

Porthcawl POST

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter | Cylchlythyr Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl



PCS Sixth Form Smash Fundraising Target with Over £2,000 for Children in Need

The Head Team would like to thank every student, teacher and parent who supported Charities' Week. You helped create an unforgettable few days and supported an incredible cause in the process. Whether you donated loose change, bought tickets, or took part in the madness, your contribution made a difference.

performance in the Lip-Synch Battle. We also ran a popular wax the sixth former event, which drew lots of attention and support from other year groups. Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and generosity, we were able to raise £2000 for Children in Need."

Sioned Owen



"I think people who participated in the events were having just as much fun as the ones organising it. The fact that we raised so much money as well was also fantastic. In the end I didn't see it as another task to finish, but an event I and others could enjoy."

Joseph Sandford-Taylor

"During Charities Week, our school came together to raise money and have fun while supporting a great cause. Students took part in a wear your own clothes day, while staff and sixth form students dressed up in creative costumes. Throughout the week, a range of exciting events were held for teachers to take part in, including a Lip-Synch Battle and Sponge the Teacher. Which were very popular events. Quite rightly, Mr Shutt was crowned the overall winner in his final



More photographs on the next page >>>

(from previous page)



"This November, we at Porthcawl Comprehensive came together to raise money for Children in Need, whether we decided to sponge a teacher or wax a Sixth Former. Throughout the week's activities, we were able to raise over £2,000; so thank you to everyone who donated whether it was to wear your own clothes or watch the teacher lip sync battle."

Dewi Powis



"I think the charity week was a huge success as we raised an amazing amount of money and had a lot of fun as well."

Toby Evans



"As members of the Head team, we were excited to take part in organising and getting involved in this year's 'Children in Need' events by dressing up and helping to raise money for an important cause... With the brilliant support of the whole school, we worked together to raise a fantastic amount for children and young people in need. It was great to see everyone getting involved in all the events and we are proud to have helped make a positive difference."

Seren Davies



"Organising the Children in Need events was really rewarding, especially seeing the enthusiasm and involvement from everyone."

Lennon Owens

Headteacher's Introduction

As we start the Spring term 2026, I would like to thank everyone across the school community for their continued support. At the time of writing, pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 are busy preparing for their Summer GCSE, AS and A Level examinations and I have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about Year 13 destinations and university offers. To all pupils in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, I wish you all the very best for the Summer 2026 examination series – to date, your achievements have been excellent, keep up the hard work and effort. As ever, I am one very proud Headteacher!

There has been a lot going on this term, school trips and visits, charity events, sports fixtures, and of course learning, all of which is captured within this term's edition of the Porthcawl Post. During January and February Year 9 have been carrying out a number of fundraising activities to support a chosen charity as part of The First Give Project and there are some excellent social action projects.

As mentioned in a letter I sent to parents/carers in January, Year 11 sat their Mathematics GCSE and/or Numeracy GCSE in November, and I am delighted to inform you that pupils performed very well. Once again, our results indicate a strong performance. In November 2025, approximately 100 pupils completed their GCSE Mathematics examination and approximately 90 pupils completed their GCSE Numeracy examination, with pupils entered for numeracy having already completed Mathematics in the Summer of Year 10. This means that almost all of Year 11 have completed and received the result of at least one 'Mathematics' GCSE.

In GCSE Mathematics a high percentage of the year group secured an A*-C grade and many grades were awarded at A*-B. Considering the previously secured GCSE Mathematics results the overall Level 1 and Level 2 pass rate is strong; so many pupils have achieved very well securing a range of grades – well done! In our Mathematics entry (almost all pupils) over 35% of all grades have been awarded at A*-A and nearly 80% of all grades have been awarded at A*-C. I am very proud of all our pupils! In our GCSE Numeracy entry, a high percentage of the year group secured an A*-C grade and over 50% of grades were awarded at A*/A.

Well done to Year 11 and of course, our Mathematics Faculty – thank you! I would like to personally congratulate all pupils on their achievements, and I look forward to hearing about your future 'Maths' success. Pupils in this year group have already secured a Banking and Finance qualification and a large number will now move onto other Mathematics and Numeracy related qualifications.

All results achieved provide an excellent foundation for the Summer 2026 examinations and replicate the success we celebrated in GCSE English Literature, GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Science last Summer.

In January 2026, 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 in 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 varying 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.

I provide a brief update regarding the school performance data released by the Welsh Government on the 'My Local School' website. The table below 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. Our published Capped 9 score of 387.5 points is positive and continues to be strong when compared to similar schools. To help you understand the data presented in the table below, and our 'overall achievement' I provide a short explanation below.

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	Capped 9	5 or more A*-A Grades
Porthcawl Av.	44.7	41.3	42.4	387.5	33.3%
Family of Schools Av.	41.8	40.6	40.5	377.5	26.3%
Local Authority Av.	38.4	36.4	37.1	358.8	19.7%
Wales Av.	38.6	36	35.8	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 for the Summer 2025.

Currently we are preparing for two very important school events, our Presentation Awards Evening and our Annual School Show. As I am sure you will agree, each event brings our wonderful community together to showcase talent, share success and celebrate achievement, I look forward to both. More information about our Annual School Show will be released very soon. As we did so very well last year, we will run our school show in the Sports Hall on site. This has, and continues to take, a lot of logistical planning! We are hopeful that we can once again, deliver another special performance, the standards of excellence continue at PCS!

Year 11 have completed their A Level options, and it is pleasing to write that we are expecting a high number of pupils to join Year 12 (150+) in September 2026, excellent news! Our Sixth Form will have approximately 270 pupils on roll in September 2026. Choosing subjects and progression routes is such an important time in school and I have thoroughly enjoyed speaking to many pupils about their subjects, plans and intended next steps. Year 9 have also completed their options choices as they plan for the start of their GCSEs there are lots of important decisions are being made!

To end, in the Autumn term I had the opportunity to speak to parents and pupils at our Year 6 Open Evening and it was lovely to see so many families in attendance. I have enjoyed speaking with Year 6 during their recent transition visits and I look forward to meeting more pupils during the future transition events planned.

We welcome pupils from our four main feeder primary schools of Newton, Nottage, Porthcawl and West Park and pupils from many different primary schools across Bridgend. I wish you all the very best and I look forward to sharing more success in Summer 2026.

Kind regards,
M Stephens Headteacher





CHRISTMAS FOODBANK APPEAL

The spirit of generosity was stronger than ever at Porthcawl Comprehensive School this festive season. Our annual Christmas Foodbank Appeal, a tradition that brings together pupils, staff, and families, reached extraordinary new heights.

Thanks to the kindness and commitment of our school community, we delivered an incredible 522kg of food to the local foodbank warehouse. This remarkable total is more than double our previous record and reflects the compassion and teamwork that define our school.

A special well done goes to form classes 7T, 9C and 12FLS, who led the way with the three largest contributions this year. Their enthusiasm and generosity set a fantastic example for the whole school.

Every donation, large or small, has made a meaningful difference to individuals and families in our area who rely on the support of the foodbank. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed and helped brighten the season for those in need.

Together, we've shown what a caring community can achieve.

Mr Stratford



Foodbank Donation

Staff and pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School have embraced the spirit of giving again this Christmas by raising an impressive £140.00 for the Bridgend and Porthcawl Foodbank appeal. As the festive season can be particularly difficult for struggling families, the school community came together to ensure that those in need receive extra support during this time of goodwill.

John Hornsby from the Porthcawl branch of the foodbank visited the school to collect the donation from Mr Short and expressed his heartfelt gratitude. He highlighted how contributions like this help provide essential food and supplies to local families, making Christmas a little brighter for those facing hardship.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who took part in the appeal, proving that the true spirit of Christmas lies in kindness and generosity.

Interact Group

'On the 11th and 12th of December the Interact group held a candy cane sale which was very successful! Pupils had the chance to buy a candy cane with a hand-written note for 50p which we delivered the next week to form classes. We managed to raise £100 which we are donating to the NSPCC charity (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children).

For our next sale we will give pupils the opportunity to buy friends or someone special a chocolate heart with a hand-written card on the 5th and 6th of February. We are looking forward to this sale and plan on donating earnings towards local charities!



A Dip-A-Day in October for Lola supporting Surfers Against Sewage



Lola Robinson of Year 8 spent her month freezing cold and wet completing the Surfers Against Sewage Dip-A-Day October challenge, and she managed to raise over £350 for the cause! It wasn't easy, and challenging conditions meant some swims had to be completed before school (6:30am alarm to be in the sea before 7:00), some after school waiting for storms to pass, and even floodlit night-time dips when the tides were right! And needless to say, a wetsuit was a no-no, so Summer beachwear only! When she came down with an illness halfway through, (most likely caused by the very same sewage she was fundraising to help tackle), her siblings Astala (11) and Noah (15) got their Summer swimwear on to dip on her behalf and fulfil her sponsorship obligations... so not a single day's dipping was missed. It's fantastic to see youngsters in Porthcawl throwing themselves (literally in this case) into trying to make a difference and to make our little seaside town a better place. She's already planning Dip-A-Day October 2026.

London Marathon - 2026

Please support Mr. Pucella who is completing the London Marathon on Sunday April 26th 2026 for The ROHHAD Association. Please view the website or scan the QR code to view his story and support his journey.

<https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/angelo-pucella>



Learning in the Outdoors

Tree and Wildflower Planting

Our Learning in the Outdoors class has had a busy winter, planting trees and wildflower bulbs provided by Keep Wales Tidy. Fran Watkin visited to explain the importance of biodiversity to bees, the pollination of fruit trees and human-beings. We have now planted 15 apple trees, a Christmas tree and hundreds of snowdrops, bluebells and wood anemones.



Year 9 Enrichment (Outdoor Learning)

The new outdoor learning cohort this term started by learning about the importance of clean water when in the outdoors. They made their own water filtration device and tested them out. Water filtration in the outdoors is essential to prevent serious illness by removing microscopic parasites, bacteria, and viruses from natural water sources. It eliminates the need to carry heavy water supplies on hikes, ensures safe hydration for drinking, cooking, and cleaning, and provides peace of mind when exploring.



DofE Year 10

Training with Trangias and working out their paces over 100m.





Year 10 – Bronze DofE

On the 13th January, Year 10 DofE pupils started their first aid training with St. John Ambulance. Pupils gained valuable skills and practiced the recovery position, carrying out a primary survey using Dr ABC, practiced CPR and received a demonstration of how a defibrillator worked. They are looking forward to the second part of the training next week. A big thank you to Holly Seabrook for providing the first part of the training.

Update:

Following the emergency first aid session, our DofE pupils took part in a second practical session with St. Johns that covered bandaging, slings, breaks/strains, shock and burns. Pupils also received practical hints and tips for being out on expedition.



Care Base Provision

We are excited to introduce our new Care Base provision in Tŷ Enfys. The Care Base is a Local Authority provision that is run from school and offers support for pupils with ASD. Pupils have settled in very well and are making good progress in PCS. The feedback has been very positive from both our pupils and parents, and we have enjoyed exploring our new resources and getting to know each other. We welcome Miss Seabrook, Miss Preece and Mr Limbrick to our Care Base staff team. Our next step, with input from learners, is to further develop our sensory spaces, to ensure a relaxing and calming environment that will help to support our pupils to thrive in PCS.

Mrs Price/ Miss Seabrook



College Visit - Year 11

A group of year 11 students were invited to visit the Bridgend and Pencoed campus as part of their transition. We were taken on a tour by Chantal Pearce who is our college link. Pupils were able to see several different departments on both sites and meet some of the tutors. We even bumped into some past pupils of PCS who are doing very well! We were able to ask questions and experience the different facilities in the college, and this certainly helped in easing some worries about the next steps in their education! Pupils were even able to 'see' the new campus that is currently being built as part of a VR experience! Exciting times ahead!!

Mrs Price/ Mrs Dancer

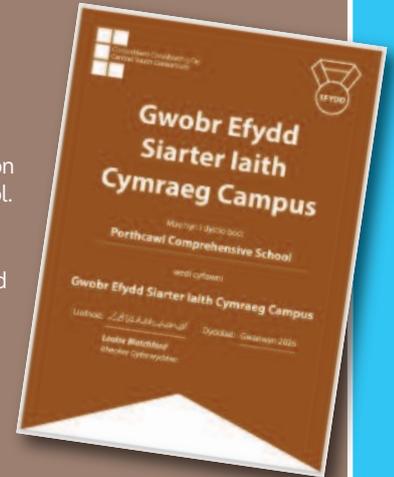
Welsh

We're very proud to announce that we recently achieved the Gwobr Efydd y Siarter iaith Bronze award.



Assessors were impressed by the positivity and enthusiasm of the Criw Cymraeg pupils that they spoke to from Years 7-9, who support and champion Cymraeg across the school. This award recognises the hard work of everyone in our school community and celebrates our ongoing commitment to keeping the Welsh language alive and thriving!

Llongyfarchiadau mawr!



Siarter iaith- Gwobr Efydd

The Siarter iaith is an initiative to try and raise the profile of Welsh across the school and for pupils to use it in all aspects of school life.

We're now working towards the Gwobr Arian - Silver Award and are looking forward to bringing more of our ideas to life!

Diolch bawb.

Cymro/Cymraes y mis

We've recently started a new award for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 called Cymro/Cymraes y mis. Every month we pick a pupil from each year group who has gained the most DuoLingo points for speaking Cymraeg around the school.

Llongyfarchiadau to the following pupils for being our first winners ym mis Ionawr:

Edward Courtney Hatcher 7T
Lilly David 8C
Matthew Attard 9P

Athro/Athrawes y mis

Llongyfarchiadau to the following teachers for speaking lots of Cymraeg and winning teacher the month.

Mis Medi: Mr Short a Mrs Giles
Mis Hydref: Mrs Harris
Mis Tachwedd: Mr Hutchison
Mis Ionawr: Ms Raine

Dydd Santes Dwynwen

In January we celebrated Dydd Santes Dwynwen. Santes Dwynwen is the Welsh patron saint of lovers (cariadon). Diolch to Year 7 pupils who created some lovely cards (cardiau hyfryd) and helped to deliver them to pupils.



Croeso mawr i Mr Phormula, a Welsh beatboxer, who led four engaging sessions with our pupils ym mlwyddyn 8. During the workshops, he spoke about the advantages of being dwyieithog (bilingual) and explained how the brain works when using dwy iaith (two languages) at the same time.

Mr Phormula also demonstrated how he uses his voice to create a range of sounds and music, encouraging pupils to join in and experiment for themselves. The sessions were creative, interactive and full of enthusiasm, with pupils keen to take part - mwynheuodd Blwyddyn 8 yn fawr.

Diolch yn fawr iawn Mr Phormula - we're looking forward to seeing you again next year!

Future Chef Competition

On Monday 15th December, two of our Year 11 Food and Nutrition students participated in the local heats of the Future Chef Competition. Serena Weale produced a vibrant teriyaki chicken with sticky rice, while Leo Carlson Elliott impressed with pan fried salmon, smooth mash, and pea purée.

Both students cooked brilliantly, and Leo was named the overall winner. He now moves on to represent the Bridgend schools alongside a pupil from Pencoed Comprehensive School at the Welsh final in February at the Cardiff City Stadium hospitality suite.

Good luck Leo!



Year 11 GCSE Drama Devised Practical Exams October 2025



In October 2025, our Year 11 Drama students undertook their Devised Practical Exams, a pivotal component of their GCSE, worth 40% of their overall grade. This demanding project challenged students to refine both their performance and theatrical skills, demonstrating creativity, focus, and collaboration.

Students created thought-provoking pieces exploring a range of powerful and often challenging themes, including Nazi Germany, Discrimination, Covid-19, and the Mistreatment of Women in the workplace during the early 19th century. They presented their work either in the style of the practitioner Bertolt Brecht or in the genre of Theatre in Education, applying sophisticated theatrical techniques to engage and provoke their audiences.

The work produced was of an exceptional standard. Students approached mature and sensitive subject matter with insight and care, producing material that was both compelling and impactful. The Drama department is incredibly proud of the dedication, creativity, and professionalism shown by the students. Their commitment truly brought this project to life and showcased the outstanding talent within Year 11 Drama.



‘Students created thought-provoking pieces exploring a range of powerful and often challenging themes’

Young Playwrights' Festival 2025: A Celebration of Creativity and Talent



The Young Playwrights' Festival is always a highlight of the Drama Department's calendar, offering Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students a unique opportunity to develop a wide range of dramatic skills, including writing, directing, and performing.

Since its inception in 2010, the festival has traditionally taken place in the Summer term. However, with the school's annual production now occupying that slot due to the temporary closure of the Pavilion, the festival adapted by finding a new time for this much-loved event during the Autumn term.

The festival culminated in an exciting performance evening, where five winning plays were brought to life on stage. Each production was the result of weeks of dedication, with Year 10 GCSE Drama students stepping up as directors to guide their peers from script to performance. The talent, creativity, and passion displayed by all involved were truly inspiring.

At its heart, the festival is about giving students a platform to express themselves, develop their dramatic abilities, and deepen their appreciation for the arts. This year, the evening was a huge success, and the students truly rose to the challenge, impressing the audience with every performance.

The Winning Plays:

- 1. Time Manipulated**
Evelyn Heath & Isla Dafydd (Year 8)
- 2. Disco Divas**
Hannah Palmer (Year 8)
- 3. Murderer-or-Not**
Summer Burke & Eleanor Thomas (Year 8)
- 4. Nightshade**
Zara Maine-James & Osian Stacey (Year 8)
- 5. The Play on Play**
Casper Wren-Owens (Year 9)



Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PUPILS OF THE WEEK



	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
24.10.25	LOTTIE DUTTON	LILLY CARR, TEIGAN EVANS	JAMES DAVIES
07.11.25	MUHAMMAD ASHRAF, FINLEY POWELL	KOBI WHITTINGHAM	RIO THOMAS
14.11.25	SOFIA WALKER	EVA QUINN	CALLISSE IVINS
21.11.25	ROSIE PAYNE	ROSIE RAYNER	THEO CANNON GRACE PEACOCK
28.11.25	MEREDITH DEACON	DANNY RICHARDS	MEGAN DENYER
05.12.25	RYAN CLARK-MCGINLEY	SEREN PUGH	SAM PROTHEROE MATTHEW ATTARD
12.12.25	LACEY SEARCHFIELD, BETH MAUND	MYRA MORGAN	LIANA SAINSBURY
16.01.26	J Aidan REES-GRIFFITHS	CHRIS LAYLAND	CARYS WATKINS LOTTIE DICKINSON
23.01.26	ZANDER MORGAN-SPEARDUTY	HANNAH PALMER, OLIVER TOWNLEY LILLY DAVID, TEIGAN EVANS	THEO WINDIBANK EVA MARIE MORGAN
30.01.26	NOAH PENNACK	OLLIE ANSCOMB	OLIVER RIXON
06.02.26	LEILANI DANIEL	JOE MCGOWAN	POSEY JOHN



Year 7 - Lacey Searchfield & Beth Maund

Lacey and Beth have brought great joy to 7P this week with the arrival of Jingles, our naughty form elf. They have come in to school early every morning to creatively and imaginatively set up his mischief. The pupils are loving it! Thank you for bringing the festive spirit to registration girls.



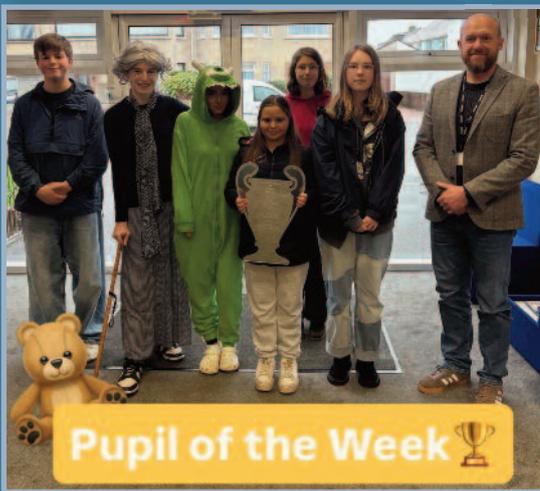
Year 12 - Tamsin Jenkins & Katie Palmer

Both girls have been chosen to perform with the Bridgend Music Service Combined Youth Orchestra at the Music for Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall - Ardderchog!



Year 11 - Meghan Jenkins, Olivia Evans-Jones, Robyn Davies & Poppy Watkins

Poppy, Robyn, Meghan and Olivia supported the History department during the Year 6 Open Evening. They engaged with both parents and Year 6 pupils in a very impressive manner, and showed their enthusiasm for history throughout the evening. They should be proud of the role they played in what was a successful event for the School and the History Department.



Pupil of the Week



Pupil of the Week

YEAR 10

- JACOB WASHBOURNE
- IMOGEN BROWN
- MILLIE CHEVALIER
- LILIA SIDOLI-KENNY
- KATIE EVANS
- SOPHIA DOBBIN
- EDYTH DAVIES
- XAVIER MORGAN -SPERDUTY
- AVA LEWIS
- ALYSSA KEEPINS
- HAZEL GOODMAN

YEAR 11

- MEGHAN JENKINS, OLIVIA EVANS-JONES, ROBYN DAVIES, POPPY WATKINS
- ALICE NORTON
- RHYS STACEY
- NELL SMITH, SEAN WHITE
- PIPPA ELLIOTT
- KADEN PENNY
- EVIE KNIGHT, CHLOE CULL
- ISABELLA MAYNARD, CARMEN REES
- 11X3 MATHS CLASS
- ISABELLA LEWIS, LEO CARLSON-ELLIOTT

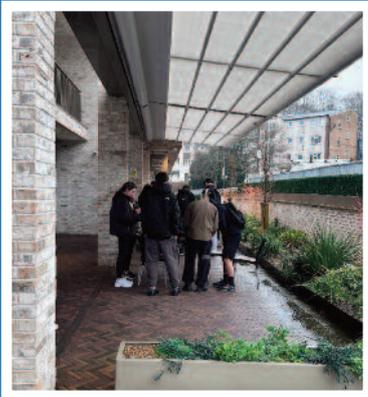
YEAR 12

- JONAH KELLY-FISHER, JESSICA WATERS
- TAM SIN JENKINS, KATIE PALMER
- HARRY DAVIES, MAYA ORMISTON
- SEREN POPE
- EUAN JENKINS
- COBY WILLIAMS
- ISABELLE CINDERBY
- ISABELLE SHEPPARD
- HARRY DAVIES, SAFIYA THOMAS, DYLAN RYELL, HAFSAH ASHRAF
- SCOTT HOLMES
- LEWIS HOLLENBACH, MATILDA JOHN

YEAR 13

- SAARAH AFZAL, EVIE BRENT
- DAN HALL
- SEAN SCATCHERD
- CERY S JONES
- HARRISON WONG, HOLLY JORDAN
- AARON HUI SH
- GRACE WESTWOOD, AARON MARCHANT
- FELIX MASON

Geography Fieldwork in Year 12



Our fieldwork took us from the windswept coast of Golf Bay to the energetic streets of Cardiff, showing just how hands on and exciting Geography can be. On the beach, we measured profiles from the berm to the shoreline, recording changes in gradient, width, and sediment zones. We also collected data on pebble size, shape, and roundness, discovering how wave energy sorts and smooths material across the beach. This involved using equipment we had never used before. What topped the day as well was a visit to the café for breakfast.

In Cardiff, we swapped sea spray for city life, assessing environmental quality, local amenities, housing condition, and carrying out vehicle and pedestrian counts to understand how different areas function from green spaces to housing and to understand what makes Cardiff such a vibrant place to live. It was a bit of a walk but well worth it to collect the data we needed for our exam in the Summer and an eye opener to see how Geography explains the differences between communities, in a city like Cardiff. An hour in the city then for lunch and a little shop- what more can you ask for!

The two days are a brilliant reminder that Geography explains the real world around us. If you enjoy discovery, fieldwork, and fresh air, GCSE and A Level Geography are fantastic choices.



‘In Cardiff, we swapped sea spray for city life!’



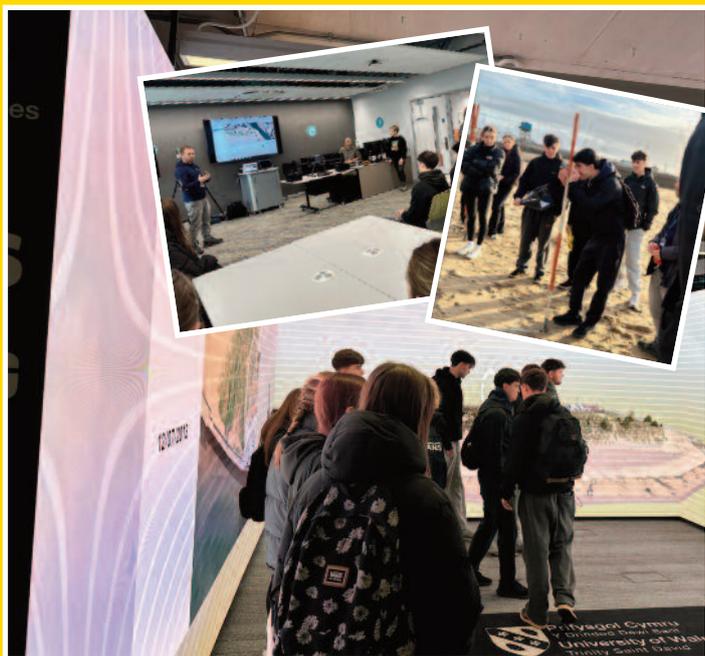
Regeneration Project comes to life at PCS

We had the pleasure of meeting Councillor Elen Jones and Councillor Huw David, as well as other representatives for the Porthcawl Regeneration Project at school, as members of the School Council. It was extremely interesting to see the future plans for our town, as many of us plan on living here into adulthood. The immersive video and map that we were shown helped us gain a full understanding of the design ideas. We were also very privileged to have the opportunity to ask questions regarding concerns or clarifications surrounding the project, such as worries for pre-existing businesses, which were answered with care and detail. We gave direct feedback on areas that we thought could be improved or taken into consideration, such as our preference for an indoor pool instead of the current design of a lido, and the safety surrounding the community garden. Overall, we all left the workshop very excited for what was to come for our town and community. We now feel extremely confident that this project will do great things for Porthcawl, improving the lives of generations to come.

Molly Marchant & Lilia Sidoli-Kenny ~ Year 10



Year 12 Geography A Level Visit to University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD)



We really enjoyed our time at the UWTSD in SA1. We had a tour of the campus and had a real taste for University life. Whilst there, lecturers from the University took us out on fieldwork and we found out how they were protecting the sand dune system and surrounding walkways. The dune monitoring and management work that we examined is part of a project delivered in partnership with Swansea County Council.

We visited the sand dune to discuss the physical landscape and assess the impacts of human activity, particularly trampling and the movement of sediment. We had planned to use the drone to scan the area however strong winds meant this could not be carried out safely. Maybe we can use it next time we visit! Instead, we measured the dune profiles and collected sediment samples to later analyse. This data was entered into a spreadsheet and later analysed in an Immersive Suite to visualise the 3D changes in the dune system over time. It gave us lots of ideas for our own independent investigations.

Bella Pascoe & Honor Pritchard
Year 12



Bake Off!



Thank you to all who took part in the Bake Off competitions so far this year. We had some fantastic entries and worthy winners! Well done all!

Madame Morgan



LANGUAGE WORKSHOP JANUARY 2026



For the third consecutive year, Porthcawl Comprehensive has successfully held a Language Workshop for Year 9 and Year 10 pupils. This event was also attended by other schools including Brynteg, Cynffig, Pencoed, Maesteg and Llangwynydd. It was an absolute pleasure to see so many youngsters so enthusiastic and interested in languages. Our guest speakers came from Cardiff University and they delivered excellent informative sessions.

The first session began with an introduction to the importance of languages in daily life and academics, and how languages can make you more employable. Students were then involved in various activities: a Chinese taster session, a Japanese

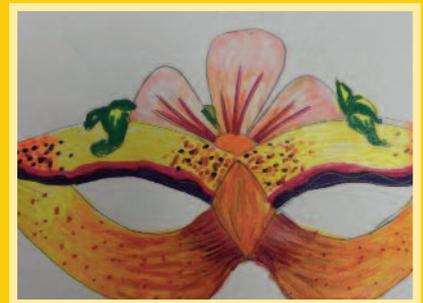
language session and a Spanish session with an escape room game.

Overall, the Language Workshop was informative and beneficial and concluded with positive feedback from pupils and teachers, making it a successful learning experience.

Madame Morgan



Shout Out For German!



From 19th-26th January, the German Embassy in London and the Goethe Institute hosted Shout Out For German, a national initiative to try and raise the profile of German in the UK.

Year 8 got involved by researching the celebration of Karneval and producing some beautiful creations of their own. Year 13 shared their favourite words in German. Both of these posts were shared by the German Embassy and Goethe Institute online and the pupils were praised for their creativity and choice of words!

Christmas Carol Service 2025



We were delighted once again to hold our annual Christmas Carol Service in the beautiful setting of All Saints Church on Wednesday 17th December, 2025. Each year we are privileged to experience the church full of audience members and the high number of pupils taking part in this prestigious event.

The performances were of an exceptional standard yet again this year, and overall, we were delighted with the balance of modern, rock and pop items and the more traditional Christmas and classical styles. Ranging from Guitar Group's Nirvana inspired 'Carol of the Bells', to String Group's polished performance of the classic, 'Waltz of the Flowers' from The Nutcracker, the evening showcased something for everyone. Many pupils commented that they really enjoyed the final number where both choirs joined together, accompanied by Mrs. Smith, Dylan Morgan-Rowe, Jacob Tsui, Henry Horton and Rhys Stacey for a huge scale rendition of Elton John and Ed Sheeran's 'Merry Christmas' to close the service.

We were so proud of each and every pupil, from the performers and musicians, to the readers, dancers, and technical/stage management support. The entire evening displayed the versatility and depth of pupils here at PCS, and the sheer number of extra-curricular groups that we are so lucky to have here in school.

Pupils performed the carol service for a second time on Thursday 18th December for Years 7, 8 and 9. Again, it was so lovely to be able to provide all pupils with the opportunity to experience a Christmas Carol Service held in the traditional setting of a church right on our doorstep. The service featured what has become our new annual tradition with all pupils singing the Welsh Christmas song called 'Mae Santa Clos yn Dod'. The pupils sang brilliantly, and it is safe to say that this is going to become a regular Christmas song here at PCS within singing assemblies!

Thanks go to the Drama, English, Music, RE, Technology and Welsh departments once again for all their contributions that made the carol service such a triumph! I must extend this thanks to our valued team of instrumental peripatetic teaching staff for their dedication to extra-curricular ensembles and producing high quality teaching for our pupils. We were pleased to welcome Miss. Hanbury, our newly appointed performing arts technician, who after only 3 weeks in the role, took on the stage management of the carol service and ensured that we were able to maintain our tradition with the highest of standards.

It is with great pride that we say a huge 'thank you' to all the pupils for their dedication and commitment to the wider life of the school

through their participation within extra-curricular opportunities. Congratulations to all the readers, performers, instrumentalists, and vocalists for their confident and engaging performances, and to the Performing Arts stagehands and Head Team - the evening ran so smoothly due to your hard work and dedication! You are all a credit to the school.

Mrs. Giles





Many congratulations to Mya Morgan 8H who won the competition to design the picture for the front of the carol service programme. Well done Mya, your image was enjoyed by all!

Remembrance Day 2025



Rhys Stacey (Year 11), has become our prestigious 'resident trumpeter' at PCS and once again gave a moving rendition of the Last Post which was followed by a minute's silence across the school. We are so proud of Rhys for displaying such resilience standing solo playing this very technically challenging piece in front of the entire school.

Each year, we are so fortunate to have talented pupils like Rhys to play the Last Post, a traditional bugle call that is played on Remembrance Day within a moment of reflection where we remember those who have fallen. Although 'The Last Post' is now associated with remembrance, the musical call was originally a signal sounding that the final sentry post had been inspected in a military camp inspection, and the area was secure for the night.

Thank you to Rhys for marking this very important moment and enabling the entire school to witness the playing of the Last Post on the yard. We know that he will inspire other pupils currently learning to play brass instruments to develop their skills and be part of Remembrance in future years.

Da iawn, Rhys!

Rotary Young Musician Competition

This year, Jack Corish was successful in his audition for the Rotary Young Musician regional heat on Saturday 2nd November, where he showcased his fantastic skills as a pianist. He was selected to go through to the Area 3 District Final on 27th January 2026 in Cowbridge Comprehensive School. It was a stiff competition, and we are so proud that Jack's fantastic skills were recognised and he was awarded the runner up prize.

An amazing achievement! Da iawn, Jack!

Well done to all pupils who have competed in competitions so far this year, and best of luck to those who will be featuring in competitions throughout the rest of the year! We are very proud of you all.

For any further information, please ask any of the Music department teachers or peripatetic teachers and check the noticeboard outside P21 for future opportunities.

The Music Department





Cyber Security Day

Pupils from Year 11 attended Newport University for an insight into Cyber Security. The day started by attending a lecture on the Ethics of Tech and exploring how important ethics is in tech by debating interesting scenarios. Pupils then took part in a practical workshop by working out how to send messages securely based on the Diffie Hellman problem. The third activity was re-enacting the scenario from 1940s Bletchley Park and cracking codes to hunt down battle ships. The afternoon session involved visiting a careers fair and allowed pupils the opportunity to chat to universities and employers. The final session of the day was a talk from BT and how they are involved with protecting and keeping our information safe. The focus was looking at how cyber criminals are getting smarter and threats are becoming harder to spot.



The National Language Competition (NLC) is a virtual competition for teams of 13-14 year olds from around the UK to compete against each other to solve language-based challenges and score points.



They ranged in difficulty from easy to extreme. The challenges all could be solved, but the hard part was we only had a time limit of 25 hours which may seem like a lot but time quickly went down throughout the week. We had to use the limited time we had effectively, and strategize our time so as to not run out of time and be unable to continue. We also had to work together after school to be able to solve the challenges, so communication was key. By the end of the week, the competition finished and after hours of work, we finished 14th in Wales even though we were only a small group of two.

Opinions

"The NLC competition was a great experience because it was a chance to solve different challenges on a time limit. It involved challenging riddles, problems and situations in which to solve under a time limit, so the pressure was always on. I enjoyed the challenge because it made you

think outside the box, and every challenge was different, so you had to use different methods to crack each one!" Sam Protheroe

"I think the NLC competition was a fun experience because we had to work together and use our teamwork and critical thinking skills in our group of two to solve complex challenges. We had to spend lunchtime and after school to ensure we wouldn't go down since everyday was a battle for each spot and it was easy to drop down even if you missed 1 hour. We had to also plan our time effectively so that we wouldn't run low on time since we all had a team time limit which got lower every time we were doing the puzzles. Overall, it was an extremely fun challenge. It made us think outside the box and use the internet to try and research the answers, but we still had to use our brains, since some of those challenges required more than just using technology."

Matthew Attard



Code Breaking with Cyber First

As part of the Year 7 Computing curriculum, our pupils learn about the developments in technology, by studying past, present and future technology.

In the technology of the past, we look at various types of encryption and how this helps keep our data safe online today. As an introduction to this first topic, Technocamps and Cyber First Wales came in and challenged our pupils to be code breakers, by allowing them to work as part of Alan Turing's team of code breakers from Bletchley Park during World War 2. Our pupils had to problem solve in small groups to find the locations of German submarines, much like Alan Turing and his team of men and women, who were involved in decoding the German Enigma machine codes. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed being involved in this immersive workshop. Let's hope some will go on to work for GCHQ and protect us all from the cybercrimes of the future.



We The Curious Trip



Me and my friends found the trip to We The Curious to be engaging, enriching and a fascinating new take on what we already understand about our world and what lies beyond it.

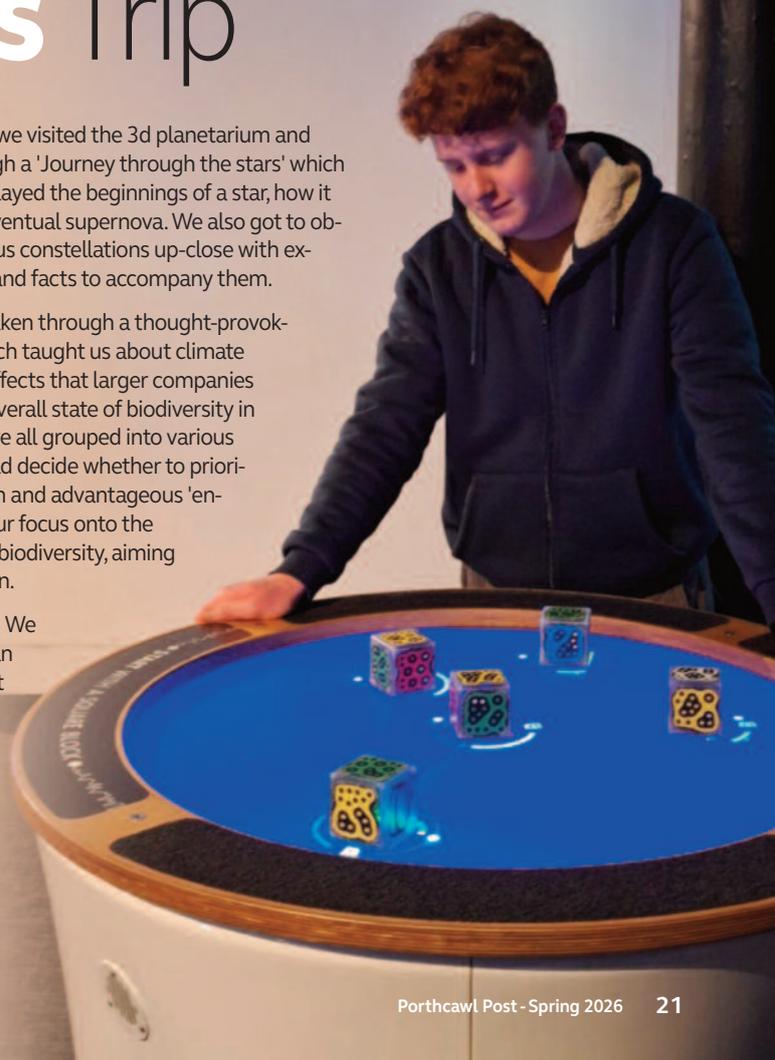
We started the trip by being able to roam freely among We The Curious's many exhibits that posed intriguing questions and observations that made us think again about what we already knew. A specific sand-related display caught our eye as it had a large human-sized hamster wheel that powered a motor that eroded stone. This exhibit along with many of the others offered a new-found and exciting view on matters of which we thought we already knew, the trip offered an alternative to in-classroom learning with a more practical approach.

Soon afterwards, we visited the 3d planetarium and were taken through a 'Journey through the stars' which narrated and displayed the beginnings of a star, how it survives and its eventual supernova. We also got to observe many famous constellations up-close with expert information and facts to accompany them.

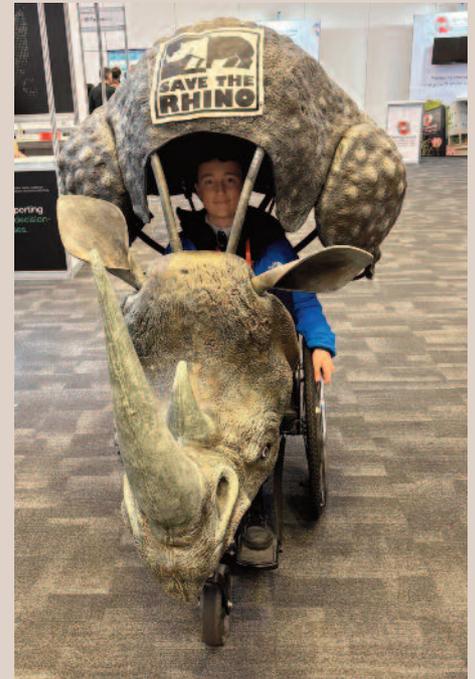
Finally, we were taken through a thought-provoking workshop which taught us about climate change and the effects that larger companies can have on the overall state of biodiversity in the world. We were all grouped into various teams which would decide whether to prioritise economic gain and advantageous 'energy'; or to shift our focus onto the environment and biodiversity, aiming to reduce pollution.

Overall, the trip to We The Curious was an engaging, thought provoking trip that I'm sure me and my peers would be happy to attend again.

Casper Wren
Owens
Year 9



Talent 4 Tech



During Wales Tech Week we took a group of Year 9 and 12 to Talent for Tech. From the opening address by Painting Practice and RattleShedX where AI, CGI, Art and Robotics were shown with a mechanical models of creatures created for the hit TV show His Darkest Material and the Harry Potter Films to closing time, pupils were introduced to the world of Computing and Technology.

Whether pupils wished to pursue a career in Tech or were simply interested in the technological changes happening soon there were engaging talks to listen to throughout the day. Pupils could pick and choose what they were interested in. These ranged from Cyber Security, E-Sports Wales, The Tech That Changed Lives, to The Tech of Tomorrow. These informal talks gave suitable advice for those interested in the industry, such as how to stand out in the crowd when applying for jobs or wowed them with what could happen next. Each session ended with a Q&A so any questions could be put forward to CEOs, apprentices or tech workers alike.

Pupils learnt Tech is the future and how it's shaping every industry from healthcare and

gaming to space exploration and sustainable energy. As technology evolves, the demand for skilled workers is growing faster than ever and the event allowed pupils the opportunity to talk directly to these businesses. There were over 60 stands to visit, from small start-ups to multinational corporations, including several interactive and immersive stands from sim racing, fitness monitoring to escape rooms to enjoy.

"We enjoyed how interactive activities, such as the WRU and Vodafone fitness monitoring. Everyone was friendly and easy to talk to and we enjoyed seeing the robot dog." Matilda Bugler & Sophie Liple, Year 9

"We enjoyed the talks on AI and Jobs, along with The Future of Tech. We enjoyed asking questions and discovering all the exhibits." Mathew Attard & Sam Protheroe, Year 9

"We enjoyed seeing all the cool tech and getting the free items. The mini rugby balls were great and the power banks!" Joe Hillman, Elis Cosson & Taylor Cox, Year 9

"It was great to talk to the mechanical technicians about their robotic work and how it

was brought to life on-screen and going on the sim racing." Luca Rees, Oscar James & Harrison Griffiths, Year 12

"I enjoyed setting the fastest time of the two-day event in the sim racing on the HP stand." Ioan Matthews, Year 12

"I enjoyed getting an insight into careers and opportunities by talking to the companies directly." Thomas Rhys, Year 12





History Trip to London

After leaving Porthcawl early in the morning to make the most of a full day, we arrived in London ready for our 'Jack the Ripper' tour. The tour guides took us through the Whitechapel area of London, giving us a unique insight into the gruesome murders that took place back in 1888. It was fascinating to see the East End of London after learning about it in class and the tour guides were very informative. Once our tour of the East End had finished, we had some time to get some lunch in the Old Spitalfields Market. The market itself had so many options for food, as well as some interesting shops selling clothes, records and many other different things. The coach then picked us up

and we headed back across the city to the London Dungeon. Before we went in, we got a chance to see the London Eye, the Palace of Westminster and the River Thames. The Dungeon itself was a brilliant experience. It took you through hundreds of years of London's history and was a fun-filled, scary experience – everyone enjoyed! It was almost time to head back home, but not before we stopped for some free time in Covent Garden. This was a great way to end the day, as we got a chance to see the Christmas decorations and enjoy the atmosphere together. The trip was a fantastic experience, and we all had a great day! Thanks to the teachers who joined us on the day and to Mr Holt for organising.

What the pupils thought:

The day started early, and the vibes were high! Our first event was a Jack the Ripper tour around Whitechapel, led by our very enthusiastic tour guide, Murray. After our tour, we had lunch and free time in Spittlefield Market, which was awesome – with hundreds of diverse stalls of food and memorabilia.

Next, we entered the London Dungeons. This was an awesome (and scary) experience! We ended the day with some free time in Covent Garden, which was a really cool way to end the trip, with the Christmas decorations and live entertainment!

Morgan Ralph ~ Year 11





LILLE CHRISTMAS MARKET

December 2025

Another year, another trip to explore the beautiful city of Lille, Northern France.

What a delight to see the beautiful Christmas lights, the Ferris wheel all illuminated and the little huts selling traditional food, drinks and presents for family and friends. Once again, this year, we had a very action-packed weekend!

"We started Saturday morning with laser tag, it was really good fun and the teachers were getting very competitive with the games. We spent lunch and most of the afternoon in the Christmas market and shopping centre. There was so many things to see! Some of us went on the huge Ferris wheel. In the evening, we went bowling and had pizza and ice-cream."

Carys Watkins ~ Year 9



2025 LONDON TRIP TO THE FRENCH INSTITUTE



A group of 46 students and 5 teachers from PCS and CCYD spent a day in London on Saturday 11th of October 2025, to visit the French Institute in South Kensington.

The purpose of the visit was to watch a French film called "The most precious of Cargoes" which is the story of a Jewish baby abandoned by his family during WW2 and being looked after by a French family.

A very sad, poignant story about the Holocaust. This film is available on Prime Video, and I highly recommend it! The group also had free time to go around the shops and have a bit of lunch too. It was a very good, fun-filled day and we look forward to going back next year!

Madame Morgan



INSTITUT FRANÇAIS
ROYAUME-UNI

Religion, Values, and Ethics (RVE)

Visit to Shepton Mallet Prison

On Monday 20th October, 50 Year 9 RVE students visited Shepton Mallet Prison in Somerset. Shepton Mallet Prison is one of the UK's oldest and most historic jails. The prison closed in 2013 and is now an educational and tourist centre. The visit linked directly to students' learning in RVE, where they are currently exploring the theme of Crime and Punishment.

The morning began with a guided tour of the prison, during which students explored the original cell blocks, infirmary, exercise yards, and punishment areas. As they moved through the prison, students learned about the strict daily routines that prisoners were forced to follow and the harsh living conditions they endured. Particular attention was given to historical punishments, including the treadwheel - a large machine that prisoners were required to walk on for long periods as a form of hard labour.

Students then had the opportunity to go inside a prison cell, giving them an experience of what life may have been like for a prisoner during the Victorian era. This helped students to understand the need for prison reform and gave a first-hand insight into their studies of prison reformer Elizabeth Fry. This experience helped students to better understand the severity of prison life and encouraged thoughtful discussion about justice, fairness, and punishment.

Following the tour, students took part in a series of classroom-based activities linked to their RVE learning. These included matching crimes to punishments and exploring how attitudes towards punishment have changed across different historical periods.

The day concluded with an exciting and fully immersive escape room experience, set inside a real prison cell. Working in groups and under the supervision of prison guards, students were guided into cells and challenged to use clues, solve puzzles, and crack codes in order to escape. This engaging activity encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

The Year 9 students were exemplary in their attitude to, and enthusiasm for, all the activities they took part in, and were a credit to Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Da iawn, pawb!

Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Stanton.

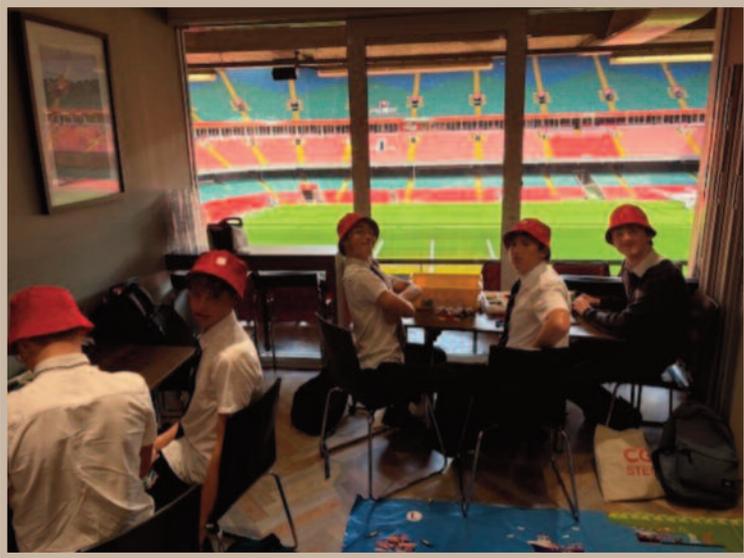


Liana Sainsbury

"Visiting Shepton Mallet gave me an amazing understanding of prisons from the past, which helped me in my RVE classes. In Shepton Mallet, we were given a tour around the whole prison telling us the history of each section. After the tour we had lunch and some free time to walk around the premises. At the end of our trip, we did an escape room in the DARK! For me, the escape room was the highlight of the trip. Overall, the trip was so fun, and I would 100% go again!"

Rebekah Baker

"In October we visited Shepton Mallet. We went to support our learning in the topic of Crime and Punishment. When we went, we had a tour of the prison that was really eye-opening to see where a lot of people were imprisoned and eventually executed. We then did an amazing escape room where we had to work as a team and solve puzzles in order to escape. Next, we had the freedom to explore the prison and see the thrilling 'haunted' locations. I found it to be a unique experience that was educating too."



STEM Trip to Principality Stadium

Recently, pupils from Year 10 and 12 visited the Cardiff Principality Stadium to attend a STEM event. During the event we looked at different stalls and learned about a range of jobs connected to STEM. The stalls had numerous activities including: making slime, VR, coding, quizzes, and more. Some stalls were about digital technology while some were about the environment, creating a variety of individual job opportunities to learn about. After the careers expo, we separated into 2 groups and each did our own activities. In group 1, we created robots out of lego, coded them to move, then designed the front so that the robot could pick up or move the litter. In group 2, they listened to a talk about coding, and designed a nature themed LED to display. Lastly, we had a talk with Kate Bellingham about jobs inside STEM, and a panel of different people with varying jobs offered advice, while students were allowed to ask questions. Overall we had a compelling and beneficial experience and would love to go again.

Esther Morris & Alyssa Keepins
Year 10





British Shooting Schools' Rifle National Championships

On Thursday 30th October, Ruby Clatworthy and Elise Payne represented Porthcawl Comprehensive School in the regional championships for 10M rifle shooting. Both girls qualified in their category and with their team to represent PCS at the national championships in Birmingham on Wednesday 4th February. The national finals were an intense and high scoring event which saw all the top shooters in Britain compete. Both girls did exceptionally well with Ruby qualifying for a place in the final 8. She came away with a certificate for 8th place. This therefore ranks her 8th in Britain. Elise was just pipped to the post for a place in the final 8 but was remarkable in her senior category. Both girls were brilliant and great representatives of Porthcawl Comprehensive school. Well done Girls!

Football Success ...

...for George and Jackson

Following success in their local team Pen-y-bont Academy, George Robinson and Jackson Evans were invited to join the Welsh Regional Football Team training on 18th December. Even though the training was tough, the experience was brilliant, and the boys enjoyed training in Dragon Park, Newport. The next training will be held on February 19th, which both boys will be attending.

Look out for Jackson and George within the future of Welsh football!



... and Wil Tweedy (pictured here)

Wil Tweedy was selected to represent South Wales Schools U14's against North Wales Schools in Newtown. South Wales won the game 7-4.



Congratulations to Jake Milne in 10R who competed recently for Porthcawl Comprehensive School in the Welsh Regional schools for Judo and won a Silver medal in his Year 10-13 category.

Netball News



Year 9 pupil Indie Seage represented Glamorgan Valleys U14B team at the inter-counties tournament in Cardiff. She and her team came runners up in the competition, beating teams from all the other regions of Wales.



Year 12 student Elsie Spilletts competed and captained the U18 B team squad for Glamorgan Valleys in the same competition.

Well done girls!



Rowan Runs for Gold

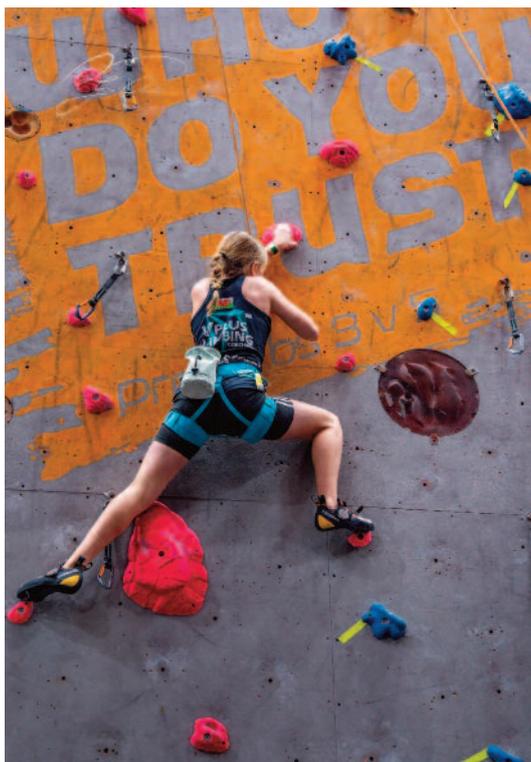
Congratulations to Rowan Green who competed in the Welsh Cross-Country Championships in December, finishing 12th overall and contributing vital points for his team to win a gold medal.

Gymnastics Update

Martha and Evelyn qualified to compete in the Welsh Gymspire finals on Sunday 2nd November. Evelyn placed 6th on Floor and Martha placed 5th on Floor and 3rd on Trampoline. Their South-Central Regional Team were crowned Welsh Champions. Congratulations girls!



Seren Pugh Climbs to Victory



Seren recently competed in the U13s Welsh Region of the Youth Climbing Series which consisted of four rounds in North and South Wales. Seren achieved joint 1st, 2nd, 1st and joint 1st over the 4 rounds and ended the series being ranked joint 1st in Wales. This qualified Seren to represent Wales in the UK grand final in Manchester on the 29th and 30th November where she competed in both Bouldering and Rope climbing against competitors from the whole of the UK. Well done Seren!

Gymnastics



Summer represented Penybont Gymnastics Club in the Gymspire competition over half term. She won Gold on the vault, 4th place on the floor and 6th on trampet, and her team won Gold. Summer qualified to represent the South-Central area in the Welsh Finals the following week. In the Welsh Finals she won a Silver medal on the floor and the South-Central area team won Gold.

Surf Lifesaving



Our wonderful Year 8 pupil Thea Brown had a very successful weekend recently competing at a Surf Lifesaving competition in Swansea. Her and her team came in first place and beat the medley relay record by a 10 whole seconds! Da lawn Thea!

PE Department



COMPUTING TRANSITION

In October 2025, we hosted a week of Computing Transition. This year our focus was on digital forensics and pupils investigated the "Case of the Missing chocolate bar"! Pupils became digital detectives where they developed skills in computational thinking and problem solving. They had to look for clues and search for hidden secrets inside computers, phones and online files such as saved messages, pictures and hidden files to figure out what really happened. Pupils did some training first in cryptography using ciphers such as Bacon, Caesar, Morse Code and Atbash. They explored an online tool developed by GCHQ called Cyber Chef and used Google to perform reverse image searches.

Once they had completed the training it was time to find the missing chocolate bar. Pupils

were very excited to get into their hazmat suits and act like really detectives. They had 6 challenging clues to solve and we were really impressed with their resilience and perseverance skills. Once they had solved the 6 clues, they had to put the 4 number and 2 secret messages together to find the lock box which had the chocolate bar. Once it was found they then had to rearrange the numbers on the padlock to try and unlock it which every school did. A really impressive morning's work from all the primary schools and we look forward to developing these computational skills further in September when they join us.

This activity was given to us by CyberFirst as part of our Gold Award. Many thanks as the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.



News from the PRIMARIES

West Park Primary School



The Autumn term at West Park was filled with achievement, creativity and community spirit. Our Space topic launched a galaxy of learning experiences, from hands on investigations to inspiring Enterprise Events where pupils proudly showcased their work. The season was also alive with performance: Years 1-3 dazzled at Maesteg Town Hall, our Early Years pupils brought festive joy to All Saints Church, and the school choir sang beautifully at the RNLi Carol Service. Sporting pride shone through as both rugby and netball teams reached tournament finals, and our Children in Need fundraising efforts raised an incredible £2,000—an outstanding reflection of the generosity of our West Park family.

This Spring, we are excitedly exploring our new topic, “Helpful Heroes”, which focuses on the World of Work and the everyday heroes who support our community. We are welcoming visitors from a range of sectors—such as health and wellbeing, science and research, emergency services, construction, engineering, education and community care—who are sharing their expertise with the children. These talks help pupils understand real careers, build ambition, ask questions, and recognise the many ways people help, heal, protect and inspire others. As the term continues, we look forward to meeting even more visitors and celebrating the Helpful Heroes who make a difference across Porthcawl.



Nottage Primary School

This Spring term, Nottage learners have embraced our whole-school concept, “Courage through Culture,” exploring how stories, traditions, and people from around the world show bravery in many different forms. To launch the topic, we welcomed Mewn Cymeriad – In Character, where a single actor captivated pupils with the remarkable tale of William Jones and fellow passengers who sailed aboard the *Mimosa* from Bala to Patagonia in 1865. The performance brought history to life and sparked meaningful discussions about resilience and identity.

Pupils also enjoyed celebrating the Welsh New Year, Hen Galan, on 13 January. One of Wales’ most unusual traditions, the Mari Lwyd, visited every class, accompanied by our enthusiastic Criw Cymraeg. Children learned about the custom’s origins and even had the chance to meet the Mari Lwyd up close—a memorable cultural encounter for all.

Our annual Careers Day was another huge success, thanks to the many families and friends who visited to showcase a wide range of jobs, careers, and professions. Learners left feeling inspired and excited for their future possibilities.

Finally, the Children’s Commissioner for Wales team delivered engaging workshops for Years 4, 5, and 6 on Article 29: the right to be the best you can be, reinforcing our commitment to pupil voice and wellbeing.

Porthcawl Primary School



We have started 2026 just as we ended 2025, with lots of exciting activities happening around the school!

We are very lucky to have been chosen to create a sculpture for a new wilderness butterfly garden in Porthcawl. This project is funded in partnership with Porthcawl Town Council and Bridgend County Borough Council to enhance the biodiversity of the area for the community, and with the community.

All of the pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 are currently working with Cardiff based artist Nigel Talbot to create artworks that will be permanently installed in the butterfly garden that is being developed in the woods adjacent to Wilderness Lake. A sculpture and seating are to be created out of locally sourced Douglas Fir timber that will display the final artworks the pupils are modelling in stoneware clay. Each pupil has researched a wide variety of insects, birds and mammals that might be found in the woods with an emphasis on butterflies. They will then produce detailed drawings that will get interpreted into their clay tiles.

The Grand opening of the wilderness garden is in the next few months and we are really looking forward to attending the event and seeing our finished artworks.

Newton Primary School

Year 6 have really enjoyed their transition days in Porthcawl Comprehensive. The children made pizzas in food and nutrition. In design and technology, they made branded key rings using the school's machinery. They have also had lessons in Newton Primary delivered by Languages and Literacy staff.

This term Year 5/6 have been studying money, finance and entrepreneurial skills. The children finished the topic with a challenge where they created child friendly products on a limited budget and marketed their designs in a school fayre. The groups were then able to then calculate their profit margins and judge the success of their ideas. We spent time visiting different local shops to compare the prices of everyday products. We used ICT to display our findings and evaluate our results. Our school curriculum is based on giving the children meaningful, real-life experiences.

One of the highlights of the term was visiting the Royal Mint in Llantrisant for an educational tour and coin making workshop. The Mint produces all the coins for the United Kingdom and it also manufactures currency for more than 60 other countries around the world.

The school sports teams have had another enjoyable term playing football, rugby and netball fixtures against other local primary schools.



Pupil Achievements

Spring 2026

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Elise Payne Year 11

Qualified for the National British School Championships in 10M Sporter Rifle Shooting

Ruby Clatworthy Year 10

Ruby Clatworthy- Finished 8th in Britain at the National British School Championships in 10M Rifle Shooting

Martha Davies & Evelyn John Year 8

Qualified to compete in the Welsh Gymspire Finals in November

Jake Milne Year 10

Represented Porthcawl Comprehensive School in the Welsh Regional Schools for Judo competition, winning a Silver medal in the Year 10-13 category

George Robinson & Jackson Evans Year 8

Selected for the FAW Regional U13s training programme

Wil Tweedy Year 9

Selected to represent South Wales Schools U14's against North Wales

Leo Carlson-Elliott Year 11

Competed in local finals at Cardiff Stadium of Future Chef having won the local heat

Summer-Marie Moore Year 9

U14 Girls' Champion Welsh Junior Surf Series and selected to attend Welsh Surfing Training Camp in Portugal in preparation for the European Championships

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
Isabella-Florence Grant	Year 8	Piano Voice	Grade 2 Merit Grade 1 Distinction
Pollyanna Dutton	Year 9	Piano	Grade 3 Pass
Ethan Hillier	Year 7	Drums	Grade 1 Merit
Zara Lewis	Year 11	Violin	Grade 5 Merit
Jessica Brown	Year 9	Violin	Grade 2 Pass
Ruby Lawrence	Year 9	Violin	Grade 1 Pass
Olivia Harvey	Year 9	Violin	Grade 2 Pass
Ella Hapgood	Year 8	Flute	Grade 2 Merit
Logan Mowforth	Year 10	Bassoon	Grade 2 Merit
William John	Year 11	Saxophone	Grade 3 Distinction
Samuel Cabbage	Year 11	Bassoon	Grade 3 Distinction
Jenna Cabbage	Year 8	Flute	Grade 2 Distinction
Jack Corish	Year 11	Music Theory	Grade 5 Merit
Owen Stephens	Year 9	Piano	Grade 4 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