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Ysgol Gyfun
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)

4th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the start of this new term, I would like to share an update from Porthcawl Comprehensive School. As in previous years, this letter serves as a start-of-term Headteacher's newsletter, reflecting on recent achievements while also outlining key information for the year ahead. I encourage you to keep this letter for reference over the coming weeks. As always, I will provide regular updates throughout the academic year.

Firstly, I hope you have all enjoyed a restful and rewarding summer with family and friends, and that your child is looking forward to the 2026–2027 academic year at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. At this time of year, we are pleased to welcome new families into our community, and I hope this marks the beginning of a positive and productive partnership. In July, I wrote to provide initial details regarding arrangements for the start of term and the coming academic year; I would now like to update you further on those plans.

Examination Results

I was once again delighted by this summer's GCSE and A Level results, and I warmly congratulate all pupils in last year's Year 11 and Year 13 on their exceptional achievements. It is a genuine source of pride to see the young people in our community recognised and rewarded for their hard work and dedication. Collectively, they have achieved an outstanding set of results, providing a strong foundation for the next stage of their education and future careers. Throughout their time at PCS, they have demonstrated remarkable commitment and resilience. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff and supportive families, whose continued hard work and encouragement have been instrumental in these successes.

Summer 2026 A Level Results – Success!

We are very proud of the outcomes achieved by our Yr13 pupils. Approximately 80% of all grades awarded were A*-C, almost 60% were A*-B and around 35% were A*-A. Approximately three-quarters of pupils achieved three or more A Levels graded at A*-C and 20% of pupils achieved three or more A Levels graded at A*-A grades. In addition, nearly all pupils achieved the Level 3 Threshold. Year 12 also performed well at AS Levels achieving the highest overall outcomes when compared to the last three years – we look forward to Summer 2027!

To read the full A Level press release, please follow this link: [A Level Results 2026 - Porthcawl School](#)

Summer 2026 GCSE Results – More Success!

The school's GCSE results were once again excellent we are delighted with our pupils' achievements! Our provisional results (subject to remarks) show that three quarters of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs graded A*-C including English Language and Mathematics and 85% of pupils achieved at least five GCSEs graded at A*-C. In addition, almost 45% of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs graded at A*-A and most importantly all pupils left PCS with a range of recognised qualifications. In 2026, we have once again maintained strong contextual points scores in Literacy, Numeracy and Science, and our Capped 9 points score (a pupil's best nine GCSEs including English Language

and Mathematics) continues to be positive at 405pts; demonstrating our commitment to maximising the highest grades for all pupils. Provisional figures released by the examination board suggest that in English, Mathematics and Science our school's pass rates are 25%-30% higher than national averages. Excellent achievements I'm sure you'll agree!

To read the full GCSE press release, please follow this link: [GCSE Results 2026 - Porthcawl School](#)

We are also pleased that a high number of pupils (150+) have chosen to return to the Sixth Form at PCS. In Yr12, we also welcome several new pupils from other schools, and I wish them and our new families a warm PCS welcome. Our Sixth Form numbers are now approximately 275 pupils for the 2026-2027 academic year.

To support transition to the sixth form, we will be holding a Sixth Form Information Evening for parents/carers and students on **Wednesday 23rd September 2026**. At this meeting we will share useful information and discuss the year ahead. The Sixth Form Team will be available to respond to any early queries you may have, there will be a series of short presentations delivered during this evening.

Mr. Beard, Deputy Headteacher (Academic Standards & Curriculum) will send further details soon - we look forward to you joining us.

Staffing Changes / Updates / Reminders

We welcome the following new member of staff to Porthcawl Comprehensive School:

- Miss A. Gould - Teacher of English
- Miss M. Jones - Teacher of Drama
- Miss S. Hyde - Teacher of Business Studies & Physical Education
- Mr D. Evans - Teacher of Business Studies, WBQ & Physical Education
- Mr G. Chaloner - Teacher of Science (Maternity Cover)
- Mrs A. Thomas - Curriculum Support Officer
- Mrs H. Phillips - Kitchen Assistant

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

- Mrs K. Day - Head of Geography
- Mrs N. Woodall - Catering Manager
- Mrs R. Smith - Assistant Year Tutor (*will deputise as a Sixth Form Year Tutor from September 2026*)
- 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 8
- 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

The Senior Leadership Team for 2026-2027:

Headteacher	M. Stephens		
Deputy Headteachers	C. A. Painter	D. Beard	
Assistant Headteachers	K. Owens	S. James	R. Aldridge
Additional Learning Needs Coordinator	A. Kehoe		

Parents/Carers of Year 7

Moving from primary to secondary school is always an important moment in a child's life and we have made every effort to make this transition as smooth as possible. We want to ensure that your child is happy and settled in

school and to support them we will be running an 'induction' for Year 7 over the first few days of the new term. We will be focusing on skills, the language of learning used at Porthcawl, and completing helpful IT induction (use of Class charts, Google Classroom etc). To further support transition, Yr7 will have increased time with their Form Tutor and Head of Year whilst also receiving an extended lunchbreak.

With the above in mind, there will also be an 'information evening' for Yr7 parents/carers on **Wednesday 23rd September 2026**. At this meeting we will share useful information, such as the year ahead, curriculum, assessment and extra-curricular opportunities. Senior and pastoral staff will be available to respond to any early queries you may have, there will be a series of short presentations delivered during this evening.

Miss. Painter, Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) will send further details soon - we look forward to you joining us.

New Families/Pupils - Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the parents/carers of pupils who are new to the school; as well as our Yr7 pupils we also welcome several new pupils across every year group in the school. I look forward to working with you and supporting your child to achieve their very best. I am sure they will enjoy life and learning at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

For information, I share a link to our Porthcawl Post Newsletters here: [Newsletters - Porthcawl School](#) and previous letters from myself here: [Headteacher Letters - Porthcawl School](#).

The CARE BASE – Ty Golau

We have a specialist C.A.R.E Base to support pupils with Autism. We are very proud of this provision and the environment we have designed. There is a sensory room, social areas and a classroom. The C.A.R.E Base is located in Ty Enfys. Following a pupil voice activity in Summer 2026, our pupils have decided to re-name the C.A.R.E Base **Ty Golau**. This translates as 'House of Light'.

The Curriculum Support Room – Ty Taith

We have an additional provision in school which is used to support across the curriculum. This provision is used in a variety of different ways; however, the overall aim is to provide a structured learning environment for those pupils who follow a modified curriculum and/or a modified school timetable. Following a Pupil Voice activity, our pupils have decided to re-name the Curriculum Support Room **Ty Taith**. This translates as 'House of Journey / Journey House'. Aptly named, as this provision is an additional support to enable pupils to thrive in their learning journey.

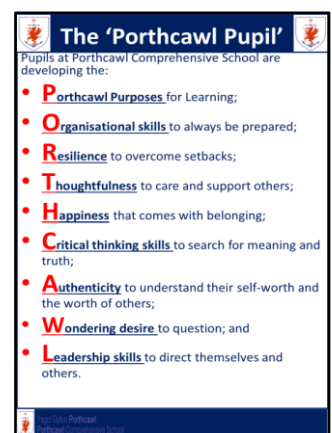
The Curriculum for Porthcawl

The national Curriculum for Wales outlines its 'Four Purposes of Education', enabling learners to become: ambitious and capable learners; enterprising and creative contributors; ethical and informed citizens and healthy and confident individuals. These purposes inform the design of our own, bespoke curriculum, marrying them with the individual ambitions, interests and potential of every pupil at Porthcawl. We believe that our responsibility under the Four Purposes is to *"provide all pupils with the knowledge, skills, experiences and desire to thrive in the adult world"*. This is our **Curriculum Vision**. The curriculum we have designed supports our young people to develop as the 'Porthcawl Pupil'. These are the attributes and 'wants' we aim to develop with all pupils across the school community.

The '**Porthcawl Pupil**' underpins:

- 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.

At Porthcawl, pupils follow subjects. This is because we believe subject specific concepts, skills and knowledge matter. Each subject has an important body of knowledge alongside specific skills, and each belong to a rich tradition that is unique to them.



For pupils to think critically and to form their own opinions, it is necessary to have something to think about. We therefore value a knowledge rich approach, delivered by expert teaching staff.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, providing a wealth of learning across disciplinary subjects, and embraces all the mandatory elements: study of English and Welsh; the three Cross-Curricular Skills (numeracy, literacy, digital competency); Relationships & Sexuality Education; Religion, Values & Ethics; Careers and Work-Related Experiences and this is underpinned by a clear emphasis on the central importance of developing pupils' integral skills.

Throughout the academic year ahead, further curriculum, learning and teaching updates will be provided by Assistant Headteacher, Mr. Aldridge, and assessment updates will be provided by Assistant Headteacher, Mrs. James. If you have any questions regarding the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl' you can contact the school and request to speak to Mr. Aldridge.

Behaviour for Learning / Expectations

One of the strengths of our school is the behaviour and attitude displayed by our pupils. This is created by positive relationships between pupils and staff, and through the desire of all teachers to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills, experiences, and desire to thrive in the adult world.

To ensure a positive learning environment we have a 'Ready to Learn' approach at the school. Staff at the school acknowledge positive behaviour and implement a consistent approach to daily 'Standard Operating Procedures' so that poor behaviour can be challenged and dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Our 'Ready to Learn' system is built around respect, powerful routines, and consistent daily habits. We make behaviour expectations very clear and ensure that every pupil is ready to learn, every lesson, of every day. Our systems are built around explicit graduated responses. In assemblies this term and throughout the year we will be discussing our expectations; centred around our motto of "Perseverance Creates Success" and we will be reflecting upon the characteristics we expect in the "Porthcawl Pupil".

The infographic is titled "The Porthcawl Pupil is always 'Ready to Learn'". It lists the following expectations:

- Punctuality**
 - Arrive to school and all lessons on time.
 - Line up outside of the classroom.
 - Enter the classroom when your teacher tells you to do so.
- In lesson**
 - Sit in your allocated seat.
 - Ensure you have the correct equipment. E.g. books, pens, pencils.
 - Answer register clearly in Welsh.
 - Work hard. Be respectful. Follow instructions first time. Never give up.
- Uniform**
 - Wear uniform as stated in our School Uniform Policy.
 - Remove jackets / coats upon arrival to lessons.
 - Only wear PCS hooded tops to PE lessons.
 - Not wear Jewellery.
- Mobile Phones & Headphones**
 - Not be seen with a mobile phone – unless instructed by a member of staff.
 - Expect to have phones confiscated if used without consent.
 - Not use Headphones / EarPods.
 - Expect these items to be confiscated.
- Movement around school**
 - Walk around the school site in an orderly manner.
 - Only consume food and drink at break or lunchtime.
 - Only drink water in lessons, but not in labs or ICT Suites.
 - Have written consent from a member of staff to leave lessons.
- School Buildings**
 - Treat all school buildings, designated break and lunchtime areas and equipment with respect.
 - Queue if required and asked.
 - Put all rubbish in the correct bin and place plates and cutlery in designated areas of the canteen.

For more information about the 'Ready to Learn' system at PCS please follow this link: ['Ready to Learn' - Porthcawl School.](#)

ClassCharts is used to record "Ready to Learn" behaviour points.

School Standards

There are high standards at Porthcawl Comprehensive School – both in terms of our academic standards (in lessons and learning) and our general standards (around school site and school policies). Our 'Standards & Expectations' are an integral part of the characteristics, values and routines we believe in within 'The Porthcawl Pupil' and our 'Ready to Learn' approaches (outlined above). High standards underpin all that we do, and it forms an integral part of our school culture, therefore these will be revisited and reinforced with all pupils often. We have three very simple approaches for general school standards:

- Standards of Uniform – as per school policy.
- Mobile Phones – as per policy. Not seen and not heard on school site.
- School Site / Toilets – use facilities as intended.

School uniform: There are checks on school uniform, including gate checks at the start of the day, form tutor checks during registration, and on-going monitoring by teachers in all lessons. Pupils with incorrect uniform should expect items to be confiscated until the end of the day.

Mobile phones: Mobile phones should not be seen in school. Pupils seen using their mobile phone in school should expect to have them confiscated until the end of the day.

Toilet facilities in school: During lesson time, P-Block toilets are open to all pupils. In addition, there are separate toilet facilities open for the Sixth Form. The use of our toilet facilities is monitored by staff throughout the day to support the appropriate use of these facilities. At break and lunchtime all toilets across the school site are open, and staff supervision has been scheduled to ensure these spaces remain open and accessible for everyone.

We operate a Daily Detention / Behaviour Reflection system for those pupils who have their mobile phone or an item of uniform confiscated: Daily Detentions form part of our graduated responses to support positive behaviour and positive learning. They provide time for pupils to reflect upon their behaviour/actions. Daily Detentions last for 15 minutes at the start of lunchtime. If an item is confiscated during lesson 5, it will be lunchtime the following day. If your child is placed into Daily Detention, you will be notified through ClassCharts. Failure to attend Daily Detention will result in confiscated items not being handed back to a pupil at the end of the day and a parent or carer being required to come in and collect it.

I thank you for your support in ensuring a positive learning environment at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and for your continued support with all school policies and procedures.

Extra-Curricular Activities

A programme of extra-curricular activities will be shared with you as soon as possible. This will be shared with you via ClassCharts and our 2026-2027 "What's On" brochure. The latter will present the weekly clubs and activities that take place across the school at break time, lunch time and at the end of the school day.

Social Media

Follow us on X and Facebook for regular updates on news and events using our X Handle @CompPorthcawl or via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/porthcawlcomprehensiveschoolofficialpage>. You can also check information regarding PE fixtures, results and sporting success using @porthcawlpe. Please also note several departments / curriculum areas use Instagram to share success and work taking place at PCS.

Parents/Carers Visiting the School (during the school day)

If you need to visit the school, please use the buzzer entry system at the front of the main reception building. Upon entry, all visitors must report to the main reception. Please note that teaching staff are not generally available during the school day and therefore it is preferable that you telephone or email via info@porthcawlschool.co.uk in advance to make an appointment. Please can I also ask that parents/carers parking vehicles near the school are considerate to our neighbours. Please do not block driveways even if you stay in your car. This will ensure all residents near the school can access their properties / driveways.

Drop Off / Collection (Start and End of the School Day)

As a relatively large secondary school, pupils arrive and leave the school in a variety of different ways; via a public service bus, via a bicycle, via a car or on foot. However, most of our pupils walk to and from school. Therefore, if you are dropping off and/or collecting you child from school I kindly ask that you follow the highway code and do not park/block the pavements surrounding the school site. With approximately 1200 pupils leaving the site at the same time, this will support a safe departure/exit for all.

School Policies

The main school policies can be accessed via: [Policies - Porthcawl School](#).

Attendance & Holiday Leave

Regular school attendance is essential and vital to a good education. Attendance at Porthcawl is comparatively good, but last year whole school attendance dropped when compared to the previous academic year. Improving attendance is an on-going priority for the school. The link between attendance and attainment is clear, we therefore need to work together with this aim in mind.

We encourage all pupils to attend school on time, every day, and aim for 100% attendance. I fully understand that children become unwell, and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absences. However, I respectfully ask

that you think carefully before keeping your child off school due to the impact attendance can have on attainment levels.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School is committed to ensuring that every child reaches their full potential and therefore requires your support in making sure your child's attendance is the highest it could be.

As we start the school year, please can I ask for consideration of the following:

- Ensuring that your child arrives at school on time.
- If your child is ill, please contact the school on each day of absence and indicate the likely return date.
- Ensure that where possible, medical appointments are made outside of school time.
- Ensure that holidays are not taken during school time.
- Notify the school as soon as possible of any absence and confirm when your child returns to school.
- Respond to any letters or telephone calls received regarding your child's attendance and punctuality.
- Contact your child's Head of Year if you are experiencing difficulty in getting your child into school.

Parents and carers are reminded that they should contact the school by 9:00am if their child is not able to attend school on that day. Parents and carers must state the full reason for the child's non-attendance (not just "feeling unwell") and indicate the likely date they will return to school. Contact should be made daily. If your child is absent without an explanation, you will be contacted and asked to provide a reason for your child's absence.

Please see the following School Attendance Information from Bridgend County Borough Council:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/school-attendance/>

Please also be aware that holiday leave during term time is not encouraged as any absence will affect your child's educational progress and attainment. You should contact the school if any such absences are planned. Only in exceptional circumstances, and only if your child has good attendance, will a request for holiday leave be granted.

To reinforce the importance of attendance and punctuality we operate a 'Late on the Gate' system. Each morning, staff are on duty at the main school entrances/gates to welcome and greet pupils. At the same time, staff are monitoring standards of uniform whilst also monitoring punctuality.

We acknowledge that on occasion there will be unforeseen circumstances that can cause a pupil to be late to school. However, patterns of regular 'lateness' will be challenged. If a pupil is late to school on two occasions in a given week, they are issued with a detention.

I am very grateful for your support in ensuring your child is fully prepared for a return to school in September.

School Site / Premises Work

During the summer break, alongside our general maintenance and works schedules, several installation works have been completed across the school site.

To provide a brief update about some of the main works completed:

- **ICT updates/upgrades** - several classrooms, learning spaces and designated ICT facilities have been upgraded with new computers. A new ICT facility has been created in G Block (Classroom G1). This will support Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) work. This facility will be available for pupils and staff to use within the next few weeks.
- **Exterior Painting** - several external areas of the school site have been painted.
- **G Block Roof** - this work started at the end of last academic year – the roof has been replaced on G Block (Science Faculty). This work continues and will be completed very soon.
- **Swimming Pool** – there is on-going work to the swimming pool, this was not scheduled and it started during the summer holidays. There is fencing around the Swimming Pool external building. This area is out of bounds until the required work is completed. I will provide an update at a later date.

Alongside of our scheduled summer maintenance and cleaning I would like to thank our Operations Manager, Mr Morgan and our Premises Team who have overseen the completion of this scheduled works over the summer term and/or holiday period.

School Improvement Plan 2026-2029

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) reflects the needs of all stakeholders, pupils, parents/carers and staff. The core purpose of the plan and the school is to receive the best educational outcomes for every learner. The plan is also the vehicle by which we deliver the core aims of our school. For the three-year cycle of 2026-2029, the objectives and priorities within our improvement plan have been determined following the school's self-evaluation of **1.**

Leadership, 2. Curriculum, Learning and Teaching and 3. Wellbeing, Equity, and Inclusion.

Our School Improvement Plan has three main priorities and smaller development priorities. The 2026-2027 academic year marks the start of Yr1 of a new three-year plan, and I share below our overarching priorities and smaller development priorities that we will focus upon this year.

In 2026-2027, we are aiming to develop and strengthen eight areas.

2026-2027 Academic Year		
<u>Priority 1: Highly Effective Leadership at all Levels</u>	<u>Priority 2: Outstanding, Curriculum, Learning & Teaching</u>	<u>Priority 3: Exceptional Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion</u>
1. Refined systems & structure for self-evaluation 2. Cross-curricular skills across the curriculum (refined) 3. Widen the opportunities for pupils to develop their Welsh language skills	4. Highly effective design, development, and delivery of the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl' 5. Consistently high standards of teaching and learning (Reduce variation with and improve quality of teaching)	6. Improved attendance 7. Consistently strong behaviour, values, and expectations 8. Wellbeing is not 'Invisible'

- To read the 2026-2027 Published Summary of our School Improvement Plan please follow: [1b.-Year-1-SIP-Summary-Priorities-2026-2029.pdf](#).
- To read the Published Summary of our 2025-2026 Self-Evaluation Report please follow: [PCS-SER-2025-2026-Self-Evaluation-Summary.pdf](#).

Keeping you informed

As a school we aim to keep you informed about your child and any events taking place. This is done through Class Charts and School Comms (email). It is vital that your contact information is accurate, and I ask all families to keep us informed of any changes to postal addresses, telephone numbers (including mobiles) and email addresses. **Registration details for Class Charts for Year 7 pupils will be provided in due course.** Please also note, accurate emails are needed for School Comms.

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

There are **six INSET days** for the Academic Year 2026-2027.

The dates are as follows:

<u>Autumn Term 2026</u>	<u>Spring Term 2027</u>	<u>Summer Term 2027</u>
Tuesday 1 st September 2026 Monday 23 rd November 2026	Friday 26 th February 2027 Friday 28 th May 2027	Monday 19 th July 2027 Tuesday 20 th July 2027

The 2026-2027 term dates for schools across Bridgend can also be accessed here: [Term dates](#).

Progress Evenings

Progress Evenings will be taking place on the following dates. These evenings provide opportunity for parents/carers to speak with all teachers about their child's progress. During the academic year, further information about each Progress Evening will be released by the senior member of staff linked to each year group.

Year Group	Date of Progress Evening
Year 7	10 th March 2027
Year 8	14 th April 2027
Year 9	3 rd February 2027
Year 10	2 nd December 2026
Year 11	14 th October 2026
Year 12	24 th February 2027
Year 13	18 th November 2026

I look forward to continuing the strong partnerships between families and the school. As you know this is especially important in enabling children to achieve success and so I ask for your full support of all school policies and for your continued proactive involvement in your child's education. I am very proud to lead Porthcawl Comprehensive School, I do so with the utmost integrity, and I look forward to working with you throughout this academic year.

I will provide further updates as we work through the new term. Here's to another year of success at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Kind regards,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens
Headteacher



Porthcawl Comprehensive School

Year 6 Open Evening

7th October 2026



This is an excellent opportunity for Year 6 pupils and parents and carers to visit the fantastic facilities and learning experiences on offer at **Porthcawl Comprehensive School**. Once again, we have celebrated excellent GCSE and A Level results and we are very proud of all that we do and all that we achieve. There is a real sense of 'community' and 'belonging' at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. We provide the very best learning experiences supported by excellent care, support and guidance. Our **Year 6 Open Evening** will provide important information about all that we do at PCS!

There will be a welcome introduction and presentation about the school from the Headteacher and senior staff. Pupils and parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet staff, tour the school and visit all departments and subject areas. There are lots of activities planned!

Due to the high numbers expected, two venues will be used for the welcome introduction and presentation before the tour. Pupils and families from **Newton Primary** and **Nottage Primary** are asked to attend the Sixth Form Hall. Pupils and families from **West Park Primary** and **Porthcawl Primary** are asked to attend the Jubilee Theatre. Pupils and families from **non-feeder primary schools** can attend either venue.

Please visit our website: www.porthcawlschool.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you there: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

