraeg am eu gwaith caled yn trefnu'r diwrnod arbennig hwn. Ac wrth gwrs, diolch i bawb a wyllo am eu cefnogaeth wych a'u hymddygiad arbennig. Diolch enfawr i bawb!



*'It truly was a fantastic day
for everyone
involved!'*





*‘Roedd yn
ddiwrnod gwych
i bawb!’*



Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2025

On March 25th Harry Davies in 11L competed in the Eisteddfod Rhanbarth Uwchradd Morgannwg Ganol (the Mid Glamorgan Secondary Regional Eisteddfod) in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llanhari. Harry was reciting a piece called 'Mistar Urdd' by Manon Steffan Ross. In her feedback, the judge noted that Harry was 'able to recite the piece well with a twinkle in his eye and he had an excellent understanding of the humour in the text. Harry came 3ydd in the competition and we are all extremely proud of him for entering the competition and representing Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl in the regional rounds. Unfortunately, he will not go on to compete on the llwyfan (stage) of the Urdd Eisteddfod in Margam Park during half term, but we wish him every success with future competitions.

Languages Easter Competitions



Diolch, danke, merci to all those who got involved in our Easter competitions! We were so thrilled to see your beautiful eggs and they made the Language block look wonderful!

The winners of the 'Decorate your own egg' competition:

1st place: **Oliver Edwards 7C**

2nd place: **Evie Knight 10T**

3rd place: **Jonah Williams 7L**

Highly Commended: **Lilly and Grace David, Teigan Evans, Maddie Evans, Sage Williams**

Congratulations!

Well done to the following pupils who found out what our secret Easter word was:

Nancy Cockel, Pollyanna Dutton, Ruby Evans, Rowan Tuck, George Robinson, Joe McGowan, Eliza Cinderby, Liana Sainsbury, Hana Nicholas, Alex Williams and Olivia Harvey.



Shout Out for German!



During the week of 17th-21st March, the German Embassy was raising awareness for the German language by using the hashtag ShoutOutForGerman. Our Year 7 pupils got involved by sharing some of their favourite German words and completing lots of speaking tasks throughout the week. The German Embassy reposted our stories and photos and they were thrilled with the pupils' engagement!

Danke Y7!

Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze Award Year 10



During March the Year 10 DofE group had their first navigation training session in the hills of Llangeinor. They had the opportunity to put their theory skills into practice and demonstrate a range of techniques such as:-

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

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

"I had a good time, really enjoyed the walk and I am now more confident using a map and a compass"

Emily Baker

"During this practice walk, I have learnt new skills and have had a little taster of what the real expedition will be like. I expanded my knowledge of using a compass and a map. I now feel confident that I will be able to take on this challenge. The first hour was hard as we had to get used to the terrain, however as a group we overcame this by working together; we sat down and figured out the navigation and by the end of the walk, we were confident"

Maise Burge-Jones

"During the Llangeinor practice walk I gained confidence in using a compass and map to navigate my route. As a group we ensured that each member was able to agree on our directions so as to not get lost or go the wrong way. I believe that this walk was highly beneficial to us as we were familiarised with the environment that we will later use our skills in. We worked on our pacing and recognition of map symbols however this could have been improved on so I will suggest that we work on these skills on the next practice walk so that we are fully prepared for the expedition. Further repetition of compass work would also be beneficial in the future. We must however be able to persist throughout the real expedition which would be much more enduring as it is longer and a further distance with large backpacks, without the support of a teacher. To be able to navigate individually is key. Overall the Llangeinor walk was enjoyable and gave me a helpful insight. I look forward to the next challenge"

Meghan Conniff-Jenkins

"The walk taught me how to read a map, how pacing helps to guide us and how to use compass bearings to help with navigation. This gave me an experience to develop communication skills and work in my group. Also, I learned how to use an emergency shelter which may be useful in the expedition"

Robyn Davies

"The walk was great, I learned many skills like pacing yourself and orienting a map, which will

definitely be useful in the future walks and expedition. Not only that but working together as a team had a big difference on the experience, it increased confidence and made the whole walk better, as we were all learning new things together. I'm glad we are doing practice walks because honestly without the practice beforehand I would've struggled on the expedition, the walks are a great insight to the real expedition itself. So, thank you to all the staff that helped us"

Evie Knight

"I really enjoyed the practice walk on 23rd March, I feel a lot more confident for the real expedition, As I feel I can now navigate myself and my group if we all work together. I feel it was a great time for us all as a group to expand our skills and have an idea on how we are all going to have to communicate and work as a group in July. I had a really fun time and it was a great experience and I feel excited for the expedition in July"

Lily Rees



Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh group who have successfully completed their Emergency and Basic First Aid qualification with St. Johns and were presented with their certificates in February.



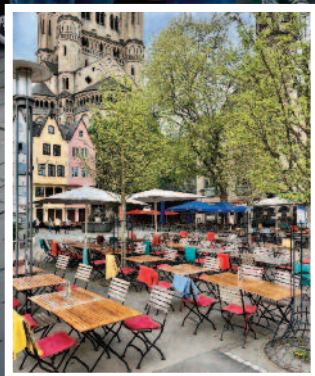
What the School Council did at the Youth Council Meeting!

During the Youth Council meeting we did many fun activities. A member of the Youth Council came and talked about children's rights. She showed us a great Powerpoint teaching us about children's rights, explaining which things were children's rights and which things weren't eg:- the right to have education. Then we played a game where we had to go to each side of the room depending on whether the sentence was a children's right or a children's want. After that we played a game on Kahoot. It was very fun and again there were questions about children's rights. When we finished, the member of staff talked about the Youth Council and how it's a place you can go to have fun and play games. Finally she gave us all leaflets, stickers and keychains. Overall, I think it was a very fun experience and how we all had a chance to talk about children's rights in a fun way!

School Council



Languages trip to Köln



During Easter we travelled to Cologne in Germany for a few days. We went via bus and ferry and the trip was filled with lots of exciting things to do. Our hotel was really modern and the rooms were great! On the first day we spent some time at the Kölner Dom (the cathedral). The cathedral is enormous and is one of the most famous landmarks in Germany. Mr Short explained to us that it was the only part of Cologne that wasn't bombed in WW2; the fighter pilots used it to help navigate their way and its foundations are so strong that it withstood the bombs around it. We then went on a river cruise on the Rhine and spent some time in a lovely little town called St Goar. That night, we took a walk to the FC Köln Stadium and stopped in McDonalds on the way back to the hotel. We were excited as the next day was a trip to a theme park called Phantasialand. The rides there were great! Lots of exciting ones but some family friendly ones as well. We then went to the Lindt Schokoladenmuseum, the shop was filled with the gold bunnies!

Danke Köln! We had a great time!





Parliament Trip

On Monday 22nd April, I had the pleasure of leading what has become a much-anticipated tradition at Porthcawl Comprehensive – our annual Sixth Form visit to the Houses of Parliament and the Imperial War Museum.

As always, the day began bright and early – a 5am departure from Porthcawl, with a coach full of tired but excited students and staff. By the time we reached London mid-morning, we were greeted by glorious sunshine – perfect weather for a short walk through the stunning St. James's Park. It offered a welcome chance to

stretch our legs and soak in the surroundings before diving into the day's main events.

Our first stop was the Palace of Westminster, a cornerstone of our trip each year. We were warmly welcomed by our local MP, Chris Elmore, who



kindly took the time to speak to students about the realities of working in Parliament. Our guided tour took us through both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, offering students a glimpse into the workings and rich history of British democracy.

A particular highlight – and a surprise for the students – was the chance to visit Downing Street for a group photo outside the famous black door of Number 10! This special opportunity was made possible thanks to the behind-the-scenes support of Mr. Beard, and we're very grateful for his help in making it happen.

The afternoon was spent at the Imperial War Museum, another key element of this annual trip. The museum's powerful exhibits gave students a moving and thought-provoking insight into the experiences of those affected by conflict. As always, the Holocaust exhibition left a lasting impression and prompted important reflections.

No Sixth Form London trip would be complete without a stop on Oxford Street, and students enjoyed some well-earned free time to explore, grab a bite to eat, and do a bit of shopping before we began the journey home.



It was, once again, a long day – but a rewarding one. I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues Mrs. Bennion, Mr. Holt, Mr. Hutchison, and Mr. Shutt for their support and supervision throughout. Thanks also to the office of Chris Elmore MP for accommodating us and helping to ensure our Parliament visit was a success.

Mr. Short – History Department



Firefighter for a Day!

On Tuesday 13th May some students involved in the Tackle program took part in a Fire Fighter for a day's experience at Bridgend Fire Station. They learnt all about fire safety and the consequences of deliberate fire setting. After lunch they went out onto the yard and in the fire fighter kit, they carried out drills and team challenges. Students learnt important commands and were also allowed to fire the hose. They then took turns to get through the rat cage whilst blindfolded. All the students involved had a wonderful day and we even had some students enquire about cadets!

Mrs Clatworthy – Tŷ Enfys



Skiing, Snow, and Scandinavian Adventures: NORWAY 2025

During February half term, a group of excited pupils from Year 8 and Year 10 set off on an unforgettable adventure to Norway for the annual school ski trip. Surrounded by breathtaking mountain views, fresh powdery snow, and a week full of action, the experience was nothing short of spectacular.

While some pupils arrived with previous skiing experience, many were complete beginners. But that didn't stop anyone from making incredible progress on the slopes. With supportive instructors, daily ski sessions, and a lot of perseverance, even the most nervous learners were confidently tackling runs by the end of the week. It was inspiring to watch how quickly skills developed and how determined everyone was to improve.

The fun didn't stop after the skis came off. Each evening was packed with exciting activities designed to bring everyone together. From competitive bowling to the hilarious chaos of bum boarding down snowy hills, there was something for everyone. Pupils tested their skills in traditional Nordic games and even took a splash at a local swimming pool, complete with diving boards, obstacle courses, and water slides – a perfect way to relax tired legs.

One of the most magical highlights of the trip was the chance to ski under the floodlights. Gliding across the snow at night, with the mountains glowing softly around us. This unique experience is sure to stay with pupils for years to come.

To top it all off, there was a lively quiz night where teams battled it out for victory, showcasing not just their knowledge but their team spirit and sense of humour.

The Norway ski trip was more than just a holiday; it was an experience filled with challenge, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Pupils returned home with new skills, new friendships, and a sense of achievement that only comes from stepping outside your comfort zone – and doing it all on skis.





A Night at the Kit Kat Club:

BTEC Performing Arts Take on ‘Cabaret’



This term, the BTEC Performing Arts students brought the iconic musical Cabaret to life in two fantastically entertaining performances that left audiences thoroughly impressed and transported to 1930s Berlin. The show, known for its bold themes and unforgettable music, explores life in a society on the brink of political upheaval, all set within the seedy, seductive world of the Kit Kat Club.

Originally written by Joe Masteroff with music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb, Cabaret follows the story of Sally Bowles, a British singer performing at the Kit Kat Club, and her relationship with American writer Cliff Bradshaw. Set against the rise of the Nazi party, the show is a powerful reminder of how art and politics collide.

Our BTEC students reimaged this classic piece in a completely immersive, in-the-round setting. The Drama Studio was transformed into a cabaret-style venue, with the audience seated around small tables as if they were guests in the club itself. This creative staging choice brought the audience into the heart of the action and created a thrillingly intimate atmosphere.

Year 13 Performing Arts students took on the lead roles with confidence and charisma, capturing both the sparkle and darkness of the piece. Meanwhile, the Year 12 students formed a vibrant and expressive chorus of Kit Kat Club dancers, adding energy and spectacle to the production through stylised movement and ensemble work.

Both performances played to packed-out audiences, with the buzz in the room making the experience more electric. The immersive setup meant no two audience members had the same perspective and every seat felt like part of the show.

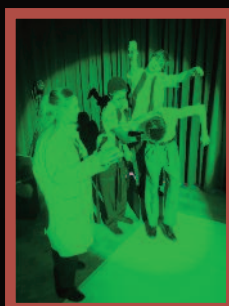
This ambitious project allowed students to stretch themselves both creatively and professionally. From character development to choreography and vocal performance, they gained invaluable insight into the demands of musical theatre. The teamwork, discipline, and dedication shown throughout the rehearsal process were reflected in the slick, high-impact performances on the night.

The BTEC Performing Arts group should be incredibly proud of what they achieved. It wasn't just a performance, it was an experience. As the Emcee might say, "Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome" and what a welcome it was.



Year 11 GCSE DRAMA SCRIPTED PRACTICAL EXAMS

The final Year 11 GCSE Drama practical exam was held on Tuesday 25th March in the Drama Studio. A total of eight groups performed, consisting primarily of actors alongside four technical candidates who specialised in lighting design. Most performances were naturalistic in style, demanding a high level of skill and maturity on stage. The commitment shown by all students was outstanding, with many giving up their time after school and on weekends to rehearse. On the day, every pupil gave their absolute best. Their hard work, passion, and dedication were evident in every performance. We are incredibly proud of their achievements – well done, everyone!



AS DRAMA PRACTICAL EXAMS



In February this year, the AS Drama class completed their examined performances, which involved reinterpreting a set text through a chosen theatrical style. There were three groups in total, each taking on a different play, Dr Faustus, A Doll's House, and Dancing at Lughnasa, and creatively reimagining them using styles influenced by practitioners such as Gecko Theatre Company and Antonin Artaud.

The resulting performances were of an exceptionally high standard and were both powerful and entertaining. This is one of the most challenging components of the course, pushing students creatively, physically, and intellectually. The intense rehearsal process demands a great deal, but the students' growth and development through it were truly impressive.

"I loved performing a style that I had never even heard of before and I truly felt I stepped out of my comfort zone"
Ezme Davies

"I found the creative process challenging but extremely rewarding at the same time"
Rachel Clear

March 2025

Year 13 Drama Students Shine in Demanding Unit 3 Exam Performance



The Year 13 Drama class took to the stage for their highly anticipated Unit 3 exam in March 2025, a demanding culmination of their A-Level journey and many years of dedication to the subject. This challenging examination required each pupil to present two contrasting performances in response to a set stimulus: one scripted piece, primarily rooted in naturalism, and one devised piece created in an entirely different theatrical style.

The contrast between the performances demonstrated the students' versatility and depth as theatre-makers. The scripted pieces showcased strong characterisation, emotional truth, and nuanced storytelling typical of naturalistic drama. These were performed with professionalism and maturity, reflecting the students' understanding of realistic theatre and its demand for detail and emotional integrity.

In stark contrast, the devised pieces were bold, imaginative, and stylistically rich. Drawing inspiration from the physical and visually striking styles of companies such as Frantic Assembly, Complicité, Idle Motion, and Gekko, students explored sophisticated theatrical techniques that pushed the boundaries of conventional

performance. The creativity displayed was exceptional, with each group using movement, multimedia, symbolic imagery, and ensemble work to create pieces that were not only visually engaging but intellectually stimulating.

Many of the devised performances tackled powerful and contemporary themes such as women's rights, state control, identity, and protest. These thought-provoking narratives left a lasting impression, engaging the audience with their relevance and urgency. It was clear that the students had poured immense thought, research, and passion into their work, demonstrating a mature grasp of the world around them and the power of theatre as a vehicle for change.

Adding another layer of professionalism to the exam, one candidate focused on lighting design, enhancing the mood, pace, and storytelling of the pieces. Their technical contribution was subtle yet significant, showing a keen understanding of how light can shape audience perception and atmosphere.

The dedication of the Year 13 cohort in the months leading up to the performance was excellent. Countless hours of

rehearsal, script analysis, devising, refining, and technical planning went into preparing for these final pieces. Their commitment, creativity, and resilience were evident in every performance.

The Drama Department is immensely proud of the entire group. This final showcase marks the end of an important chapter, and the students have risen to the occasion with passion and professionalism. We thank them for their unwavering commitment to the department over the years and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

Drama Department



My Experience with **Please Think of the Narwhals** by Louis Morris

I had the amazing opportunity to play Harri in the short film *Please Think of the Narwhals*, a story about a boy trying to get his parents and the world to take recycling seriously. It wasn't always easy for Harri, and that made playing him even more interesting.

The film was made by It's My Shout, a brilliant training programme that gives new actors, directors, and crew members the chance to create short films. It was an incredible learning experience to be part of a professional production with such a passionate team.

Please Think of the Narwhals is now on BBC iPlayer, along with other It's My Shout films like *The Hub*, *Milodfa*, and more.

Not long after the release, I was invited to the It's My Shout 25th Anniversary Awards. I was nominated for Best Actor, which was exciting enough but then my name was actually called! I was so shocked and honoured to win. Getting up to make my speech in front of everyone is a moment I'll never forget. I'm really grateful for the experience and proud to have been part of such a meaningful project.



Congratulations **Ella!**

On behalf of the Performing Arts faculty, I am absolutely thrilled to share how incredibly proud we are of Ella Verderame for gaining a well-deserved place at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama to study on the highly competitive three-year Drama and Applied Theatre course. This outstanding achievement is the result of Ella's relentless dedication, talent, and resilience throughout a challenging and rigorous selection process, one that sees only a small number of applicants accepted each year.

The application process itself is notoriously difficult, involving multiple audition rounds, interviews, and written submissions that demand both artistic excellence and a deep understanding of applied theatre. Her commitment to her craft, her growth as a performer and collaborator, and her passion for using theatre as a tool for change have all been evident in her journey.

Ella "can't wait for the next journey" and is "so grateful for the constant support from the entire department over the years" who helped fuel her passion for the subject. The entire faculty beams with pride as we celebrate this next exciting chapter in Ella's artistic and academic journey—what a remarkable accomplishment!

Mrs Poole

Wil Morgans



It is with immense pride and joy that I write this report on behalf of the Performing Arts Faculty to celebrate a truly remarkable achievement: Wil Morgans has been accepted into the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) to study on their prestigious three-year Acting course. This is an extraordinary milestone that reflects Wil's dedication, talent, and growth as a young artist.

Gaining a place at RADA is notoriously competitive, with thousands of applicants from across the globe vying for a handful of places each year. The audition process is rigorous and multi-staged, designed to challenge not only technical acting ability but also emotional truth, imagination, voice, and the potential for growth.

Wil began by submitting a self-tape audition, performing contrasting classical and contemporary monologues with astonishing nuance and presence. He was then invited to a recall in London, where he took part in intensive workshops with RADA tutors, performed live in front of a panel, and engaged in group work that assessed collaboration, adaptability, and emotional intelligence.

As a department to say we are proud would be an understatement. The Performing Arts Faculty has always believed in nurturing authentic voices, and Wil exemplifies this ethos. His acceptance

into RADA is not just a personal triumph but a testament to what is possible when talent meets perseverance.

In Wil's Words "It still hasn't quite sunk in. RADA has always been a dream, and to know that they saw something in me something worth nurturing is surreal. I'm just so grateful to everyone who's supported me along the way. I feel so lucky and owe so much to the performing arts department, the opportunities I've been given and the support I've had is immeasurable"

Wil's journey to RADA marks the beginning of what promises to be an extraordinary career. We are confident that he will not only thrive at the Academy but also emerge as an artist with both craft and conscience.

Congratulations Wil, your future is bright, and we cannot wait to see where it leads you.

Spring Term Sporting Highlights

It's been another action-packed and hugely successful term for sport at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, with our pupils excelling across a wide range of disciplines. Here's a round-up of just some of the recent highlights:

Martial Arts Mastery

A huge congratulations to Uma, Dina, and Osian for their recent martial arts achievements. Osian proudly brought home two medals from a karate competition, demonstrating great skill and determination. Brothers Umasuthan and Dinasuthan earned their Dan black belts in Korean Karate—a remarkable accomplishment that reflects years of commitment and discipline. And well done to Year 7 pupil Elsie Holyoake, who achieved her red belt in Taekwondo along with an exceptional A grade in her grading—a rare and impressive feat.



Rugby Round-Up

Our rugby teams have continued to make the school proud with their grit and performances in Sevens tournaments. The Year 7 team finished as runners-up in the Bridgend 7s, putting in an excellent effort. The Year 10 boys retained their title at the same tournament, handling the pressure of being reigning champions with confidence and style. Our senior team also made it through to the quarter-finals of the National Urdd 7s Cup after a thrilling win in the last 16—da iawn, boys!

Netball and Hockey Success

Our Year 7 netballers took on a strong Brynteg side and rose to the occasion with determination and teamwork. Special mention to Avie and Lola, who were named players of the match. Meanwhile, our Year 7 and 8 hockey teams also faced Brynteg in their final fixtures of the year. Both schools secured a win, with our girls showing strong attacking intent and great team spirit.

Track and Field Excellence

Porthcawl athletes represented the school at the Glamorgan Valleys Athletics Competition for Years 10 and 11. The team showed fantastic commitment, with some brilliant performances across track and field events under the sun. Their hard work in training is clearly paying off!

Well done to all pupils involved—you continue to represent PCS with pride, passion and perseverance. We look forward to even more sporting success next term!



Victories for the Cardiff Quins

Seren Baldwin and Maisie Bratcher in Year 7 both play for Cardiff Quins U12s Rugby team. On 3rd May they won the East Wales Cup played at Cardiff Arms Park. They beat Mid Wales Kites 52-0 to lift the trophy. Winning that final also meant that the Cardiff Quins finished the season unbeaten. Well done girls!

Also, congratulations to Isabela Norman who plays for the Cardiff Quins U14 Rugby team. They got through to the U14s East Wales Cup Final at Newport's Rodney Parade, and won!

Gold for Osian at Tang Soo Do!

Osian Harries in Year 7 has risen the ranks within his Tang Soo Do training, working towards a prestigious competition held in Dagenham in the Spring Term. Osian had a very successful day, competing against other athletes from all over the world! He was awarded both 1st place and 3rd place, coming away with Gold and Bronze medals. He continues to prepare for various competitions across the UK, and we are sure that we will see him winning more medals in the future.

Da iawn, Osian!



News from the **Primaries**

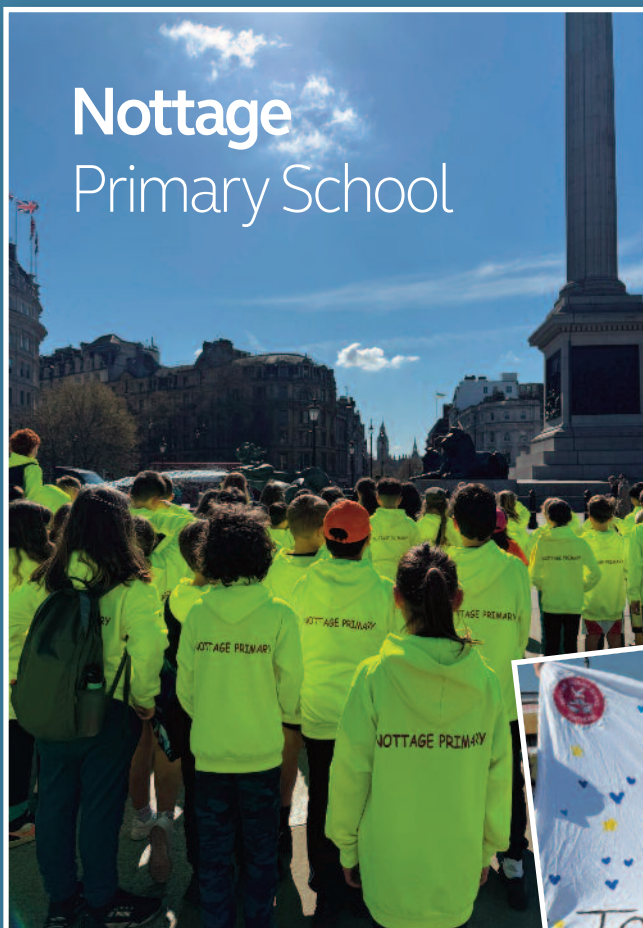
West Park Primary School

Throughout Spring, we enjoyed welcoming new members to the West Park family. As our oldest pupils prepare for the next part of their educational journey, we enrol our little Nursery Sunbeams who are just beginning their own adventure. Spring marked new life in our Community Garden, a tranquil space of peace and wellbeing where we spend time gardening and learning horticultural skills alongside our helpful allotment volunteers. Step 1 were busy planting seeds to nurture and caring for 10 precious baby chicks. This developed their understanding of the life cycle of plants and animals. Step 2 visited Cardiff Castle where they observed the features of a real castle and compared them to the eco castles that they have designed and created in school, complete with solar panels, water butts and electric charging points. Certainly, some future architects and engineers amongst us! Meanwhile, Step 3 pupils each produced an impressive piece of photography which will form part of a larger installation being presented to Porthcawl Museum.

There have been lots of opportunities for parent engagement too including Book Looks and Open Afternoons. As always, we look forward to a Summer term of trips, sporting events and our famous Summer Concert!



Nottage Primary School



We are all systems go for the Summer Term at Nottage Primary and as usual we are busy learning and enjoying school life, our topic is 'Porthcawl 200' as we celebrate the town's 200th Birthday.

PS3 pupils left Wales for a 2-day adventure in London visiting Legoland, an overnight stay at the Youth Hostel Thameside, a matinee performance of The Lion King in the West End and a stunning afternoon tea at St Paul's Hotel. A week in Morfa Bay was the next exciting residential for some outdoor adventures during May. PS1 pupils went for a ride around Porthcawl to get to know the important landmarks and history of our town. PS2 pupils celebrated May Day with a party and May pole dancing.

All pupils marked VE day with a commemorative pin badge, assembly and class celebrations.

We're looking forward to our school sports days and swimming gala and Year 6 are excited about transition day.

Aston's Nottage Army walked through the town and on to Porthcawl RFC to raise vital funds to help with treatment for an ex-pupil who has had a devastating cancer diagnosis.

Our school Inspection report is live on the Estyn.gov.wales website and we are so very proud of our staff, families and Governing Body.





Newton Primary School

We are very pleased to say that our Year 4, 5 and 6 protest march and environmental rally was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who was able to support us. Our pupils gave speeches and sang songs in both Cosy Corner and John Street. Hopefully the children's efforts have raised more awareness of important environmental issues. They have really enjoyed our 'Delights and Disasters' topic this term and all the learning opportunities it has offered.

Congratulations to Evelyn and Edward in Year 6 who won the Porthcawl region Library Quiz. We are very proud of all their hard work and representing our school perfectly. Evelyn and Edward said,

"We really enjoyed the Library Quiz. For weeks before the quiz, we studied a lot, reading the book many, many times, listening to the audio book and taking online quizzes, it was satisfying to know our hard work paid off. As the results were about to be revealed we were very anxious but also excited and when we found out we had won we, and our teacher, celebrated happily. We feel very honoured to represent Porthcawl in the County Final, the new book we have already started to read is called Ajay and the Mumbai Sun. and we hope that we come home victorious!"



Porthcawl Primary School



On Tuesday 10th of June Porthcawl will be 200 years old. To commemorate the occasion Porthcawl Museum invited us to create our own unique interpretation of Porthcawl 200. This term we have been lucky to have one of our former pupils in with us who has led the project. Evie Bennett left PPS in 2015 and was a superstar when she was with us. She is now studying Fashion Design in Cardiff Metropolitan University after doing A Levels in Drama and Textiles and a BTEC in Performing Arts at PCS.

Evie and her team decided that the best way to show Porthcawl was to design a special quilt. As a group they talked about what makes Porthcawl a special and unique place then each pupil designed and embroidered a panel for the quilt. The quilt contains many images linked to Porthcawl such as sunsets, seagulls, donkeys, ducks, waves, Greggs and Costa but also included some more imaginative ideas such as frogs. We always love having former pupils visit us at PPS and it has been great to work with Evie again. Our pupils really enjoyed working with Evie and learning how to sew. The finished quilt will be displayed at Porthcawl Museum all the way through Summer.

A Big **Thank You** to Arian Financial Planning Ltd!



This photo shows students in Year 7 with the scientific calculators that have been kindly donated by Mr Heddwyn James who is an Independent Financial Advisor with Arian Financial Planning Ltd. The company made the very specific donation with an allocation of money for good causes and community projects.

All the pupils and staff at Porthcawl Comprehensive School would like to say a big thank you for these calculators and we will be putting them to good use across the classes throughout the school.

Miss Pugh ~ Head of Mathematics

Pupil Achievements Summer 2025

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Bethan Price Year 12

Selected for Welsh Water Polo Training Squad in Malta

Osian Harries Year 7

Achieved both Gold and Bronze medals in Tang Soo Do in a national competition in Dagenham

Dinaakaran & Umasuthan Mohanaraja Years 7 & 8

Have achieved their Black Belts in Karate

Elsie Holyoake Year 7

Achieved her Red Belt in Taekwondo and an exceptional A grade in her grading

Iwan Frole Year 12

Represented Wales in an off-road Triathlon (Xterra) in Weston Park, Wolverhampton

Maths Challenge answers from page 8.

1. A 2. A 3. E 4. A 5. C

Instrument Exams

Congratulations to all musicians that have sat grade exams over the past term! Well done for showing excellent dedication to practising and preparing for these examinations on top of your normal lessons.

Please can ALL pupils that have sat any external music or musical theatre exams, please bring in your certificates to reception to be scanned. They will be kept on as a school record and count towards future UCAS points.

Remember to update your music teacher on any success that you achieve or see Mrs. Giles so that she can update her records and publish your achievement in the next Porthcawl Post!

Diolch, Mrs. Giles

Name	Instrument	Grade
Sam Protheroe	Piano	GRADE 1 PASS
Mimi Hotchin	Flute	GRADE 2 MERIT
Oliver Chitty	Clarinet	GRADE 2 DISTINCTION
Aimee Leach	Flute	GRADE 4 MERIT
Annie Rees	Oboe	GRADE 3 MERIT
Samuel Cabbage	Bassoon	GRADE 3
Florence Cronje	Oboe	GRADE 4 PASS
Roman Jackson	Clarinet	GRADE 2 PASS
Pippa Elliott	Voice	GRADE 3 MERIT
Willow Smithen	Viola	GRADE 1 MERIT
Imogen Brown	Piano	GRADE 4 PASS
Jessica Brown	Violin	GRADE 1 MERIT
Hattie Edwards	Violin	GRADE 4 MERIT
Adam Morris	Violin	GRADE 5 MERIT
Isla Dafydd	Electric Guitar	GRADE 1 MERIT

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