



52 Park Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 3ES

Telephone: 01656 774100

Email: info@porthcawlschool.co.uk

52 Park Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 3ES

Ffôn: 01656 774100

Ebost: info@porthcawlschool.co.uk

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)

19th October 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. It has been another exceptional term, filled with success, achievement and countless reasons for celebration. As I reflect on the opening half term of the 2026-2027 academic year, I do so with a deep sense of pride and gratitude.

From the very first day of term, it has been a pleasure to see our pupils embrace school life with such enthusiasm, curiosity and kindness. Each pupil has played a part in creating the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that makes Porthcawl Comprehensive School such a special place. Their resilience, thoughtfulness, creativity, happiness and leadership, all qualities that define the 'Porthcawl Pupil', have been evident throughout the term and continue to inspire our entire school community.

This half term has been rich in learning, opportunity and personal growth. Our pupils have approached new challenges with confidence, engaged enthusiastically with the 'Curriculum for Porthcawl', and demonstrated genuine pride in their achievements. Beyond the classroom, assemblies, enrichment activities, sporting fixtures, performances and school events have strengthened our sense of community and belonging. These experiences have reminded us of the values that unite us and the importance of celebrating both individual accomplishments and collective success.

Some of the highlights this half-term:

- Celebrating excellent GCSE and A Level results
- Year 7 and Year 12 Information Evenings
- Weekly 'Porthcawl Pupil of the Week' celebrations
- A wide range of extra-curricular sporting fixtures – *there will be updates in the Autumn Term 2026 (electronic) Edition of the Porthcawl Post.*
- The launch of Key Stage 3 'Enrichment' (once again)
- Navy Visit – Years 8 & 9
- Year 7 Theatre Trip
- 'Wellbeing Wednesday' and 'Welsh Wednesday' activities
- DofE launch
- Year 12 Seren Events
- Year 11 Progress Evening
- Year 6 Open Evening
- Awards Evening (scheduled for 21.10.26)

Below are some of the key events coming up next half term:

- Initial Sixth Form Options Selection for Yr11 – w/b Monday 9th November 2026
- Year 13 Progress Evening – Wednesday 18th November 2026
- Year 10 Progress Evening – Wednesday 2nd December 2026
- Carol Service (evening) – Thursday 10th December 2026

Advanced Notice: Monday 23rd November is an INSET day at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Assessment Road Map 2026-2027: Year 10 & Year 11

To support Key Stage 4 pupils and families with the GCSE journey, we have developed an 'Assessment Road Map' which signposts key assessments in each GCSE subject area across the academic year. The road map includes school-based dates along with the external WJEC (examination board) dates, it can be accessed via the following links: [Year 10 Assessment Road Map](#) and [Year 11 Assessment Road Map](#).

School Prospectus

Our new School Prospectus has been published on our website. This can be accessed via: [PCS School Prospectus](#).

What's On 2026-2027

Our 'What's On' programme of clubs and extra-curricular activities for 2026-2027 has been released this half term. This can be accessed via: [What's On Leaflet](#).

School Uniform - Update

At the start of this academic year, as noted in my letter dated June 2026 ([16.-June-2026-School-Uniform-Letter.pdf](#)) we have started to review our School Uniform Policy. We are in the early stages of this work, and at this stage, we are working with our pupils to consider all perspectives thoughtfully; whilst also considering equality and inclusivity. We are working towards a more practical, inclusive and consistent uniform policy.

GCSE Examinations – November Series

GCSE examinations commence on Monday 2nd November 2026 and they will end on Wednesday 11th November 2026. With external examinations approaching, continued focus, commitment and hard work is never more important. I would like to praise all pupils for their effort and maturity as they continue to prepare for their first GCSE examination of this academic year – keep it up! A thank you is also needed to both the English and Mathematics Faculty. A PCS team effort – well done everyone!

Exam Title	Yr Group	No of Pupils entered	Date
English Language and Literature Unit 1	11	17	Monday 2nd November 2026
Mathematics and Numeracy Unit 1	10	40	Tuesday 3 rd November 2026
English Language and Literature Unit 4b Inspector Calls	11	176	Thursday 5th November 2026
Mathematics and Numeracy Unit 3	11	193	Wednesday 11 th November 2026

Please note, each pupil has a personalised examination timetable. It is very important that each pupil is fully aware of their examination timetables for the November examination series. Please speak to our Examinations Team if you have any questions regarding examination timetables.

Examinations 2026-2027 (GCSE & A Level)

Our school website has also been updated to include examination and assessment information for GCSEs and A Levels during 2026-2027. This can be accessed via: [Porthcawl Comprehensive School Examinations & Assessment Information](#).

Congratulations – Mr Howells

Every year The Poetry Society recognises one or two teachers for their outstanding commitment to poetry and literature. This year, Mr Howells from our English Faculty has been recognised for his work and for encouraging pupils to engage with poetry. What makes this award even more special is that Mr Howells was nominated by our pupils. In one nomination, a pupil wrote:

“Mr. Howells has inspired me to delve deeper into poetry through his unique and relatable lesson style. Each of his lessons manages to be simultaneously engaging and nonetheless deeply insightful into the subject material. Currently, we are studying our pieces of poetry and Mr. Howells's lessons have been some of my favourite of the year. Furthermore, he has persistently and tirelessly supported my love for poetry and consistently gives feedback and his own time to offer solutions to issues in my literary work and multiple ways that I've expressed various prose. In summary, Mr. Howells has been an extraordinary catalyst for my deep love and adoration for poetry”.

Congratulations Mr Howells!

Attendance

I am pleased to report that our whole school attendance is much improved when compared to the same period last year. However, I would like to take this opportunity to raise the importance of regular attendance at school. We encourage all students to attend school on time, every day, and aim for 100% attendance. I therefore ask for your continued consideration when booking appointments and holidays during school time.

As we look ahead to the next half term, we remain committed to ensuring every pupil feels safe, valued and inspired to reach their full potential. Thank you for being such an integral part of our journey.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable break.

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards,

M. Stephens

Headteacher/Pennaeth