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Ysgol Gyfun

PORTHCAWL

Comprehensive School

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Headteacher/Pennaeth: M. J. Stephens NPQH, P Dip Ed, BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher/Dirprwy Bennaeth: D.W.A Beard BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher/Dirprwy Bennaeth: C-A. Painter BA (Hons)

29th June 2026

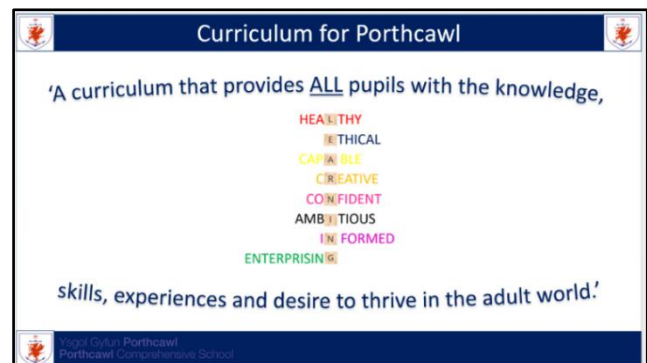
Dear Year 6 Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Porthcawl Comprehensive School. I am sorry that your son/daughter missed their transition day due to the 'Red Weather Alert' and our school closure; I hope they are looking forward to joining us in September. We will aim to arrange another transition day, and if this is not possible, we will ensure an enhanced transition is built into the start of the next academic year. I very much look forward to getting to know your children and working in partnership with you from September 2026. At PCS, there is a strong sense of community and belonging in all that we do, and I am confident that your child will settle quickly and thrive in their learning at our school.

I am extremely proud of our school. We hold the highest aspirations for all our pupils, value each individual, and are committed to supporting every child to realise their full potential. May I take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting us with your son or daughter's education and development; we are dedicated to providing the very best for them and look forward to building a strong and effective partnership between home and school.

From day one, your son / daughter will experience excellent care, support and guidance, whilst also experiencing a wide range of innovative learning opportunities underpinned by our curriculum vision:

"A curriculum that provides all pupils with the knowledge, skills, experiences and desire to thrive in the adult world".

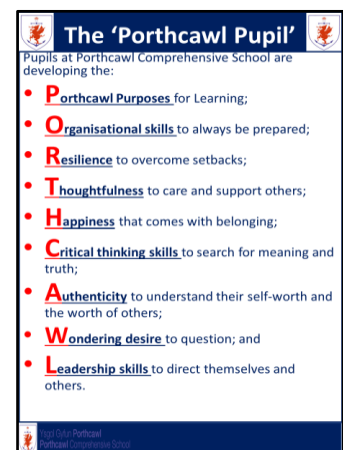


The 'desire to thrive' is important to us, and we believe that this desire comes from within, and it governs our actions.

In September, we focus on the '**desire to thrive: the present and the future**', this underpins what we do, and each day, through our daily practice we focus on the beliefs, values and characteristics we want for all pupils across the school community. This is the '**Porthcawl Pupil**', and you will hear more about this in the new school year. It is the character we want our pupils to develop. It is:

- What we, as a school community, believe is important.
- What we, as a school community, value as important.
- What we, as a school community, characterise us as a school.

I hope the following information is useful in advance of the academic year ahead.



As the summer holiday approaches, I encourage you all to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy meaningful moments with your families. Reflecting on the academic year fills me with a deep sense of pride. The strength of the relationships between our staff, pupils, and families underpins all that we achieve together. I am immensely proud of the way our community works collaboratively to uphold the highest standards, deliver the very best education, and provide exceptional care, support, and guidance for our pupils. The culture and climate we have built at Porthcawl Comprehensive School - rooted in strong values, positive relationships, high expectations, and a genuine sense of togetherness - are at the heart of our success. I look forward to working in partnership with you from September 2026.

I will write again at the start of the next term to share arrangements for parents' meetings, progress evenings, and key calendar events in 2026-2027.

New School Year

We plan to start the Autumn Term 2026 as follows:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026 – **INSET Day**
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026 – **All Pupils**

The first day of term for all pupils in Years 7 to Year 13 will therefore be Wednesday 2nd September 2026.

At the start of the school day staff will be on duty to guide pupils to the relevant venues. On this day all pupils will receive their timetables and spend time with their form tutor and some of their new teachers. Time will be allocated for 'induction' for each year group. Year 7 pupils must go to the **Jubilee Theatre** at the start of the school day. Please be assured that staff will be on duty at the start of the school day to guide pupils to the relevant venues. On the first day all pupils will receive their timetables and spend time with their form tutor and some of their new teachers. **The Head of Year 7 will be Mrs Thelwell-Davies.**

School Day

For the 2026-2027 academic year we will operate a 50hr two-week timetable. Each pupil will receive 25 x1 hour lessons per week. The timing of the school day is as follows:

Registration/Wellbeing/Assembly	08:45 – 09:00
Lesson 1	09:00 – 10:00
Lesson 2	10:00 – 11:00
Break	11:00 – 11:20
Lesson 3	11:20 – 12:20
Lesson 4	12:20 – 13:20
Lunch	13:20 – 14:00
Lesson 5	14:00 – 15:00
Extra-Curricular Programme	15:00

INSET Days 2026-2027

Our **INSET days** for the forthcoming Academic Year are:

<u>Autumn Term 2026</u> Tuesday 1 st September 2026 Monday 23 rd November 2026	<u>Spring Term 2027</u> Friday 26 th February 2027 Friday 28 th May 2027	<u>Summer Term 2027</u> Monday 19 th July 2027 Tuesday 20 th July 2027
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Saying Goodbye, Thank You & Welcome

As always, the Summer Term is a time of change, and I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the staff who are leaving us and who have made such a positive contribution to Porthcawl Comprehensive School. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them all the very best for the future.

The following staff will be leaving Porthcawl Comprehensive School at the end of this academic year:

- Mrs A. Mackey - Head of Geography
- Mr A. Shutt - Teacher of History
- Mr D. Overall - Catering Manager
- Ms S. Owen - Teacher of Mathematics & Science and Curriculum Support Officer

The following staff will be joining Porthcawl Comprehensive School in September 2026:

- Miss A. Gould - Teacher of English
- Miss M. Jones - Teacher of Drama
- Miss E. Ball - Cover Supervisor
- Miss S. Hyde - Teacher of Business Studies & Physical Education (Part Time)
- Mr D. Evans - Teacher of Business Studies, WBQ & Physical Education (Part Time)
- Mr G. Chaloner - Teacher of Science (Maternity Cover)
- Mrs A. Thomas - Curriculum Support Officer

The following staff changes will take place at Porthcawl Comprehensive School from September 2026:

- Mr K. Day - Head of Geography
- Mrs N. Woodall - Catering Manager
- Mrs R. Smith - Assistant Year Tutor
- Mr J Short - Teacher in Charge of Government & Politics
- Mr S. Howells - Teacher in Charge of Media Studies
- Mr J. Smith - Head of Drama
- Mr A. Stratford - Head of Year
- Mrs G. Jones - Assistant Cook
- Mr J. Smith - Head of Faculty: Performing Arts & Sport
- Mrs S. Carson - Head of Textiles & Food
- Mrs C. Degay - Assistant Year Tutor

In addition to the above, Mrs Kehoe the school's Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) will join the Senior Leadership Team from September 2026.

Cashless Catering

As you will know from previous correspondence and sign-up letters, we operate a cashless payment system in our school canteen. **Year 7 pupils** will complete the activation / sign up during their induction programme on Thursday 3rd September 2026.

Key points / useful information:

- **Parent Pay:** All parents/carers must ensure they have activated their Parent Pay account and ensure they have loaded funds onto their child's account. If you have any questions, please contact: info@porthcawlschool.co.uk
- **Validation Unit:** There is a validation unit (think - cash machine) installed in the school reception. This unit allows pupils to add cash onto their account. This unit is fully functioning and is helpful if parents/carers have been unable to transfer funds electronically to their child's account.

- **Daily limits:** There is a £5.00 spend limit per day. Please note that the price of a full meal is approximately £2.80.
- **Pupils entitled to a free school meal:** Each day funds are allocated automatically onto your child's account to the amount of £2.80.
- **Payment at tills:** in both canteens, payment is made using a biometric (thumb print) reader or a code method.
- **Vending Machines:** We operate a few vending machines in both canteens. These are cashless also. Purchases from a vending machine can only be made with the biometric method (thumb).
- **Lend:** the system has been set up to allow one meal as a 'lend' meal. This means that no pupil will go without food if their account balance is £0.00. We allow for one meal; therefore, a pupil's account can go to a balance of -£2.80. When this happens, parents/carers will receive a prompt email reminding them to top up their child's account.

I will write again at the start of the next academic year. We are full of optimism for the prospects for our school in 2026-2027 and beyond. We have an ambitious programme for development and have the confidence and commitment to ensure the school prospers and excels.

On behalf of myself and the Governing Body, I wish you all a safe and memorable summer holiday, please take time to rest, relax and to enjoy quality moments with your families.

I look forward to working with you in 2026-2027.

Best wishes,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens
Headteacher