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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)

20th October 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to thank you for your on-going support. It has been another excellent half term - filled with success and achievement, and as I reflect on the first half term of 2025-2026 I do so with immense pride. From the very first day of term, I have enjoyed seeing our pupils settle with such enthusiasm, curiosity and kindness. Each pupil has contributed to the sense of belonging that makes Porthcawl Comprehensive School so special. Their resilience, thoughtfulness, happiness, creativity and leadership – some of the many values of the 'Porthcawl Pupil' have been truly inspiring.

This half term has been filled with learning, engagement and growth. Pupils have embraced new challenges in the classroom, explored ideas through the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl', and shown great pride in their work. School assemblies, enrichment activities and school events have further strengthened that sense of community, reminding us all of the values we share and the importance of celebrating each other's successes.

Some of the highlights this half-term:

- Celebrating excellent GCSE and A Level results
- Year 7 and Year 12 Information Evenings
- Weekly 'Porthcawl Pupil of the Week' celebrations (returned at end of September)
- A wide range of extra-curricular sporting fixtures – *there will be updates in the Autumn Term 2025 Edition of the Porthcawl Post.*
- Year 11 Dragon's Den Pitches
- Seren Talk for Sixth Form pupils – Oxford University
- Year 9 Skills Event
- Year 12 Geography Fieldwork
- School Song UK Final (Newton Primary trip, involving our Year 7 pupils)
- 'Wellbeing Wednesday' & 'Welsh Wednesday' activities
- The Young Playwright's Festival
- DofE launch for Year 10
- Authentic learning experiences via the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl'
- The launch of 'Enrichment' lessons (once again)
- A trip to the French Institute, London
- Year 11 Progress Evening it was lovely to see so many parents/carers in attendance
- Hosting a touring rugby team from England with matches for Year 8 and Year 9

We look forward to more events and activities over the next few weeks and months, these include:

- Year 10 Seren Events
- Year 9 RVE Trip
- Year 11 Careers / Skills Cymru Event, Cardiff
- Year 9 Skills Event
- BBC Girls into STEM Event
- Year 11 History trip - Jack the Ripper Tour London
- Year 9 & Year 10 Lille Christmas Market Trip
- PCS Annual Carol Service
- Community Christmas Celebration

Year 6 Open Evening

This week, on Wednesday 22nd October we are holding our **Year 6 Open Evening** (5:30pm – 7:30pm). More information can be found here: [Yr-6-Open-evening.pdf](#).

A Level Results – Congratulations

This half term, we were informed by Alps (a national school data analysis system) that our 2025 A Level results place us in the top 25% of schools and colleges for value-added progress. This is for schools and colleges across the United Kingdom not just Wales.

Alps is an analysis and tracking tool used by many post-16 providers across the UK. The system looks at a student's prior attainment (their GCSE grades) and sets a challenging A Level target grade (what the top 25% of students with similar GCSE results achieve). The system tracks and measures each student's final achievement against their target grade. In 2025, almost all our students met or exceeded their 'minimum expected' Alps grade - this is an excellent achievement!

I would like to thank the students and staff for their dedication and hard work. Alps work with thousands of schools, colleges, groups of schools and multi-academy trusts across the UK and we are listed a top 25% provider for 2025.

An excellent achievement / recognition for to start the 2025-2026 academic year. Well done to last year's Year 13 students and staff.



GCSE Examinations

For our Yr11 pupils the start date for the GCSE Mathematics examinations and the GCSE Numeracy examinations can now be counted in weeks and the need for continued focus, commitment and hard work is never more important. I would like to praise all pupils for their effort and maturity as they continue to prepare for their first GCSE examination of this academic year – keep it up! A thank you is also needed to our Mathematics Faculty. A PCS team effort – well done everyone!

The dates for the forthcoming GCSE Numeracy examinations are as follows:

- GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy Paper 1 – Tuesday 4th November 2025
- GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy Paper 2 – Thursday 6th November 2025

The dates for the forthcoming GCSE Mathematics examinations are as follows:

- GCSE Mathematics Paper 1 – Monday 10th November 2025
- GCSE Mathematics Paper 2 – Wednesday 12th November 2025

Please note, each pupil has a personalised examination timetable. It is very important that each pupil is fully aware of their examination timetables for the November examination series.

Below are some of the key events coming up next half term:

- Initial Sixth Form Options Selection – w/b Monday 10th November 2025
- Year 13 Progress Evening – Wednesday 19th November 2025
- Year 7 Progress Evening – Wednesday 3rd December 2025
- Carol Service – Wednesday 17th December 2025

Advanced Notice: Monday 24th November is an INSET day at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

I am pleased to report that our whole school attendance is much improved when compared to the same period last year. However, I would like to take this opportunity to raise the importance of regular attendance at school. We encourage all students to attend school on time, every day, and aim for 100% attendance. I therefore ask for your continued consideration when booking appointments and holidays during school time.

As we look ahead to the next half term, we remain committed to ensuring every pupil feels safe, valued and inspired to reach their full potential. Thank you for being such an integral part of our journey.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable break.

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards,

M. Stephens

Headteacher/Pennaeth