

Porthcawl POST

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter | Cylchlythyr Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl



Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

What a Resounding Success!



This year's production of Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat was a truly remarkable achievement! For the first time in the school's history, the show was staged on site in our Sports Hall, while the Grand Pavilion undergoes refurbishment. From the outset, it was a daunting task transforming the space into a fully functioning theatre while maintaining the high aesthetic standards we value at PCS. However, with a shared vision and an incredible amount of teamwork, Joseph became a huge success.

From the lively choreography and colourful costumes to the bespoke set pieces, memorable singing and acting, skilled musicianship, and

seamless backstage support, the much-loved musical was brought to life in a vibrant and creative way. The involvement of our KS3 pupils and a number of primary school students added an extra touch of sparkle to the performances.

We are especially grateful to the PCS staff, many of whom volunteered their time and energy to support the production as ushers and front-of-house team members. Their enthusiasm and commitment ensured a smooth and welcoming experience for all our guests — thank you!

Audience feedback and messages from the wider community were overwhelmingly positive and uplifting, reinforcing both the exceptional quality of the production and the importance of maintaining our long-standing tradition of excellence in the arts at PCS.



More photographs on the next page >>>



Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Thanks to Dan Minto for the amazing photographs.



Headteacher's Introduction

Once again, I offer a very warm welcome to all associated with Porthcawl Comprehensive School. As we embark upon the academic year 2025-2026, may I especially welcome all those who are new to our school. I do hope all our new learners have settled in quickly and have started to enjoy the experience that is Porthcawl Comprehensive School. We are very proud of all that we do and achieve, and I am sure that this academic year will be full of successes.

The year ahead holds immense promise – an opportunity to build on our successes, embrace new challenges and continue growing together as a community. Our focus remains on nurturing every child's potential, fostering resilience and creating a learning environment where everyone feels valued and inspired – “the desire to thrive” and the values within the “Porthcawl Pupil” will be once again evident in 2025-2026.

As I did at the start of the last academic year, I would like to offer a few words to summarise our excellent summer 2025 examination performance at GCSE and A Level. In August 2025, it was such a delight for students, staff, and families to celebrate our examination successes, and it was a special occasion for all students as they embark and plan the next stage of their lives. GCSE and A Level achievements represent many hours of work and commitment from students, staff and families so I would like to start by offering my sincere congratulations to everyone associated with our examination outcomes. On both results days there were certainly lots of photographs and smiles and it was wonderful to enjoy the day with pupils, their families and staff.

In broad terms we have had another ‘very good’ year at both GCSE and A Level with some notable performance. These outstanding results are testament to the hard work undertaken by our students and their teachers, and they once again confirm our reputation as a high performing school both at GCSE and A Level. I am delighted with the Summer 2025 results, and I would like to congratulate all the students in last year's Year 11 and Year 13. It gives me a real sense of pride seeing the young people in our community rewarded for their hard work. All at PCS are very pleased that our students have been able to successfully move on to the next phase of their education and lives.

Throughout their time at PCS, all students have all shown such dedication and commitment. I would like to also congratulate the dedicated staff and our community of families for their hard work and continued support.

At GCSE, there were 3551 examination papers completed at PCS this year! The provisional headline figures for our GCSE results in Summer 2025 show that: :

- **Near three-quarters of students achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-C including English Language and Mathematics.**
- **80% of students achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-C.**
- **Nearly all students achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-G.**
- **Importantly, all pupils left school with a recognised qualification.**
- **Over a third of students achieved five or more GCSEs graded A*-A grades. With a significant percentage achieving 10+ A*-A grades.**
- **In ‘Best Literacy’, 85% of students achieved an A*-C grade with approximately 37% of all grades awarded at A*-A.**
- **In ‘Best Numeracy’, 70% of students achieved an A*-C grade with approximately 31% of all grades awarded at A*-A.**
- **In ‘Best Science’, 76% of students achieved an A*-C grade with approximately 39% of all grades awarded at A*-A.**
- **Between 35%-40% of grades awarded in the core subjects of English Language/Literature, Mathematics/Numeracy and Science were graded at A*-A.**

Excellent achievements I'm sure you'll agree!



Provisional data released by the Welsh Government and the examination board indicate that our school's performance in the core subjects of English Language and Mathematics is recorded as being +20% higher than the Wales average, again, quite some achievement by our students. We are incredibly proud of all our Year 11 students. However, special congratulations need to be awarded to those students who have shown consistent improvement and to those students who have shown high levels of achievement throughout their time at PCS – well done everyone!

Examination achievement and success can be measured and judged in a variety of different ways and once again we have seen so many of our students achieve their own personal success. So many students have worked extremely hard to move D grades into C grades; to move A grades to A* grades; to secure 5 A*-C grades; to achieve English and Maths in combination; to follow college courses; to return to the Sixth Form at PCS – the list goes on! Very simply, to achieve their very best to move onto their own personal next steps in life and learning.

I am really pleased that so many of our Year 11 cohort have returned to the Sixth Form and will continue their journey with us at PCS. We have welcomed back approximately 130 students into Year 12, which includes a high percentage of last year's Year 11 along with a high number of new students from other local schools. I extend a warm PCS welcome to all new students and families.

We are also very proud of our Year 13 students. Nearly 70% of grades awarded at A Level subjects were graded at A*-B and over 40% of grades were awarded at A*-A. Almost all students have moved onto a place at a university this year and a high percentage of our students will be attending a Russell Group University. Our students will be studying a range of degrees including Law, Languages, Science, Drama, Medicine, Art, Mathematics and Sport – to name a few! Other students have secured or are looking for employment and some have chosen to take time out before continuing their studies or embarking on a career. I wish all of them every success in the future and look forward to welcoming them back to school whenever they are in Porthcawl.

Again, like our GCSE performance, several of our A Level school performance measures continue to be some of the highest in the history of our school.

The table below summarises our Key Stage 5 outcomes. The wider points score is an average score generated for a school based on each student's A level performance and a score greater than 850+ is very good when compared to local, regional and national comparisons.

Please note, as with GCSE results are provisional at this stage as they do not take into account any examination remarks.

	Level 3 Threshold	A* - A Grades	A* - B Grades	A* - C Grades	Wider Points Score
School	98%	42.2%	67%	71%	885pts

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students have also performed well, and their results provide a strong foundation for future success in Summer 2026. Almost all Year 10 students completed GCSE English Literature and over 90% of students achieved an A*-C with 76% of grades awarded at A*-B and 44% of grades awarded at A*-A. Nearly half of Year 10 were entered into GCSE Mathematics, and just like English Literature, outcomes were outstanding! 24.7% of grades were awarded at A*, 68.5% of grades were awarded at A*-A, 93.2% were awarded at A*-B and 100% were awarded at A*-C. These results are a credit to the students but also down to the hard work and commitment from the Mathematics Faculty - congratulations to all!

Year 10 also achieved some excellent results in their GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules along with strong performance in finance qualifications and several optional GCSE subjects/units - my sincere best wishes to all students.

Attendance continues to be an on-going focus and priority for the school. In the 2024-2025 academic year, our whole school attendance figure was 90.4%. Whilst this was above our previous year's attendance and above the Local Authority and Wales average it was a long way short of our target and the figure we aim for at PCS. Once again, we aim for much higher and to date attendance has significantly improved when compared to last academic year. This is a priority for the school and the Local Authority. Once again, may I plead with families not to succumb to the cheap term time holiday and support our attendance drive.

As you will note from the content of my welcome address, there was a strong focus on the standards and outcomes our students have achieved. These results are a remarkable achievement that reflect the efforts of our learners, their teachers, and the support of our parents/ carers. I am especially delighted with all that we have achieved as we are a truly comprehensive school that is fully inclusive.

At October half term, we said farewell to Mr Gethin Llewellyn, who joined PCS in 2022 as Assistant Technician for the Performing Arts Faculty, who has also been one of the school's Cover Supervisors. Mr Llewellyn has made a much-valued contribution to our Performing Arts Faculty whilst also contributing significantly to many aspects of school life, such as his role supporting and facilitating learning as a Cover Supervisor. His expertise supporting our pupils and staff has been invaluable. Mr Llewellyn has played a significant part coordinating and delivering community events such as the annual school show and I would like to personally thank Mr. Llewellyn for his hard work and dedication. I offer the very best wishes for the future.

I would like to conclude this piece by thanking all those who contributed to and attended our Year 6 Open Evening. Crowds of learners and their families enjoyed a wide range of events and activities, and we are really looking forward to all joining the wonderful PCS in September 2026. Our transition programme has commenced for September 2025, and I look forward to meeting all pupils throughout the academic year. Should anyone require any further information about the school or may be seeking a place, please contact Miss Painter (Deputy Headteacher) at school to arrange a visit.

I look forward to working with you, let's move forward with optimism, purpose and a shared belief in what we can achieve together.

Best wishes,
M Stephens, Headteacher



Goodbye and Good Luck to our Lovely Year 13!



On 16th May, our Year 13 pupils enjoyed a special leaver's tea in the Sixth Form Hall where they were presented with their Porthcawl Comprehensive School leaver's mugs. They were about to start study leave and the long slog of the examinations season.

After all the hard work of their A Levels, they celebrated in style with their Prom on Friday 27th June. As is the tradition, they gathered first at the Atlantic Hotel on the seafront and continued on to the St David's Hotel in Cardiff Bay, where they danced the night away! It was lovely to see many of them again when they came into school to collect their A Level results on 14th August.

Good luck to you all as you embark on your exciting futures, and please keep in touch with us!



As a group we, Lennon, Beth and Sioned, will be travelling to Gulu, a region in Northern Uganda. Once we are there we will be volunteering at a local school as part of the Gulu Mission. We have been provided this opportunity by a local member of the church, Steve Lock, who regularly visits Gulu to support and fundraise for the school and wider community. Steve has shared stories of the people he works with and the difference that small acts of support can make. Hearing about his work has encouraged us to get involved ourselves, to learn and to give something back. We are going with the intention of making change in the local community which will extend into its growth and bright future.

The initiative was started in 2007 when a primary school was built to provide education to children who previously had not had one. Through the years there has then been the

addition of a comprehensive, sixth form and most recently a vocational school where children and adults can learn valuable skills. The school's aim is to provide a place for everyone to learn, socialise and feel safe. The school provides a range of extra curriculums as well as a range of support for people, especially young mothers. This is where we as a group would like to provide extra support and funding which the school does not have. As well as providing educational opportunities, the initiative has hugely impacted the local community by raising money for wells to be installed. In addition, they have raised money to buy mattresses which most people had never had. Each mattress only costs £6 but has a huge impact on people's lives. We would like the money we raise to be used to help fund mental health and wellbeing support. Although there hasn't been war in Uganda for nearly 20 years the effects are still present today,

particularly with young adults and parents of the children. Therefore, many adults attend the school with their children in order to have better opportunities. Recently we had the opportunity to get in contact with Gulu school and talk to their head teacher. This is something we wish to continue whether it is by facetime, email or letter.

We would be so grateful for any support you can give. All donations made through our GoFundMe page will go directly towards the costs of our trip to Uganda and, most importantly, we are hoping to fund counselling support within the school. Many families in Gulu live without a mattress, so any contributions will also go towards funding mattresses for students of the school. Every contribution, no matter the size, will help us reach our goal and make a lasting difference in the lives of young people in Gulu.

The Gulu Mission- gulumission.org

Our GoFundMe- <https://gofund.me/6cbdec391>



Year 8 Careers Fair



On Wednesday 18th June 2025, our school hosted an exciting and enriching Careers Fair designed to spark curiosity and ambition among our Year 8 pupils. The event was packed with interactive activities, inspiring presentations, and valuable opportunities to explore the world of work.

Year 8 pupils kicked off the day with the lively Careers Game Show, where pupils asked our guests questions to enquire about their chosen career. Throughout the day, pupils attended presentations from a diverse group of

professionals representing industries such as Law and Photography. These guests shared insights into their career journeys, offering advice and answering questions that helped pupils understand the wide range of opportunities available to them.

The main Careers Fair was a bustling hub of activity, with local employers and industry representatives setting up engaging stalls and demonstrations. Pupils had the chance to ask questions, collect resources, and discover roles they may never have considered before. Year 12

students also joined the fair, benefiting from direct conversations with professionals and gaining insights into internships, apprenticeships, and university options. We were especially grateful to welcome back former pupils, who spoke candidly about their own career paths since leaving school.

We extend our thanks to Careers Wales, our guest speakers, local employers, and alumni who made this event such a success. Your generosity and enthusiasm helped create a truly inspiring experience for our students.

Visit from Bridgend Youth Support



Bridgend Youth Support visited school with the Mobile Youth Centre in June. Year 7 were introduced to the services and support available to them provided by the Youth Support Team.

The aim was to raise awareness of the wide range of opportunities and support services accessible both within and outside of school. Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the Youth Support Team and the various activities that they took part in throughout the morning which educated the pupils on topics such as risk taking and anti-social behaviour in the community.



European Day of Languages **Bake Off**



We would like to extend a heartfelt merci and danke to all the Year 7 and 8 pupils who took part in our European Day of Languages Bake Off. We were truly impressed by the outstanding talent and creativity displayed in your beautifully crafted bakes. Selecting the winners proved to be an incredibly difficult task, as it was evident that each bake had been created with great thought, care, and effort. Every entry was a testament to your dedication, and we sincerely wish we could have awarded a prize to everyone.

However, after much deliberation, our overall winners were: Sophie Walsh (7R), Evelyn Gittins (7W), and Taylor Duggan (7W). Congratulations to all who took part – your enthusiasm and hard work made the event a great success!

European Day of Languages Celebration

On 26th September, we celebrated the European Day of Languages in style with a French and German-themed event held in the Jubilee Theatre. The event was a great success, with a variety of treats on sale including brioche, crêpes, Haribo, and other sweets, raising over £100 in total. The proceeds will be shared between two local charities. Our photo booth proved very popular, capturing some fantastic moments throughout the event. It was wonderful to see pupils embracing and celebrating different cultures, languages, and traditions.





Trip Cymraeg i Flwyddyn 10

In the Summer term, fifteen of our disgyblion Blwyddyn 10 (Year 10 pupils) attended an inspiring event at Ysgol Gyfun Brynteg organised by Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. The aim of the visit was to promote the advantages of yr iaith Gymraeg and to encourage pupils to think about studying it at Lefel A (A Level).

The day featured a range of guest speakers who all use Cymraeg in their daily lives and careers. Elis Lloyd Jones, TikTok content creator and drag queen, spoke about how Cymraeg has shaped his identity and agor drysau (opened doors) to exciting opportunities. Katie Owen, troellwr (DJ), cyflwynydd (presenter), darlledwr (broadcaster) and self-proclaimed digrifwr (comedian), shared her experiences of using Cymraeg in the media and entertainment industry. Brothers Joe and Gwilym Morgan also gave an insight into how the language has supported eu gwaith a'u bywydau (their work and lives).

Pupils came away from the day feeling motivated and more aware of how valuable Welsh can be for their dyfodol (future). Dywedodd un disgybl, "I didn't realise how many careers use Welsh every day – it's really made me think about taking it for A Level."

The pupils left the event with a greater appreciation of how valuable the Welsh language is, both in professional life and in celebrating diwylliant Cymreig (Welsh culture). It was a memorable and motivating day that showcased the many opportunities Welsh can offer for the future as well as the pride that comes with being able to use ein hiaith Gymraeg (our language).

Mrs Lloyd
Head of Welsh



Shwmae!

Rydyn ni'n caru Cymraeg ! When we were offered the chance to take part in the Coleg Cymraeg trip to Ysgol Gyfun Brynteg as a group, we saw plenty of opportunities fel having the day off school; being able to talk on the minibus; wear our P.E. kit for the day and exploring another school in the area. However, as the day approached, we began feeling excited at the chance we had been given to develop and improve our sgiliau Cymraeg with other young speakers, learners and celebrities that were attending the session. Our expectations were exceeded further as we immersed ourselves into the event as we concluded as a group that it was thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring for us as GCSE students studying Cymraeg as a subject. We did a range of engaging activities such as Q&As, quizzes and workshops. Collectively, through much debate and discussion we have decided that the stand-out point of the trip was meeting Ellis Lloyd Jones, who is currently taking part in RuPaul's Drag Race UK. When meeting him, we were able to ask him our burning questions about the importance of Welsh usage in social media, how he began his Welsh content sharing journey and even his opinions on some Welsh social media drama. Overall, this trip gave us a heightened outlook on the Welsh language and its importance within our society, alongside also encouraging us with ideas on furthering our Welsh learning journey in the future and helping us with some TikTok videos! (We were also kitted out in sbectol bendigedig melyn!)

Roedd yn hwyl iawn ! Diolch am ddarllen

Merched Blwyddyn 10



Enw: Carter
Blwyddyn: 8
Fy hoff bwnc i ydy mathemateg. Dw i'n chwarae pêl droed.



Enw: Gwen
Blwyddyn: 9
Rydw i'n siarad Cymraeg yn rhugl.



Enw: Evelyn
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n hoffi darllen a merlota.



Criw Cymraeg

Shwmae! Rydyn ni'n YGP Criw Cymraeg. We're looking forward to raising the profile of Welsh in the school even more this year. This term we're aiming to get the Siarter Iaith Bronze Award and also have lots of fun things planned, like Shwmae Day, for example. Gadewch i ni gyflwyno'n hunain:



Enw: Evie
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n hoffi gwyliau a dw i'n chwarae'r gitâr.



Enw: Teigan
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n chwarae trwmped a fy hoff liw i ydy gwyrdd.



Enw: Ellie
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n mwynhau cerddoriaeth a Ffrangeg.



Enw: Jacob
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n mwynhau coganio, celf a tennis.



Enw: Oliver
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n dwlu ar fathemateg a dw i'n chwarae pêl droed.



Enw: Jack
Blwyddyn: 8
Fy hoff bwnc i ydy hanes. Dw i'n chwarae rygbi hefyd.



Enw: McKenzie
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n caru merlota a criced.



Enw: Caleb
Blwyddyn: 8
Mae cath gyda fi a dwi'n ddoniol.



Enw: Posey
Blwyddyn: 9
Rydw i'n garedig.



Enw: Casey
Blwyddyn: 9
Dw i'n mwynhau sioeau cerddorol a dw i'n ysgrifennu storïau byr.



Enw: Jenna
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n gallu chwarae piano a dw i'n dwlu ar Taylor Swift.



Enw: Alfie
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n mwynhau pêl droed, cysgu a rygbi.



Enw: Harvey
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n mwynhau Tetris a Candy Crush, dw i'n trwmped a piano. Dw i'n awtistig.



Enw: Matilda
Blwyddyn: 9
Dw i'n chwarae criced a fy hoff bwnc i ydy celf.

Enw: Kelsey-Anne
Blwyddyn: 9
Dw i'n hoffi siarad Cymraeg

Enw: Isla
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n hoffi pêl droed. Mae llygaid brown gyda fi.

Enw: Chloe M
Blwyddyn: 9
Rydw i'n hoffi te ac mae fy mhenblwydd i ar Chwefror 22.

Enw: Ellie
Blwyddyn: 8
Dw i'n chwarae'r cello a dw i'n dwlu ar ddrama a celf.



**Enw: Carys
Blwyddyn: 9**
Dw i'n hoffi nofio.



**Enw: Summer
Blwyddyn: 9**
Dw i'n hoffi canu a drama.
Mae ci bach gyda fi o'r enw
Toffee.



**Enw: Nancy
Blwyddyn: 9**
Dw i'n caru cinio rhost a
dw i'n chwarae pêl fasged.



**Enw: Chloe D
Blwyddyn: 9**
Dw i'n mwynhau
gymnasteg a dw i'n hoffi
drama.



**Enw: Eva
Blwyddyn: 9**
Dw i'n hoffi hoci a mae
gwallt melyn gyda fi.



**Enw: Ruby
Blwyddyn: 9**
Dw i'n mwynhau pêl-rwyd
a mynd allan gyda fy
ffrindiau.



**Enw: Otilie
Blwyddyn: 9**
Dw i'n mwynhau
chwaraeon a dw i'n hanner
Almaeneg.



**Enw: Liana
Blwyddyn: 9**
Dw i'n caru dawnsio a dw
i'n caru fy ffrindiau.



**Enw: Elsie
Blwyddyn: 9**
Dw i'n caru nofio a dw i'n
hoffi dysgu Cymraeg.



Criw Cymraeg

Athro/ Athrawes y Mis
Llongyfarchiadau i Mr Short a
Mrs Giles for winning our
Cymraeg teacher of the month!
Both teachers use lots of Welsh
in their lessons and were chosen
by the Criw Cymraeg to win this
month's award.

Bendigedig!

YOU'RE ON FIRE!



KS3 pupils show their talent for business

KS3 pupils showed off their entrepreneurial skills at the end of the summer term by taking part in the English department's business project competitions.

Pupils rose to the challenge in two Dragons' Den-style projects: Year 8 pupils took part in Media Mogul, while Year 7 completed Shark Tank. Year 8 were challenged to create digital products, while Year 7 created board games. They had to learn all the skills to launch and market a successful product and then pitch their ideas to the business "dragons": judges Mr Thomas, Mr Booth, and sixth form pupils Patrick Clewer, Fin Mantegna and Aleena Joshy.

The standard was absolutely staggering, said English KS3 co-ordinator Mrs Kembery. "The judges were blown away by the astounding creativity, effort and confidence of the pupils. I think we will see some of these pupils going on to launch successful businesses in the future!"

Diolch Cofion

Leigh Kembery
English Faculty



Our quest to find the next Media Mogul is complete! They presented in front of Porthcawl's own Dragons. Mark Booth, Alan Thomas, Fin Mantegna and Patrick Clewer.



UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Success!



Well done to the 46 pupils who took part in the challenge during the Summer term – your hard work and mathematical talents have made us all proud! The pictures show all the Year 7 certificate winners and Noah Jones who along with Olivia Harvey and Charlie O'Neil went on to take part in the Junior Kangaroo follow on paper in June.

Watch this space for more Maths Challenge news soon!



Joshua Jones Maths

Congratulations to Joshua Jones who completed the STEP course with Further Maths Support Project Wales, enabling him to study Maths at university.

Real-Life Maths in Action at Porthcawl Comprehensive

At Porthcawl Comprehensive School, pupils have been diving into the world of real-life mathematics through a series of rich, hands-on tasks designed to sharpen their estimation and measurement skills.

As part of a new curriculum initiative, students in Years 7 have been exploring how maths applies beyond the classroom. From estimating the weight of everyday objects to calculating the difference in distance between the inside and outside lanes of a running track, pupils have been challenged to think critically and apply mathematical reasoning in practical contexts.

One popular activity involved estimating the area of a tennis court and the perimeter of the surrounding cage, encouraging students to use scale, spatial awareness, and accurate measuring techniques. Another task had students estimating and measuring the volume of water that various containers could hold – from water bottles to buckets – helping them understand capacity and unit conversions in a tangible way.

These engaging tasks not only developed key numeracy skills but also sparked curiosity and discussion about how maths is used in sports, design, and everyday life. The emphasis on estimation helped students build confidence in making educated guesses and then refining their thinking through measurement and calculation.

The initiative has been a great success, with students enjoying the opportunity to get hands-on with maths and see its relevance in the world around them.



Bridgend Music Service Roadshow



In September, we were lucky enough to have our very own Bridgend Music Service Peripatetic teachers perform for the whole of Year 7.

They played a variety of orchestral music, including the Super Mario theme tune and 'Mambo' from West Side Story, (our next school production, Summer 2026)!

They also introduced the pupils

to a selection of orchestral instruments, demonstrating how they are played and what type of sounds they can make. It was an excellent way for the year group to experience a live concert, some for the very first time!

Thank you to Mr. Gray and the peripatetic teachers for their impressive playing. We all thoroughly enjoyed!

Mrs. Giles



In October, Newton Primary School's Singer Songwriters group travelled to London to compete in the UK Schools' National Songwriting Competition, for the second consecutive year. It was another hugely proud moment for our children, their families, and the whole school community. Fifteen children and two staff embarked on the 9-hour round trip to perform their song, in front of a live audience and a panel of experts from the music industry.

We were the only school selected to perform again from over 350 schools across the UK — a remarkable achievement! Representing Wales with our original song "We Believe in You", the children performed brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The standard was incredibly high, but Newton Primary rose to the occasion, performing with confidence and enthusiasm. They showed that their talent and hard work had earned them a place among some of the top schools in the country, which included several comprehensive schools and academies.

Year 7 Pupil Ottilie Cosson said, "Even after the long bus ride, it was an amazing

experience to take part in this competition for the second time. I had been looking forward to this so much since we were selected to compete in the final".

Leo Pickard said "It was the best experience ever, as all the groups were excellent singers and it was great to be a part of it. To be the only school chosen to compete for the second time was unbelievable!"

Evelyn Gittins said "it was a really fun experience and I loved hearing the others' schools songs. We performed really well, the song was even better than last year."

The children have been practising together since the Summer, showing incredible dedication and teamwork in preparation for the finals.

There were 8 pupils from PCS participating, chosen alongside Year 5 & 6 children from Newton.

Year 7

Ottilie Cosson
Elizabeth Maund
Charlie Morgan
Leo Pickard.

Evelyn Gittins
Beth Aston
Jesse Brace

Year 8

Amelia Charles



Dilwyn Evans Music Award

We are very fortunate to have a great partnership with the Porthcawl Male Voice Choir. Every year the choir award a Music prize to one of our Year 13 A Level Music students, to support them as they embark on a future career in the Arts. This year, the prize was awarded to Rhys Bissmire. Rhys is a high achieving musician, with a passion for performing and composing. He is a superb flautist and even though he only joined us at PCS for Sixth Form, he has always been one of our most dedicated performers throughout his A levels. Rhys has featured heavily in school concerts, competitions, Eisteddfodau as well as being a committed member of Bridgend Youth County Ensembles and the Cardiff Flute Choir and Porthcawl Community Orchestra. Rhys gave a wonderful performance alongside the Porthcawl Male Voice Choir in their Annual Concert on 6th September 2025 and was commended by local dignitaries. Rhys is pictured here with Cllr Huw David (Mayor of Bridgend), Adrian Powis (Chairman of Porthcawl Male Voice Choir), and Sharon Dixon (High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan).

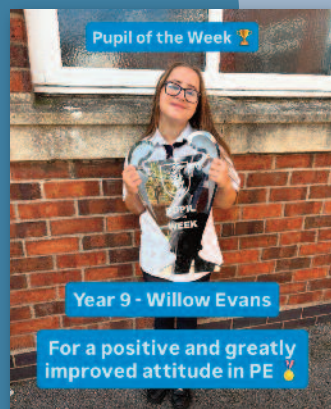
Following achieving an A grade in A level Music, Rhys is now studying flute at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff. The Performing Arts Department wishes Rhys the very best for his future career in Music and the arts. We know that he will be highly successful in whatever pathway he chooses!

Mrs. Giles Music Department

Well done to all the children who were involved and all of the parents who supported they did brilliantly!

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

26.09.25



Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

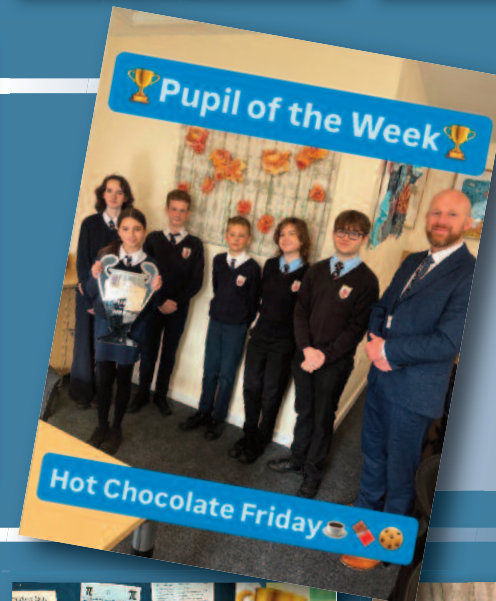
3.10.25



Congratulations to all our Pupils

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

10.10.25



Porthcawl Pupil of the Week - Hot Chocolate Friday

Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

17.10.25



Congratulations to all our Pupils



Summer Concert 2025

The Summer Concert, held on Wednesday 30th April 2025 in the Jubilee Theatre, was a brilliant way to begin the Summer term here at PCS! We wanted to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our musicians and performers before the business of the Summer term began, and showcase their successes throughout the year.

The evening was compered by two of our Performing Arts Year 13 pupils; Wil Morgans and Ella Verderame who are no strangers to the stage! Both pupils are used to taking leading roles within performances, however they turned their hand to compering for the evening and it was so lovely to see the concert being led by pupils.

The sheer volume of pupils involved in the evening, and the array of musical ensembles is testament to the dedication and passion of our pupils here at PCS.

During the concert, the audience were given excellent performances by our Senior and Junior Woodwind Groups, led by Miss Bryant, and it was so lovely to see the Double Reed group this year, showcasing

how lucky we are to have the whole range of instruments on display including oboes and bassoons!

This was then followed by the truly beautiful sound of Senior String Group, led by Miss Pritchard and Mr. Martins. This year, we were fortunate to celebrate our youngest string players with a performance from Junior Strings; a very promising sound and certainly players to watch out for in the coming years!

We were lucky enough to be able to give the audience a 'sneak peak' of our upcoming school production of 'Joseph', with Wil Morgans performing his leading role along with members of the KS3 chorus with their performance of 'Any Dream Will Do'. With the closure of the pavilion, the prospect of hosting the show on school grounds in the sports hall for the first time seemed an insurmountable challenge. However, we are thrilled to be able to celebrate the huge success of the show, and celebrate the hard work and efforts of all involved - the whole event really captured the sense of community here in PCS.



The concert also provided an opportunity to feature performances from some of our Eisteddfod winners; Ava Robinson, Hallie Maine-James, Felix Wren-Owens, Casper Wren-Owens, Hattie Edwards, Rhys Bissmire, Adam Morris and Jenna Cabbage. There were also group performances by Year 10 pupils; Wil John, Dylan Morgan-Rowe, Henry Horton, Jack Corish, Sam Cabbage, Rhys Stacey and Jacob Tsui. The performances were all outstanding, and again it was a perfect way to share the talents and dedication of our musicians with parents, carers and the wider community.

There were many comments from the audience regarding the remarkable sound created by the PCS Windband. We have not rehearsed as a 'Windband' for a number of years as our focus has been building back orchestra since the pandemic, however with such strong brass and woodwind sections, it was the right time to showcase Windband once again, led by Miss Bryant and Mr Edwards.

Congratulations to all of our wonderful pupils on your captivating performances. As a Performing Arts Department, we are so proud of you all and it was truly a wonderful evening!

I would like to thank the fantastic team of staff, without who, none of this would be possible - Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Poole, Mr. Smith and last but by no means least, Mr. Llewellyn, our dedicated Performing Arts Technician, who will sadly be leaving us at half term! Mr. Llewellyn and his expertise will be greatly missed across the department.

My final thanks must go to our wonderful peripatetic teachers; Miss. Pritchard, Miss. Bryant, Mr. Jefferies, Mr. Griffiths, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Martins who work tirelessly to teach and inspire our pupils through their instrumental playing. They add so much value to our department by leading ensembles with expertise, helping to provide our pupils with high quality experiences and opportunities for ensemble playing.

We are now looking forward to our annual Christmas Carol Service at All Saint's Church on Wednesday 17th December, 7pm and the next school production of West Side Story at the end of June 2026! We hope to see you all there.

Mrs. R. Giles



DofE Bronze Expedition Summer 2025

The expedition was without doubt the best part of the DofE experience. I was so relieved to finish on Day 2 as my feet had blisters. I was really pleased to get to the campsite on Day 1, pitch tents, cook food, play games but motivating myself and the team to keep going for Day 2 with sore feet was a challenge. Teamwork was key and we had to motivate each other to keep going. We were not allowed our phones which on reflection was a good idea as it felt like I was back in touch with reality and nature. I am looking forward to continuing with DofE Silver Award and would recommend it to Year 10.

Alana O'Keefe (Year 11)



I am proud to have completed my DofE Bronze Award. The most fun part was chilling on the campsite, cooking food and playing games. The most challenging part was the early morning wake up call. My group are not morning people. Planning and teamwork is very important, it is really important to break your boots in before the expedition!

Poppy Rayner (Year 11)



I feel really happy with myself, I am extremely proud of completing my Bronze DofE and I am really starting to look forward to completing Silver. The best part was spending time with my friends, working as a team, the camping and the feeling of completing Bronze on Day 2. The most challenging part for me was being so cold in the night. Our group did not use phones. I think some benefits of this included stronger friendships, closer connection with nature and more importantly experience to be able to do things on your own without others influencing you on social media. We sang songs to keep the morale high, and all my group are very kind-hearted so we all felt like we had to stay strong as a group in order to complete the expedition.

Emily Jordan (Year 11)



Head Team 2025/26

Head Students



Hello, my name is Cai Tunnadine and I am a student leader. I study Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Welsh Baccalaureate. In the future I want to study Chemistry at Bath University. I am a keen runner and an avid football player for Porthcawl Athletic.



Hello, I'm Bethan Price and a Student Leader. I study History, PE and Welsh Baccalaureate at A Level and hope to go to Bristol University to study Politics and International Relations.

Deputy Head Students



Hi my name is Aleena Joshy and I am Deputy Student Leader this year! Currently I am studying Chemistry, Biology, Sociology and Welsh Bacc. in the hope that I can study Medicine in the future.



Hi, I'm Sioned Owen and I'm the Deputy Student Leader. I am currently studying Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology and German for my A Levels. Next year I am hoping to study pharmacy at university with a year abroad in Germany or Australia.



Hi, my name is Jamie O'Keefe I am studying Performing Arts, Music, and History. Really excited to get involved with the Head Team and represent the school this year. In the future I want to go into the performing arts industry and hopefully go to drama school.



Hi, my name is Holly Wiseman, I'm currently studying English Literature and Language, Chemistry, Biology and Maths. I've recently applied to study Law, or a joint honours degree with the eventual aim of working either in Intellectual Property Law or Publishing, as I'm also very interested in the arts and have done Drama since I was 12. My main piece of advice is to recognise that A Levels are difficult, so try your best but also take care of your mental health. There are opportunities out there for everyone.

Students Leaders



My name is Sam Lane, I study Biology, History, Chemistry and Welsh Baccalaureate. I'm aiming to study nutrition and its correlations with physical health and fitness in order to become a dietitian.



Hi, my name is Jackson Barnes and I am a Head Team assistant that studies Sociology, History, English Literature and Welsh Baccalaureate, I have no idea what I'm going to do after sixth form.



Hi, my name is Seren Davies and I am part of the Head Team this year. I am studying Geography, Chemistry, Biology and Welsh Baccalaureate and hope to study Geography at Birmingham University.



Hello, my name is Lacey Jones. I study English Literature, Drama, Media, and Welsh Baccalaureate. I plan to go to university to study Film Production, and in the future, I hope to work in the film industry.



Hello, my name is Dewi Powis and I am a member of the Head Team for 2025/26. I am currently studying Physics, Media Studies, Electronics and Maths at A Level. In the future I would like to study Physics at Oxford University.



Hi, my name is Jemima Dutton. I am currently doing Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Welsh Bacc. at A Level. After this year, I hope to study Economics at university in London.



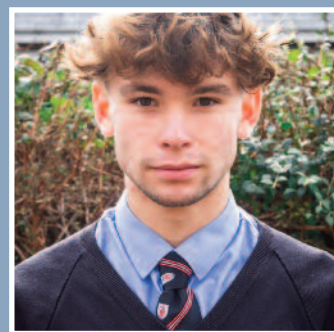
My name is Aaron Marchant and I have been a student at Porthcawl Comprehensive School since Year 7. In Year 13 I am currently studying Biology, Physics, French and Welsh Baccalaureate. Currently I am making a decision on what to study in university next year, my choices are between Physiotherapy, Biological Sciences and Psychology. I look forward to being part of the Head Team this year.



Joseph Sandford-Taylor – I joined this school last year. I was grateful for how welcoming everyone was. As one of the new members of the Head Team, I hope all students feel the same warmth and sense of belonging that I have experienced. I'm looking forward to the year ahead and hope everyone enjoys it as much as I have.



Hi, my name is Lennon Owens. I'm studying Chemistry, Biology and Business and I am hoping to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics at university.



Hi! I'm Toby Evans, I do Maths, Physics and Electronics at A Level and I want to do Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Bath University.



High School Musical

On Thursday 11th September, our Year 8 Drama Club pupils performed an abridged version of High School Musical in the Jubilee Theatre for family and friends. The rehearsal process began when the pupils were in Year 7 and was directed by KS4 GCSE Drama students Elijah Cressey, Pippa Elliot, Aimee Leach, and Natia Weaver-Setal. The performance was of an exceptionally high standard and showcased the talent, enthusiasm, and creativity of our Year 8 pupils. Their dedication was clear from the many lunchtimes they gave up to perfect dance numbers and scenes. A special thank you goes to Honey Morrison, Zara Maine-James, Evelyn John and Esme Hazell for their outstanding contributions to the choreography! The pupils were so disappointed to see the project end that we were delighted to arrange an additional performance for several Year 8 classes the following day! A great project which brought fun and enjoyment to so many! A huge thanks to all involved!

"I really enjoyed doing High School Musical! It was my first time being in Drama Club, and I absolutely loved it. I made so many friends that I wouldn't have met if I hadn't joined HSM. Overall, I loved Drama Club and would definitely do it again!" Evie Lewis

"I joined High School Musical thinking it would just be for fun, there were tears, laughter, even a few disagreements but it turned out to be so much more than just a show. We became one big team and learned to trust each other. I'd do HSM every day if I could!" Brogan Moynihan



Year 7 Drama Club – Off to a Fantastic Start with Bugsy Malone!

Year 7 Drama Club is off to a brilliant start, with over 40 enthusiastic pupils taking part! Their first project will be an abridged version of Bugsy Malone, and excitement is already building, auditions have taken place, and the show has now been cast. The production is being directed by a talented group of Year 12 and 13 Drama students, who are sharing their experience and passion to help bring the show to life. The plan is to perform the piece just after Christmas!





Year 8 Drama Club **School of Rock**

This is the third major project that the pupils have undertaken since starting at PCS. The Year 12 Directors have been hugely impressed by the talent and enthusiasm of our Year 8 pupils. Auditions are currently underway, with plans to perform the abridged version in January/February 2026.

Young Playwrights' Festival Update



The annual Young Playwrights' Festival usually takes place towards the end of the summer term. This year, however, the festival was postponed due to the closure of the Pavilion and the timing of the School Show in July. We are delighted to announce that the festival is expected to take place at the end of November in the Jubilee Theatre. A number of plays were submitted, and six winning plays have been chosen to be performed. Nearly all the winners are from Year 8, with one play from Year 9. The plays are being directed by our talented Year 10 GCSE Drama pupils, who are doing a fantastic job of bringing these stories to life on stage.

KS3 Technical Theatre Leaders

Meet our KS3 Technical Theatre Leaders! This talented group is developing their lighting and sound design skills to support the various Drama projects within the department. Under the guidance of Mr Llewellyn, our Performing Arts Technician, the pupils are growing in confidence and going from strength to strength. They will be providing technical support for the Young Playwrights' Festival in November, helping to bring the performances to life.





KS3 Stars Shine in Professional Pantomime!

The Performing Arts Faculty is thrilled to announce that four of our talented KS3 pupils have been selected to perform in the professional Christmas pantomime Rapunzel at Maesteg Town Hall this festive season!

Congratulations to:

Summer Mainwaring (Year 9)

Esme Hazell (Year 8)

Honey Morrison (Year 8)

Megan Williams (Year 8)

These outstanding students took part in a rigorous Acting, Singing, and Dancing Workshop, where their professionalism, maturity, and exceptional talent truly stood out.

Rehearsals begin on 10th December, with five intensive training days alongside a professional cast before the curtain rises on 16th December 2025.

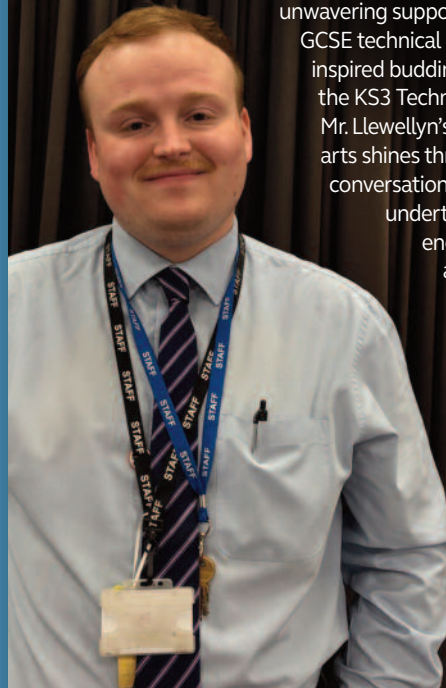
We are incredibly proud of their achievement and wish them all the best as they embark on this exciting journey. We know they'll represent our school with pride and passion!

Farewell to Mr. Llewellyn

The Performing Arts and PE Faculty, along with the wider PCS community, would like to extend a warm and heartfelt farewell to Mr. Llewellyn, who leaves us after four dedicated years to pursue an exciting new career path. Mr. Llewellyn has been a familiar and friendly face across the school, not only in his role as a Performing Arts Technician but also as a Cover Supervisor. His contributions to the Drama and Music departments have been invaluable and his technical expertise, particularly in lighting and sound design, has elevated countless performances and events.

His meticulous attention to detail and unwavering support have helped guide GCSE technical candidates and inspired budding talent through the KS3 Technical Theatre Club. Mr. Llewellyn's passion for the arts shines through in every conversation and task he undertakes, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to all he does.

We are incredibly grateful for his time at PCS and wish him every success and happiness in his new adventure. He will be greatly missed!



Pupils and staff enjoyed the visit from the ice-cream van at the end of the Summer term!

Outdoor Learning Forest Schools Enrichment



Pupils who completed the Outdoor Learning enrichment lessons in school had an opportunity to attend a fun packed Forest Schools event at Sony in Bridgend.

The workshop was delivered by qualified Forest School leaders, combining Forest School principles with outdoor learning. Pupils had the opportunity to build shelters, play games, split wood, light fires and cook pancakes over their fires.

The workshop really was a great opportunity for pupils to develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment.



Learning in the Outdoors

We are proud to have launched a new Learning in the Outdoors course this September. This Agored Cymru accredited course is designed to equip students with practical skills and knowledge. We are designing and creating a wildlife friendly garden this Autumn. Pupils have also been practicing pitching tents. We had an excellent visit to Cwm Brombil school to get inspiration. Thank you for the boots, Mr Stephens!



Enrichment - Outdoor Learning

Year 9 recently took part in a water filtration exercise. It was a close contest but eventually Seb was our winner. Who knows, he may become the next Bear Grylls.





Sustainable Future – Parc Storm

Last term, a group of Year 9 students along with Mr. Pucella visited Solcer House, Parc Stormy at Stormy Down in Bridgend. Parc Stormy is a great place to see different forms of energy generation in action.

On arrival we were issued with high-vis vests and had a safety briefing. We then went to the 'Knowledge Factory' where we had an insight into the 3 key areas that are worked on at the site which are

1. Renewable Energy
2. Low Carbon Cement Substitute
3. Digestate

We had a talk from Mrs. Goddard on Anaerobic Digestion and how the site uses food waste to help the local farmers with a digestate fertiliser.

Digestate is the material remaining after the anaerobic digestion (decomposition under low oxygen conditions) of a biodegradable feedstock. Digestate is an excellent fertiliser containing all nutrients and micronutrients necessary for modern farming, including nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. It is provided to many of the local farmers in the area. We also explored the Energy Trilemma based on security, affordability (fuel poverty) and sustainability.

As a group, we had the opportunity to go inside the sustainable eco house designed by Cardiff University, we walked through the solar panel farm with 2,940 solar panels. We stood underneath a 100m+ tall operational wind turbine, we looked inside their state of the art

minerals research lab and looked at how food waste that we put out each week turns into renewable energy.

For pupils who have an interest in DT, Science, Engineering, ICT or Geography that this site is definitely worth a visit.

Mr. Pucella



Cisco Girls



Thank you to Cisco network for a great day out for our young girl learners. Pupils had great fun learning about this \$56billion business and the CEO worked up from starting as a 'shop floor' employee. Cisco currently has 170 apprentices over all 4 years. We learnt about how apprenticeships work within the company, and how this program can be tailored for you as you develop your skill set. We then looked at 'What the Heck is Ai?' We had a discussion on how AI can collect information and make decisions and how inaccurate it really is. A key



point to remember, whether using secondary sources or generative AI, is to always check your sources and proofread the content!

Next we played a game where pupils from all schools formed a human network. Pupils were split into groups where each group had several PCs and a network switch. There was a main router for the entire network. Pupils had to send messages from their PC to a PC in another group. They needed to lookup addresses in a table and then write source and destination on their envelopes. This showed how the main router quickly became

overloaded with network traffic and could not deal with sending messages across the network.

The girls finished the day by competing in a series of capture the flag tasks, solving a series of puzzles using cyber chief and encryption puzzles. We won lots of sweets and power banks to keep us charged for the days ahead!



University of South Wales, Computer Science Taster Day

– Treforest Campus

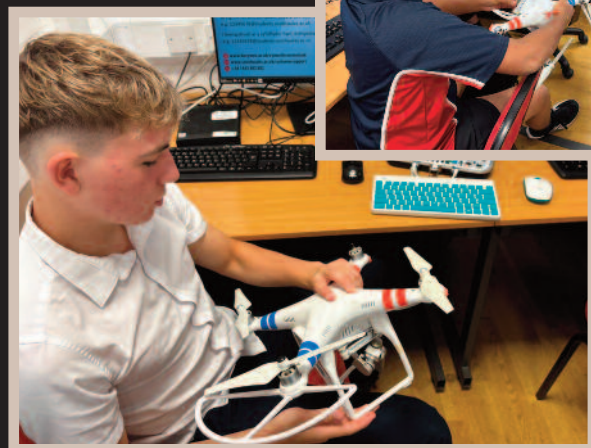
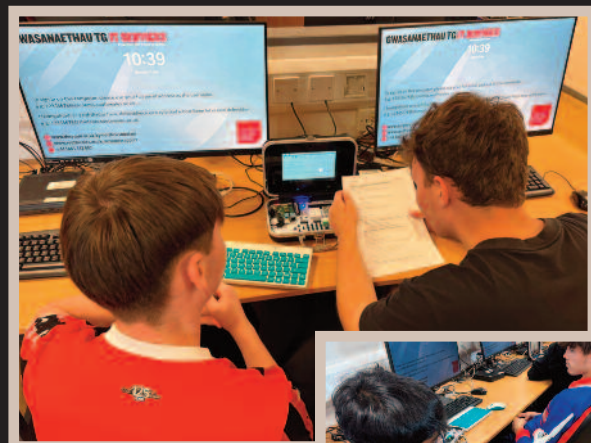
We had the opportunity to take our GCSE and A Level Computer Science pupils to visit the University of South Wales (Treforest Campus) for a Computer Science Taster Day. The trip took place on Monday 7th July.

Pupils gained an insight into university life and enjoyed taking part in a series of workshops from programming a Raspberry Pi to control a series of sensors to mimic the Internet of Things; a series of devices we have in the home from microwaves, fridge freezers and washing machines to Smart TVs and speakers which connect to exchange data over the Internet. Pupils really enjoyed controlling the actuators and sensors to develop these lifelike programs.

The afternoon session included an escape room computational thinking activity and a quick introduction to PyGame Programming where pupil

created a very simple computer game where they created a main character to avoid an asteroid belt. PyGame is a free and open-source cross-platform library for the development of multimedia applications like video games using Python but has been used to create apps such as the Amiga inspired PyDPainter.

More details can be found here <https://www.pygame.org/tags/all>.



Empower: Girls in Cyber

The Year 10 girls had a great day learning about Cyber and Technology at Trinity St David's in Swansea. We started the day with Capture the Flag challenges hosted by SudoCyber, a local company based in Brecon, which runs training programs for SW Police, the Army and other commercial organizations. They learnt about a variety of cyber-attacks and how to overcome these.

Elizabeth and Lucy from DVLA Digital explained about their role in maintaining registration and licensing for the 46 million vehicles and 52 million driving license records we have in the UK. They explained how they help the police by giving details for accidents etc. We learnt about Lucy's journey from an Apprenticeship, including a year in Industry, to degree programs offered by the DVLA. They both talked about the In house training of staff culture, to help inspire, attract and grow their employees, including programmes such as Security Operations Center Specialists (SOCS) to help protect from cyber-attacks. We learnt about Elizabeth's journey from doing an accountancy degree to studying an MSc in Computing Forensic working in mobile forensics. She talked about 'Imposter Syndrome' that made her question whether she was good enough? Did she have enough experience? Common traits of anyone starting off in their career.

There were further talks from Laurice Keogh,

Apprentice of the Year 2022, how she used her initiative to pick up and do other jobs on her training e.g. the website which helped secure her full-time role with Digital and Health Care Wales part of NHS Data.

Tech in sport ColegSirGar, Llanelli and Coleg Ceredigion with sports lecturer Rob Kirk, offered some hands-on workshops such as posture plate to check alignment, blaze pods for reaction timing, lung and hand grip dynamometer to measure Watts and speed along with a series of other athletic recovery devices which give baseline data and allow comparison with this data throughout a professional sportspersons career.

Pupils also took part in an interactive escape room where they worked as a team to solve a series of cyber security puzzles before the time ran out. This was held in one of the university's immersive rooms consisting of 3 large video walls, creating an enclosed digital environment which exploits the power of experiential learning, removing the barriers surrounding VR headsets. The rooms have been used by university students, for example, art pupils who have designed wallpaper, and companies such as Land Rover to showcase their latest cars.

The day concluded with a quick-fire quiz with members of Admiral, where again our pupils managed to come back with a box of sweets for the winning group!



F1 Visit

It was a fun, interesting and unique experience going to the **Williams HQ**



On the 27th of June, 40 of the computer science and digital technology students in Year 10 and a few in Year 11 went to the Williams racing factory in Oxford. We had to be at the school at 5:30 in the morning, and then got to the factory at around 9:00. We were met with a Williams worker called Max who walked us into the experience centre in a room called Monaco, which was named after the famous race circuit. He went through the schedule for the day and what we would be doing throughout the day. As we were walking around the factory, we had to be quiet because free practice was on and people were working and communicating to the two drivers and team in Austria.

Our first activity was in the Frank Williams room. We were randomly put into 8 teams of around 5 and were given a table and a number. First, we did a crash test with just paper where we had to protect a ball made of plasticine from a cube of aluminium that was dropped into a long clear tube. The people that came up with the best ideas, about 8 of us, were given free Williams racing pop sockets. Then, the last practical activity, we had to create a nose cone of different materials such as paper, card, cardboard, cotton balls, etc. We were split in our team, 2 of us being design team one and the other 2 being design team two. The other person was the manager. We had about 10

minutes to create 2 drafts before we had 15 minutes to come up with our final design. We were able to crash test the final design and come up with a presentation to present our nose cone on the stage in the room. The team with the best nose cone and presentation were given free Williams racing hats.

After lunch, the 40 of us were split into 2 20's. One of the groups went into the racing simulator. We were brought upstairs and into the racing simulator room, where there were over 20 chairs, screens, and steering wheels to play the simulator. We played different circuits, such as Monaco and Austria where we raced each other and battled to win. This was more difficult than we thought as these were professional racing simulators, where the brake pedal had to have 30kg of weight pressed down on it to stop fully.

After the racing simulator, we went to the large museum room. Max gave us a tour of the museum and spoke about the different cars that were there. For example, Ayrton Senna's car was one of the cars that was in the museum. We were even able to hold a large piece of an F1 car, which wasn't that heavy surprisingly. We then got to look and hold the helmets and steering wheels from the f1 cars we then had free time to look around the museum and take pictures of all the cars.

After the 2 groups were done, we went back to Monaco to finish the day. We were all given free bags with Williams racing merchandise and an opportunity to go to the gift shop in the factory. In the bag, there was a free Williams USB charger, a pen, and a water bottle, along with the branded bag it was given to us in. We then had a long bus journey home, but it was all worth it for the experience we had that day. It was a fun, interesting and unique experience going to the Williams HQ in Oxford on the way out which included a Williams water bottle, F1 phone charger and a Williams racing pen.

Ava Jasperse and Sean White



Forces Fitness Visit

This Summer our Year 8 pupils took part in a dynamic session led by Forces Fitness, a company run by former military personnel specialising in health, resilience, and outdoor training.

The morning began with a warm-up and an introduction to the importance of nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices. Pupils then rotated through a series of physical challenges and teamwork tasks that tested not only their fitness but also their ability to communicate, problem-solve, and support one another.

From mini assault courses to group challenges, the activities encouraged pupils to step outside their comfort zones and discover the value of resilience. It was inspiring to see students who are usually hesitant in PE lessons growing in confidence, engaging fully, and working alongside classmates they wouldn't normally team up with.

Teachers were impressed with the positive atmosphere and encouragement shown: "You instantly put the pupils at ease and gave them the right encouragement... it was nice to see pupils that normally wouldn't have the confidence to take part get stuck in and communicate



with people they usually wouldn't speak to."

The session wasn't just about fitness — it was about developing life skills. Pupils left with a stronger understanding of teamwork, perseverance, and the benefits of healthy choices. Most importantly, they came away with a real sense of pride in what they had achieved together.

We are grateful to Forces Fitness for delivering such an engaging and memorable day, and we look forward to welcoming them back in the future.



Year 9 War Memorial Visit

During the first few weeks of this academic year, all Year 9 pupils have visited the Porthcawl War Memorial with their History teachers. The visit gave pupils time to reflect on the impact that the First and Second World Wars had on the local community, as well as to observe how those who lost their lives are remembered. Pupils then wrote about the importance of remembrance and commemoration in the following lesson, which allowed them to develop their empathy skills. Overall, pupils showed great maturity when visiting the memorial in the grounds of All Saints Church, and clearly gained a lot from the experience.



Our Sony Trip - Physical Computing

When we first arrived, Gemma from Sony met us and took us to a visitor's room. We received a lanyard and an electrostatic jacket so that we did not accidentally destroy any circuits in the factory. The jacket is designed to safely dissipate static electricity to prevent damage to sensitive electronics. Mr. Pucella also had to wear protective footwear.

We were then met by Steve who gave us a presentation about the company and told us where it was from (Japan). He told us about raspberry pi (computers) and told us about the cameras they make in the factory.

After the presentation we went to have a tour of the factory. We saw the clean room which is where the lenses of the cameras were put together. The room had to be very clean as not a single speck of dust should go on the lenses otherwise the camera would get blurry. The room is actually cleaner than an operating theatre in hospitals.

We then looked at the final finished camera and visited the stations where workers put them together. It takes 3-5 hours to put a camera together and 2 people.

Then we saw all the machines that helped make the raspberry pi computers. The robots first made them and then tested the

raspberry pi. If the test failed the workers had to fix them by hand. We also saw how they made the boxes and put them in ready to ship.

After the tour we had lunch. After lunch we worked with raspberry pi's and helped make lights flash up using coding instructions, set up using Scratch and Python.

We then finished the day with a Japanese culture session and made origami.

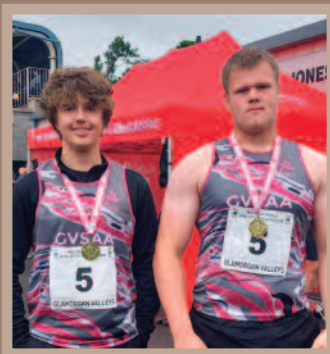
Anna-Marie James (7T)

Sony Centre Trip

On the trip we had a tour of the factory and explored all the different stations including where they make raspberry pi's and there were many robots that were constructing each raspberry pi. A team member inspected each one to check it was correct then it went through a heating and cooling process and soon after was checked again by a robot then it was placed into its packaging. We then had a practical session and went into a teaching room and coded light sequences by using python and scratch. At the end of the day we did a Japanese session and learnt many different Japanese words and we made some origami hearts. Overall, I think it was a very enjoyable experience.

Seren Pugh (7T)





Roman and Tyler throw their way to Gold!

Roman Jackson has competed in many competitions this season representing Swansea Harriers, South Wales, Glamorgan Valleys and Porthcawl Comprehensive at hammer and discus, winning many gold medals. He is the No. 1 hammer thrower in Wales for his age group and No. 6 in the UK. He will now enter the Welsh National Development Programme at the end of the season. He is also the No. 2 discus thrower in Wales. He has a personal best of 45.69m in hammer and 32.06m in discus.

The photo shows Roman with his gold medal from the Inter-Regional Championships and also a photo from the finals of the School Track and Field Championships with fellow Porthcawl Comprehensive pupil Tyler Woodward. Roman won gold medals in hammer and discus and Tyler won a gold medal in shot put with an amazing throw of over 12m. A fabulous day for both of them and for the school.



Rugby

Along with other year groups, Year 7 and Year 10 competed in the National Urdd 7s competitions last term.



Congratulations to Jack Parrott who has gained his first Welsh Cap, being selected for Wales U18s Touch Rugby team.

"I was so happy to represent Wales Touch Association in Vichy, France. We came away with the Bronze medal and I was top try scorer for the team."



Congratulations to Jack Parrott, Matthew Clatworthy and Luis Towel who recently gained a cap for representing West Wales U16's rugby league.



Congratulations to **Jaiden Rees-Griffiths** who won Gold at the Global Dance Open World Finals in Birmingham in July with his younger brother in the Showdance. 1500 dancers aged 5-29 from 35 countries competed. He also placed 1st with his large street dance group, 3rd in his small street dance group and 3rd in his Jazz/Showdance group also adding to Team Wales' medal tally.



Congratulations to **Syd Nicholas** of Year 12 who won double gold in Ju Jitsu at the Men's Open in Somerset.



Dina M won Bronze medals in Fighting and Extreme Weapons at the ICO World Championships in October. Congratulations to **Uma** who finished 4th in Traditional Weapons.

PCS Tennis Tournament 2025

The courts of PCS came alive this Summer as students battled it out in the highly anticipated PCS Tennis Tournament 2025. With fierce rallies, surprise upsets, and moments of pure brilliance, this year's tournament was one for the history books.

Main Cup Competition

In the Boys' Cup, Ben Thomas rose to the occasion with a commanding performance, defeating the formidable Isaac Windibank in a thrilling final. Ben's journey to the top was marked by grit and determination, making his victory all the more impressive.

On the Girls' side, Leila Williams proved unstoppable, taking the title after a hard-fought final against Annie Rees. Leila's consistency and tactical brilliance made her a standout throughout the tournament.

Mixed Doubles Magic

Arguably the highlight of the entire tournament came in the Mixed Doubles Final, where the crowd was treated to a breath-taking display of teamwork and talent. In a match filled with dazzling volleys and razor-sharp reflexes, Chloe Hall and Josh Davies triumphed over Lottie Dickinson and Oscar Jones with a convincing 6-2 victory.

This win was especially sweet for Chloe, who successfully defended her title after winning last year alongside Josh's older brother, Jack. Her back-to-back victories cement her status as one of PCS's most decorated doubles players.

Plate Competition

For those who narrowly missed out on the main draw, the Plate Competition offered a second shot at glory — and the matches didn't disappoint.

Boys' Plate Winner: Jacob Hall, who battled through the draw with resilience and sharp play.

Girls' Plate Winner: Lexie Dickinson, whose powerful baseline game carried her to a well-earned victory.

Year 7 Rising Stars

The future of PCS tennis is in safe hands, as the Year 7 Tournament revealed some exciting new talent:

Girls' Champion: Ella Hapgood, who impressed with her agility and smart shot selection.

Boys' Champion: Ioan Morgan, whose strong serve and confident play made him a standout from the start.

A Festival of Tennis

From the first serve to the final point, the PCS Tennis Tournament 2025 was a celebration of talent, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Congratulations to all players — and especially to our champions — for making this year's tournament a smashing success!



PCS TENNIS TOURNAMENT HALL OF FAME WINNERS		
	BOYS WINNERS	GIRLS WINNERS
2007	Richard Tuck	Sidney Rogers
2008	Lee Arrowsmith	Bethan Price
2009	Hayden Lau	Bethan Price
2010	Jacob Prosser	Robyn Wilkins
2011	Matthew Johns	Laura Mackey
2012	Josh Bell	Olivia Norris
2013	Jak Robbins	Demi Grant
2014	Harley Stephens	Emily Stradling
2015	Harley Stephens	Elise Thomas
2016	Harley Stephens	Ffion Masters
2017	Harley Stephens	Anni Martin
2018	Matt Greenwood	Annie Williams
2019	Lewis Audsley	Elli Martin
2022	William Mitchell	Sophia Evans
2023	William Mitchell	Sophia Evans
2024	Jack Davies	Leila Williams
2025	Ben Thomas	Leila Williams



Sports Day 2025



This year's Sports Day was a vibrant and spirited occasion, bringing together pupils from across the school in a celebration of athleticism, teamwork, and friendly competition. The event was themed around the five iconic colours of the Olympic rings—Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, and Red—each represented by a house team. These rings, originally designed by Pierre de Coubertin, symbolize the five inhabited continents of the world and the coming together of athletes from across the globe. In the same spirit, our pupils came together in unity, regardless of background or ability, to compete with passion and pride.

The Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect were on full display throughout the day. Pupils pushed themselves to achieve personal bests, supported one another with encouragement and sportsmanship, and showed great respect for their competitors and the rules of each event. Whether it was a sprint finish, a high jump attempt, or a relay handoff, the commitment to fair play and mutual support was evident in every corner of the field.

The competition was fierce, with each team striving to earn points across a wide range of track and field events. Ultimately, it was the Gold team who triumphed overall, finishing with a commanding total of 1,014 points. Their consistent performance across all year groups, particularly in Years 8 and 10, secured their place at the top. Blue and Black followed closely behind with 891 and 852 points respectively, while Green and Red rounded out the standings with 762 and 714 points.

Two individuals stood out above all others for their exceptional all-round performances. The title of Victor Ludorum was awarded to Coen Walsh of Year 7, representing the Blue team. Coen's athleticism was on full display as he

claimed victories in the 200m and 800m races, clocking times of 30.85 seconds and 2:40.06 respectively. He also impressed in the high jump, clearing 1.3 metres. His versatility and determination across both track and field events made him a deserving recipient of the title.

The Victor Ludorum was awarded to Kaci Williams of Year 9, competing for the Green team. Kaci was a dominant force in the sprints and jumps, winning the 100m in 14.78 seconds and the 200m in 32.29 seconds. She also leapt an impressive 4.10 metres in the long jump. Her consistent excellence across multiple disciplines earned her the top honour among the girls and made a significant contribution to her team's overall score.

There were many other standout performances throughout the day. Samuel Cole of Year 9 (Black team) set a new year record in the high jump with a leap of 1.55 metres and also achieved 5.30 metres in the long jump. Caden Lewis of Year 10 (Gold team) was another top performer, winning the long jump with 5.40 metres and the shot put with a throw of 10.50 metres. Jack Parrott (Year 10, Black team) showed his sprinting prowess with a 100m time of 12.36 seconds and also threw 22.14 metres in the discus.

In the younger year groups, Alfie Carter (Year 8, Gold team) impressed in the shot put and discus, while Eliza Cinderby (Year 8, Red team) delivered strong performances in the javelin and discus. The relay races added excitement and drama to the day, with the Year 10 boys' relay team from Blue clocking a swift 49.75 seconds, and the Year 9 boys' team from Black winning their race in 52.04 seconds. The Gold team's Year 8 girls also shone in the relay, finishing with a time of 60.30 seconds.



Sports Day 2025 was a resounding success, not only for the athletic achievements on display but also for the spirit of camaraderie and enthusiasm that filled the day. The Olympic ideals of striving for excellence, building friendships, and showing respect were not just themes—they were lived out by every pupil who took part. Congratulations to all the athletes who participated, and especially to Coen Walsh and Kaci Williams for their outstanding individual accomplishments. With such talent and dedication on show, the future of school sport looks brighter than ever.



Year 6 transition pupils learn to speak out



Pictured are Year 6 pupils who joined Year 12 and Year 7 pupils in July to have a taste of English lessons. Leading the sessions were Year 12 English students who are part of the successful school debating team. The primary pupils learnt the rules and conventions of debating and developed their confidence in public speaking.

KS3 English co-ordinator Mrs Kembery said, "We are fortunate to have such enthusiastic, helpful and talented pupils to assist Year 6 pupils in their transition to secondary school. I am sure they found it aspirational to learn from older students, whose achievements and confidence inspired them to believe in their potential."

Transition Day 2025

Pupils from our feeder and non-feeder schools spent the day experiencing life at our school, attending four engaging lessons across different subjects. From science experiments to creative writing and hands-on activities, the children embraced each session with enthusiasm and curiosity. It was wonderful to see them growing in confidence, making new friends, and getting a real taste of secondary school life. The day was filled with smiles, laughter, and learning — a brilliant start to their journey with us!

Helping Hands Transition 2025

In June, we welcomed nineteen Year 6 pupils from our feeder schools, to our transition programme, Helping Hands. The programme was held over three mornings and they were action packed with activities, including a treasure hunt around the school, creating a 'helping hand', and mindfulness sessions. The most popular and helpful activity was a Q&A session with Year 7 pupils, now our current Year 8 pupils.

The mornings were an opportunity for the pupils to familiarise themselves with the school, meet key staff members and forge new friendships before their transition to Porthcawl Comprehensive School. It was a pleasure to witness the newfound friendships develop.

The programme was a great success, and this is evident from how the pupils have settled into school life at PCS, since their transition in September.

As a school we are very grateful for the help of the CART team (Communications and Relationship Team) who have supported us year on year. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank our Year 10 wellbeing ambassadors who supported the Year 6 pupils with the activities during the three mornings. Their help was invaluable, and they were the best role models - thank you.

Mrs Morgan and Mrs Dancer



News from the PRIMARIES

West Park Primary School

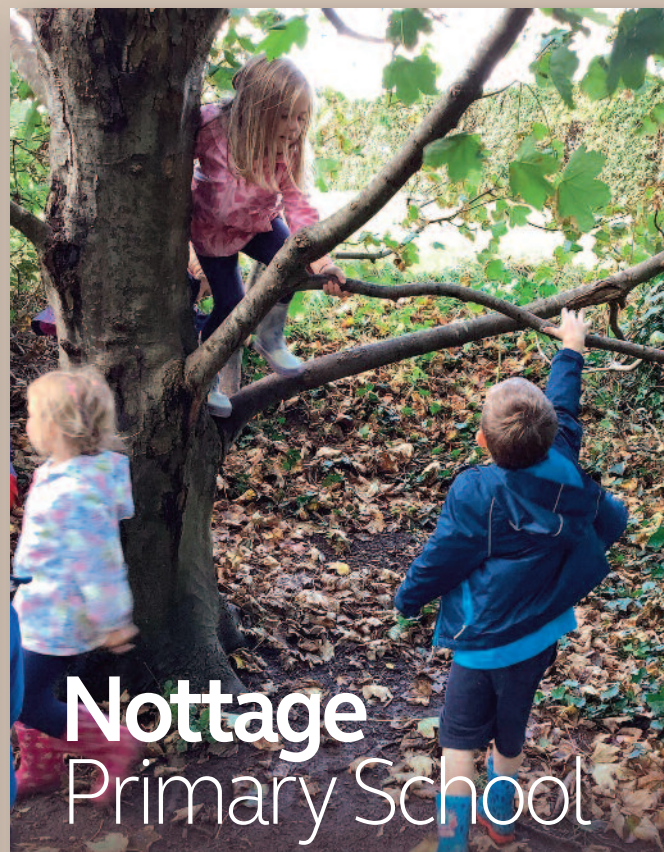


What a fantastic start to the Autumn Term at West Park! The children have returned full of smiles, energy, and enthusiasm for learning. Classrooms are buzzing with curiosity as pupils dive into their new themes — from space adventures to eco initiatives — and behaviour across the school has been exemplary.

A real highlight of the term so far has been our incredible Charity Walk, which raised over £14,000 for Blood Cancer UK. The sense of community spirit was truly heart-warming. Despite the rain, pupils showed amazing perseverance and positivity, singing and smiling every step of the way. We were especially honoured to be joined by Mr Tunnadine whose years of dedication to West Park have made such a lasting impact. He was deeply moved by the outpouring of love and support from pupils, ex-pupils, parents, and the wider community — a special day that will be remembered with great affection.

Our Year 6 pupils also enjoyed an action-packed residential at Llangrannog, showing resilience and teamwork throughout, while younger pupils embarked on a space themed learning experience that launched their new topic with plenty of excitement! The Eco Green Leaf Shop continues to thrive, offering refills, second-hand books, fresh allotment produce, and our Sustainable Wardrobe — a brilliant way for families to save money and reduce waste.

A huge thank you to our wonderful families and community for your ongoing support — what a start to the year!



Nottage Primary School

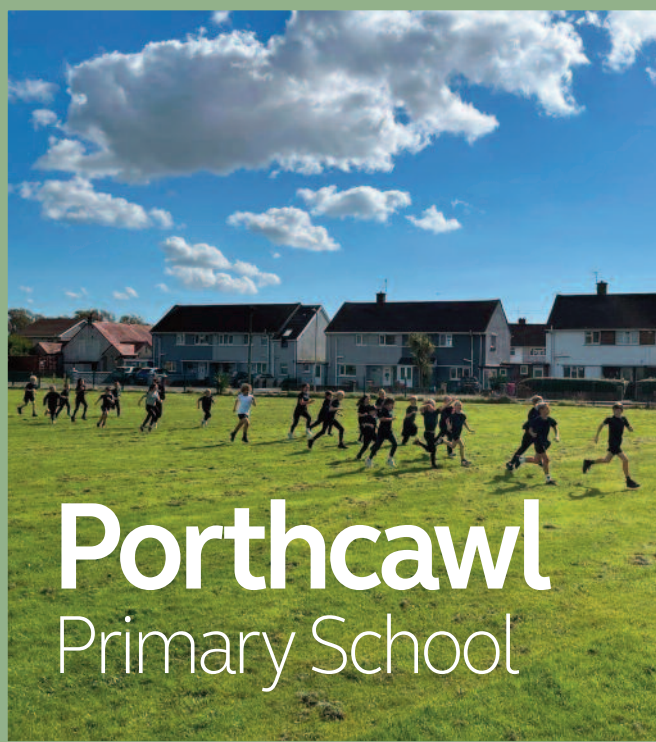
The new academic year has begun with it a fresh wave of excitement, energy, and opportunity. We were delighted to welcome new families and teachers into the Nottage community. This term's whole-school topic is Discovery, sparking curiosity in every classroom. From exploring the wonders of the natural world to uncovering historical secrets.

Welsh language and culture is also our focus and we celebrated Shwmae Day with pride, and our Criw Cymraeg took part in inspiring Urdd Jambori workshops this October. For Armistice Day, we will honour Hedd Wyn, the poet posthumously awarded at the Eisteddfod from the WWI battlefield—a poignant reminder of sacrifice and creativity.

Along with the soggy start to the term years 4-6 made a big splash with their swimming lessons at the pool. We're proud of our sports teams' successes this term and grateful to families for their support in attending fixtures.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our PTA for their tireless efforts, which have helped fund our brilliant new literacy sheds for Years 1-3. These creative spaces are already sparking imagination and a love of reading.

Finally, Christmas show preparations are in full swing — festive excitement is building!



Autumn has arrived, and our lunchtime and after-school clubs are in full swing! This year, we're rotating clubs each term to give everyone a chance to try something new. This term, we're offering football, netball, performing arts, wellbeing, library, and cross-country.

Our cross-country team has been training hard during lunchtimes, and we're getting ready for our first race of the year at Pencoed Comprehensive School later this term. Rain or shine, the team has been out running — nothing can stop them!

We're also very excited about our first-ever Art Gallery Event, taking place this December at Porthcawl Museum. Each class has been exploring a different artist — from Van Gogh to Banksy — and creating their own amazing masterpieces. These final pieces will be proudly displayed at the museum. It's a wonderful way to celebrate our pupils' creativity in the heart of the community!

We've got lots of other exciting community events coming up too, including after-school discos, colour runs, classroom visits, and enterprise days.

For all the latest news and dates, don't forget to check out our school website and read our most recent newsletter!

Newton Primary School

Newton Primary School in Porthcawl has developed an excellent reputation for music and the expressive arts. The 'Newton Singer Songwriters' journey began in 2022 when the children began to participate in additional musical performances, songwriting and recording. The school has been very successful in promoting the expressive arts curriculum in Porthcawl, offering amazing creative opportunities for the pupils both outside and within the curriculum.

On October 6th Newton Primary School's Singer Songwriters group travelled to London to compete in the UK Schools National Songwriting Competition for the second consecutive year. We were the only school selected to perform again from over 350 schools across the UK — a remarkable achievement! Representing Wales with our original song "We Believe in You", the children performed brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The standard was incredibly high, but Newton Primary rose to the occasion, performing with confidence and enthusiasm. They showed that their talent and hard work had earned them a place among some of the top schools in the country, which included several comprehensive schools and academies.

School Head of Performing arts Henley Jenkins said 'The children have been practising together for months, showing incredible dedication and teamwork in preparation for the finals. Well done to all the children who were involved and all of the parents who supported us, you've made us all so proud!'

Pupil Ottilie Cosson said "Even after the long bus ride it was an amazing experience to take part in this competition for the second time. I had been looking forward to this so much since we were selected to compete in the final".



Pupil Achievements

Winter 2025

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Sienna Jenkins Year 10

Basketball Wales U15 – selected for tournament in Belfast in July

Tesni Morgan Year 11

Played Cricket for Glamorgan

Chloe Hall Year 11

Basketball Wales U17

Jude Jenkins Year 10

Selected to play Cricket for Wales South

Jack Parrott Year 11

Selected for Wales Touch Rugby U15 (Mixed)

Maisy Walsh Year 10

Royal Academy of Dance (Ballet) Grade 5 Distinction

Sophie Walsh Year 7

Royal Academy of Dance (Ballet) Grade 2 Distinction

Syd Nicholas Year 12

Jiu Jitsu – Double Gold in Men's Open in Somerset in September

Dina Mohanaraja Year 8

ICO World Championships - Bronze medal - Fighting

Uma Mohanaraja Year 9

ICO World Championships – Fourth Place in Traditional Weapons

Eden Wong & Oliver Thomas Year 9 (8 at the time)

Ospreys Cup Winners as part of the Bridgend Athletics U13 Rugby team

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, 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	Year	Instrument	Grade
Olivia Townley	Year 8	Piano	GRADE 3 PASS
Joshua Chitty	Year 8	Clarinet	GRADE 1 DISTINCTION
Scott Holmes	Year 12	Singing	GRADE 8 DISTINCTION
Ellis Leonard-Davies	Year 9	Piano	GRADE 4 DISTINCTION
Sophia Evans	Year 13	Piano	GRADE 8 MERIT
Florence Cronje	Year 11	Piano	GRADE 2 DISTINCTION
Taylor Duggan-Meli	Year 7	Electric Guitar	GRADE 1 DISTINCTION
Jenna Cabbage	Year 8	Flute Piano	GRADE 1 MERIT GRADE 4 MERIT
Danny Richards	Year 8	Electric Guitar	GRADE 2 MERIT
Grace David	Year 8	Piano	GRADE 2 MERIT
Ben Bloomfield	Year 8	Violin Piano	GRADE 2 MERIT GRADE 3 PASS

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