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PORTHCAWL

Comprehensive School

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)

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

School Results – Summer 2025

This week, the Welsh Government published the final ‘secondary school performance data’ from the summer 2025 examination series. Once again, we are very pleased with our performance in all key indicators, which is considerably higher than the average of similar schools, the Local Authority and Wales.

Each year, cohort performance and the outcomes pupils achieve vary, this is inevitable with large numbers of pupils following a different curriculum and completing different examinations and no year group is identical. What has not varied at Porthcawl Comprehensive School is how our pupils’ achievement compares locally, nationally and against similar schools. Last summer, everyone at PCS was very proud of all pupils’ achievements; there were so many individual successes stories.

As I did last year, this letter provides a brief update regarding the school performance data released by the Welsh Government on the ‘My Local School’ website. The table in this letter illustrates our published Key Stage 4 performance in the key indicators of Literacy, Numeracy, Science, the Skills Challenge Certificate and the Capped 9. The Capped 9 is a point score average generated for schools based on each student’s best 9 GCSEs including English Language and Mathematics and/or Numeracy and Science.

Literacy, Numeracy, Science & Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) Points Scores

For literacy, numeracy, science and the skills challenge certificate a point score is allocated to each indicator. The point score represents a grade average. E.g. the average grade for all pupils who sat the examination. The points score system ranges from 16 to 58 points, and this represents grades G to A*. There are 6 points between each grade. To provide a few examples, a D grade is 34 points, a C grade is 40 points, a B grade is 46 points and an A* grade is 58 points.

Our whole school literacy points score is 44.7pts, this means that the average grade across all pupils who sat the examination was a very high C grade. The literacy national average was 38.6pts, therefore the average score in our school was 6.1pts higher than Wales, and our pupils have scored, on average, one grade per pupil higher in this subject.

Capped 9

This is a point score calculated using a pupil’s best 9 GCSE grades including English, Mathematics and Science. Each grade is allocated a score between 16 and 58 (as explained above) and they are totalled. For example, a pupil with their best 9 GCSEs as x2 A grades, x2 B grades and x4 C grades would have a Capped 9 score of 356pts. This is calculated as $2 \times 52(A) = 104$, $2 \times 46(B) = 92$, $4 \times 40(C) = 160$ to give a total of 356. This process is completed for each pupil

in Year 11 and an average is calculated. Our whole school average in 2024 was 400.6pts and in 2025 it was 387.5pts. Over the last three years our pupils have averaged 399.8pts.

Please see the table below which presents our 2025 performance. The 'Family of Schools' refers to schools across Wales that the Welsh Government identify as being similar to PCS. We are very proud of our on-going achievements; this is testament to the hard work and effort of our pupils and the unity and drive of our staff. Our outcomes demonstrate our commitment to maximise the achievement for all pupils so that every pupil achieves their very best whatever their starting point.

	Literacy Points Score	Numeracy Points Score	Science Points Score	SCC Points Score	Capped 9	5 or more A*-A grades
Porthcawl Av.	44.7	41.3	42.4	38.3	387.5	33.3%
Family of Schools Av.	41.8	40.6	40.5	38.8	377.5	26.3%
Local Authority Av.	38.4	36.4	37.1	34.2	358.8	19.7%
Wales Av.	38.6	36	35.8	29	354.3	18.1%

I am very proud of the achievements of all pupils, and I am very grateful for all that our staff provide. I am very pleased that we have started the new year with further success following our previous recognition from ALPs as being a top 25% provider at A Level in the United Kingdom for the Summer 2025.

Sixth Form Options (Year 11)

On the 14th of January 2026, it was great to welcome lots of parents/carers and pupils to our Sixth Form Open Evening. The sixth form options process is nearing completion at PCS, and I provide important resources below.

- Our Post 16 Prospectus 2026 can be accessed via: [Porthcawl-Prospectus-2026.pdf](#)
- Our dedicated Sixth Form Options webpage can be accessed via: [PCS 6th Form Option Choices](#)
- The option form can be accessed via: [Yr 11 into 6th Form Options Form](#)

It is pleasing to see that once again a high number of students will be joining Porthcawl Comprehensive School Sixth Form in September 2026. We are projecting a Year 12 cohort of 160 students. If you missed the Sixth Form Open Evening and would like to know more information about the sixth form at PCS, please contact Mr. Beard via info@porthcawlschool.co.uk.

GCSE Options (Year 9)

The Year 9 'Options Fortnight' starts the w/b 26th January 2026. During the Options Fortnight, all pupils will receive a series of assemblies about the subjects available and the process we follow as we prepare for GCSEs in September 2025. Pupils will be guided and supported through this process by Mr. Beard, Deputy Headteacher. There are several stages throughout the options process and updates will be provided by Mr. Beard. During week 2 of the 'Options Fortnight' we will hold our Year 9 Progress Evening. This will take place on Wednesday 4th February 2026. It is an exciting time at PCS with lots of important decisions being made!

As ever, I thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards,

M. Stephens

Headteacher/Pennaeth

Important Dates – Spring Term 2026

- 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)