Gorwel Addysg Gwybodaeth

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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)

6th November 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back, I hope you had a good half term break. Please treat this letter as an Autumn Half Term (2) Headteacher update.

School Standards - Reminders

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. High standards underpin all that we do at PCS, 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. 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.

Overall, our School Standards are excellent, and 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.

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

As a relatively large secondary school, pupils arrive to and leave from the school in a variety of different ways. E.g. via a school bus, via a public service bus, via a bicycle, via a car from parent/carer/relative or on foot. The vast majority 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 arriving at and leaving the school site at the same time this will support a safe arrival/departure/exit for all.

Attendance, Holiday Leave, Punctuality

Regular school attendance is essential and vital to a good education. Currently, attendance data at Porthcawl is comparatively good, but still below our expectations. Improving attendance is an on-going priority for the school. 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.

Please be aware that holiday leave during term time is not encouraged as any absence will affect your child's educational progress and attainment. Please 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 each week, they are issued with a detention.

I am very grateful for your support in ensuring your child is fully prepared for a positive return to during for Autumn half term (2).

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

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

Advanced Notice: Monday 23rd November 2026 is an INSET day at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

I look forward to the half term ahead, and I thank you for your continued support.

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards,

M. Stephens

Headteacher/Pennaeth