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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)

15th December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the autumn term draws to a close and we near the Christmas break, as I did last year, I would like to offer a few words to reflect on 2025.

What an incredible year it's been at PCS! We've shared exciting new developments, celebrated amazing achievements, and created moments that have enriched the lives of our pupils. I want to personally thank you for trusting us with your child's education and growth – it's a responsibility we never take lightly. Your encouragement at home, your involvement in school life, and the partnerships we share have made all the difference in making 2025 such a successful and memorable year.

There have been notable successes this term with the school being awarded an 'A Level – Gold Award' by Alps (a national school data analysis system) for A Level results that places our school 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 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 to start the 2025-2026 academic year. Well done to last year's Year 13 students and staff.



The school has been an incredibly busy place over the last 15 weeks with several activities, trips, guest speakers and residential events taking place. To name a few, these include, the Lille Christmas Market trip, the Young Playwrights' Festival, a Careers Event, the Year 9 First Give Project, a World Skills Event, the Jack the Ripper Tour in London, the French Institute in London, and most recently Winter Wonderland. There have also been numerous charity events including Children in Need and a Foodbank collection. As I write, we look forward to our Annual Carol Service, taking place on Wednesday 17th December at All Saints Church – I look forward to seeing you there.

As highlighted in our Autumn Term 2025 Edition of the Porthcawl Post, this year's events and activities have brought so many proud moments! Our pupils have excelled in competitions and showcased their talents in music, science and mathematics. They've taken part in drama productions and demonstrated sporting excellence – just to name a few!

Across the curriculum, we've celebrated their progress, their contributions to the community, and their efforts that truly reflect the spirit of the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl' and 'The Porthcawl Pupil'. Personally, I have enjoyed recognising success through our Porthcawl Pupil of the Week – it's the highlight of my week!

I look forward to more celebration and recognition in 2026.

To read about 2025 please see the following links to The Porthcawl Post:


- [Spring Term 2025](#)
- [Summer Term 2025](#)
- [Autumn Term 2025](#)

Sixth Form Information Evening

Our Sixth Form Information Evening takes place on **Wednesday 14th January, 5:00pm-7:00pm**. The purpose of this event is to support Yr11 pupils in deciding on their future education and employment pathways for the next academic year. The event will begin with a short presentation in the Sixth Form Hall by myself and Mr Beard, Deputy Headteacher followed by an opportunity to speak with different subject leaders about the courses offered in the Sixth Form at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Many pupils in previous years have reported how useful this event was in helping them to decide on the next steps in their lives, and we highly encourage all Year 11 pupils and parents/carers to attend this event. Year 11 pupils should also be aware that the deadline for options choices is **Friday 23rd January 2026**. The form is completed online and further information about how to do this will be sent out in January. We look forward to welcoming you to the Information evening.

Our **Sixth Form Prospectus for 2026** can be accessed here: [Porthcawl-Prospectus-2026.pdf](#).



The 'Porthcawl Pupil'

Pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are developing the:

- **P**orthcawl purposes 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

Sixth Form Information Evening

Wednesday 14th January 2026 Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

This is an opportunity for Year 11 students and parents/carers to visit the fantastic facilities and learning experiences on offer at **Porthcawl Comprehensive School Sixth Form**. The purpose of this event is to support students in deciding on their future education and employment pathways for the next academic year.

The event will begin with a short presentation in the Sixth Form Hall by the Headteacher and members of the Sixth Form leadership team, followed by an opportunity to speak with different subject leaders about the courses offered in the Sixth Form. Many students in previous years have reported how useful this event was in helping them to decide on the next steps in their lives, and we highly encourage all Year 11 students and parents/carers to attend this event. Year 11 students should also be aware that the deadline for options choices is **Friday 23rd January 2026**.



National Success!

This year, 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!

We are very proud of our Sixth Form – our students are role models and there is a real sense of 'belonging' and 'community' in all that we do! Sixth form is more than just qualifications, and I am sure you will see what we have to offer on our Information Evening.

Please visit our website: [Porthcawl Comprehensive School | Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl \(porthcawlschool.co.uk\)](#) If you have any questions please contact the school via info@porthcawlschool.co.uk or 01656 774100

We look forward to seeing you there!



PERSEVERANCE CREATES SUCCESS



For **further information** about our Sixth Form Information Evening, please see a recent letter from Mr Beard, Deputy Headteacher [Sixth-Form-Open-Evening.pdf](#).

The Sports Hall is nearing completion, and I am hopeful that this facility will return back to school and community use from January 2026. The facility has been refurbished to include new internal and external cladding, new heating, new lighting and the installation of solar cells for increased energy efficiency.

As we reach the Christmas period and the end of another calendar year, I would like to thank all parents/carers, pupils and staff for their continued support and efforts. Your involvement in school events, engagement in meetings and attendance at various initiatives has been invaluable. Parents/carers, your encouragement and support at home has undoubtedly played a significant role in your child's progress and achievements. I would also like to thank our staff for contributing and delivering all that is underpinned by the characteristics of the 'Porthcawl Pupil'. Our school is a happy and positive place because members of our community are polite and respectful, make good choices and work hard, and Christmas is the time of year where being part of a positive community is even more special and significant.

I would like to extend a thank you to our school Governors who have had another successful year under the Chairmanship of Allison Thomas and Vice Chair, Anna Morgan. I thank you all for your continued work with the school. Everyone at PCS is looking forward to 2026 and all that we will achieve. We will continue to innovate and refine our teaching, learning and curriculum, and we will continue to strive for excellence in all that we do, to ensure that strong foundations are built for your children in the future.

I wish you all a safe and memorable Christmas break and I look forward to another successful year in 2026. The festive period is clearly a time for family and friends, and I wish all our pupils, parents, carers and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We welcome all pupils back to school on Monday 5th January 2026.

Please note, the autumn term ends on **Friday 19th December at 3:00pm**.

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards,

M. Stephens

Headteacher/Pennaeth

Important Dates – Spring Term 2026

- 8th January - GCSE Mathematics results (November Entry) issued
- 12th January - Year 11 Options Fortnight Starts
- 14th January - Sixth Form Options & Open Evening (for students and parents/carers)
- 26th January - Year 9 Options Fortnight Starts
- 4th February - Year 9 Progress Evening
- 25th February - Year 12 Progress Evening
- 11th March - Year 10 Progress Evening
- 18th March - Awards Evening
- 23rd March - INSET Day (4)