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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)

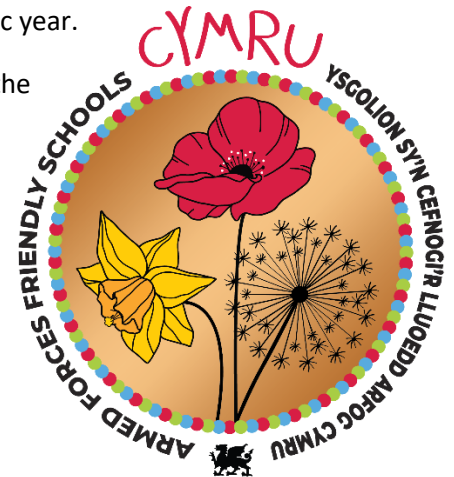
11th September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Today, marks the end of week 2 of the autumn term. It's been a busy two weeks – *welcome assemblies, achievement celebrations, new timetables, sporting activities and new learning.*

Last week, pupils in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, and Year 12 started the year with their annual school photographs. An occasion that marks an important point in time - there were certainly lots of smiling faces! Please note, photographs for Year 11 and Year 13 will take place later in the academic year.

We start this academic year with 'congratulations' as we celebrate achieving the **Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru – Bronze Status** for recognition in supporting service children in education. The award presented by Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales (SSCE Cymru) recognises our support to service children in education and our positive engagement with the Armed Forces community. We hold this award for two years and we look forward to working towards Silver AFFS Cymru status. I pass on my sincere thanks to Kath Owens, Assistant Headteacher: Director of Planning & Communication for her coordination, preparation and submission of our successful application.



"Congratulations on attaining Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status which recognises your work in supporting the children of Armed Forces families. This is so important in making sure all service children and young people feel included in their school community and are supported to achieve their very best. Thank you for all that you do to support your community, and particularly this important group of learners."

Anna Brychan MS, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Welsh Language, Welsh Government



"On behalf of the extended military community based or settled in Wales, can I thank you for the dedicated educational experience and support you provide our children. The awarding of this special recognition as a Forces Friendly School is our way of saying thank you for your professional dedication and we very much appreciate everything you do for us."

Brigadier Mark Davis CBE, Head of the Army in Wales

I have been very impressed with all Year 12 pupils, who are now up and running with their new AS Level courses. All pupils have shown such maturity as they move from GCSE to A level – well done! This week, I have thoroughly enjoyed delivering assemblies and visiting lessons. My message: '*motivation*' – strong values, learning and

expectations, and this week, as I've walked our school site it has been very pleasing to see so much learning and engagement evident in lessons. Well done to all pupils and of course our dedicated staff.

This week, our DofE pupils were awarded a 'Social Values Certificate' celebrating our DofE group's volunteering and impact in the local community. Our pupils completed 390 hours of volunteering between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026 with a social value of £2944.50. We are very proud of the dedication, effort and achievement our pupils make within the local community – well done!

The PE department has released our extra-curricular sports plan for the autumn term and there is a wide range of sports clubs and activities available each week. There are activities running during lunchtime and after school and there are multiple clubs and activities available each day. If your son/daughter is unsure of the timing for any of our after-school activities, they can ask their Form Tutor or a teacher from the PE department. Our "What's On 2026-2027" booklet will be released very soon, and this will provide a full programme of the clubs and activities at PCS.

Extra Curricular Plan (Autumn Term 2026)		
Day	Lunch Time	After School
Mon	KS4 Multi-Gym - Mr Card	KS3 Football - Mr Stratford KS3 Basketball - Mr Stradling Netball Clinic- Mrs McCarthy & Nokes
Tue		Yr 7 Rugby - Mr Stradling Yr 8 Rugby - Mr Card Yr 9 Rugby - Mr Davies Yr 10, 11 & 6th Form Netball - Mrs McCarthy Hockey Club - Miss Owens KS4 Basketball - Mr Stradling
Wed	Open Basketball- Mr Stradling	Senior Football - Mr Evans Yr B&G Netball - Mrs Nokes
Thurs	KS4 Multi-Gym - Mr Card KS3 Basketball- Mr Stradling	Yr 10 Rugby - Mr Card Yr 7 Netball - Mrs McCarthy
Fri	KS3 Multi-Gym - Mr Evans KS4 Basketball - Mr Stradling	

In a few weeks' time we will be holding a Year 7 Information Evening and a Year 12 Information Evening for parents/carers. These events will take place on Wednesday 23rd September 2026. Deputy Headteachers, Miss Painter and Mr Beard will share more information about these forthcoming evenings soon and I look forward to seeing you there.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens
Headteacher

Advance Notice

- Wednesday 23rd September – Year 7 Information Event
- Wednesday 23rd September – Year 12 Induction Event
- Wednesday 7th October – Year 6 Open Evening
- Wednesday 14th October – Year 11 Progress Evening
- Wednesday 21st October – Awards Evening