

Welcome to the first edition
of the **Porthcawl Post** for
the school year 2016-2017



Well, it's that time of year again, Autumn is here and we have embarked upon another school year. I assume many will have read of our outstanding examination successes in the local media. I would like to reiterate a few of the Summer headlines.

• 124 students sat an amazing 360 A Level papers. The pass rate was 99% and remarkably, 30% were A*/A grades.

• 14 of our students gained 3 A's or better. Congratulations must go to Felicity Williamson-Sarll who achieved 3A* and 1A. Felicity is now settling into life at Cambridge where she has started her Law degree. A remarkable 23% of our students gained places at "Russell Group" universities, while the UK average is 11%.

• This year's GCSE students were outstanding with a significant improvement in the Welsh Government key indicators. The performance in the core subjects was very strong. The Level 2 (grades A* - C) for English was 79.5%, Maths 79.5% and Science a remarkable 98.6%. Based upon these returns the percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more A* - C (including English and Mathematics) improved to 70.5%. The core subject indicator (English, Mathematics and Science) saw improvement to 71%. An outstanding feature was the percentage of A*/A grades awarded with 32.9% of grades being awarded at this top level. The performance of English, Maths and Science was the best for the last 5 years. The Welsh Government started



Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ **Autumn 2016**

Headteacher's Address

recording results in the current format in 2012, thus the English, Maths and Science are the best for Porthcawl since records began!

• A very impressive 40 students gained 8 or more GCSE's at grades A*/A.

The series of examination results are no happy accident. Rather, these results are the product of commitment, resilience and sheer hard work; from teachers and students. It would be very remiss of me not to pay a just tribute to our magnificent staff. If we cast our minds back, we will remember lessons delivered in Easter holidays, Whitsun holidays, on bank holidays, on weekends, before and after school and at lunchtime. This level of dedication from our staff needs to be both noted and appreciated. Indeed, if we had to pay the staff by the hour, we could not afford them!

As we embark on the year 2016-17, we welcome new faces to our school Miss Verity Jones (RS), Miss Leah Gormley (English) and Mr Josh Grandon (Physics) have all settled into their departments. As a school, we welcome them and are sure they will have a happy and productive time at our school. We also say goodbye to Mr Henry Bales, Cover Supervisor who has successfully applied to join the South Wales Police.

Our school is very much a community and we have good news to share. During the Summer term, Mrs Thelwell-Davies (Technology) gave birth to a baby girl, and over the Summer holidays, Mrs Giles (Music) also had a daughter. Miss Redmond (Physics) got married over the holidays and is now Mrs Strong. Over the past few weeks, I have had the pleasure of speaking to and meeting many parents. The Year 10 and 12 Induction/ Information Evenings were a great success

and were fully attended. I hope we were able to "map out" the journey ahead as the students embark upon the next phase of their education.

A particularly good night was held as we welcomed next year's Year 7 to school. We held our traditional "Open Evening" where future pupils could walk the site and meet our greatest assets... our pupils and staff! It is always so rewarding to meet large numbers of people who are seeking places at our school. This is especially the case with the "out-catchment" families who wish their children to be educated at Porthcawl. Mrs Sloggett has produced an excellent programme of activities and many of the children have visited us as part of the move to their secondary school.

A "spin-off" from last year's transition programme was our Parents' Forum. This focus group meets termly to discuss any and all aspects of our school. We believe that talking with pupils and parents is a key part of evaluation and improvement.

May I thank parents for the excellent standards of school uniform. The students are a credit to all of you. On the uniform front, we are considering adding a blazer to the school uniform. This is being managed by Mrs Hunt, Assistant Headteacher, who will be pleased to hear from you on the matter.

I have saved the most important piece of my article to the end. ATTENDANCE is key to success at school; if you are not here, how can you learn? I am delighted to inform you that the school exceeded its attendance target with a venerable 95.3% for 2015-16. We have set an equally ambitious target for this year and hope you will all do all you can to ensure we meet this target.

Andrew Slade Headteacher

Housekeeping

Uniform

Once again we are very proud of the standard of uniform at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and are grateful to parents and carers in supporting the school in this matter. Just a further reminder that skirts should be knee length or just above the knee and have no splits. Also, straight legged trousers are allowed but not drainpipe trousers please.

The school is considering the optional introduction of a school blazer.



During the summer holidays and in the first few weeks of this term we have been speaking to our uniform suppliers and collecting samples of blazers. We are now in the position to start consultation on this proposal. We will be discussing the blazers with our newly elected School Council, Sixth Form Senedd, the Head Team and later this term with the Parents' Forum, before the Governing Body decide on the possible adoption of a blazer. At this stage, no decision has been taken and any move to a blazer for September 2017 would be optional. We would welcome any views on this proposal.

Punctuality

I am pleased to report that punctuality has improved this term, with nearly all pupils arriving on time at school.

Attendance

Last year I reported that our attendance figures were the best ever and this year we are hoping to maintain or better these figures. There has already been some illness this half term and I would just like to remind parents and carers that the school requires a phone call on each day of absence, (01656 774170). Where a pupil has an unauthorised absence, a phone call home or a visit is made by a member of the school staff or the Education Welfare Officer on most occasions.

Mrs V Hunt
Assistant Headteacher



By the end of September, we had already held a number of very successful Parents' Evenings. The first was the Year 10 Parents' Forum outlining the next two years of the GCSE courses.

The following week saw a Year 7 and a Sixth Form Information Evening and finally on the 28th of September the school opened its doors to families of Year 6 pupils. This was very well attended by our Porthcawl primary schools and many families joined us from 'out of catchment'. As always they were guided around the school by Sixth Form students and treated to a wide variety of exciting and enjoyable experiences across all subject areas. The main transition programme for both the 'in' and 'out of catchment' pupils has now started and we are very happy to welcome any new Year 6 pupils to join these visits to the school at any time throughout the year. For further information please contact Mrs Sloggett on 01656 774100.

Thank you to all the parents, carers and pupils who supported these events.

Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative Committee



Prize: £100 PORTHCAWL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL Bridgend

Title: Porthcawl Voices from the First World War

The History Club at PCS, including 15 pupils from a variety of different year groups, have recently been focusing their work on the First World War. Through researching soldiers from the local area, at both the museum in Porthcawl, and the Glamorgan Archives, they concentrated on six individuals. They were able to produce a number of excellent resources, including a detailed student resource pack full of information on the soldiers. Pupils also showed off their creative skills by producing a puppet show and a play on the events of World War One. All 15 pupils were then involved in delivering lessons to local primary schools, passing on their knowledge of the First World War to younger pupils.

The efforts of all pupils and staff involved were rewarded with a prize of £100 at the Welsh Heritage Schools Awards. Elin Jarman and Jake Morgan accompanied Mr. Shutt to receive the prize, on what was a very proud day for all those involved. The Award reflected the hard work of all those involved in History Club throughout the academic year. History Club will look to build on the success of last year and hopefully gain more honours at the Welsh Heritage Award at the end of this academic year.

History Department

New School Health Nurse



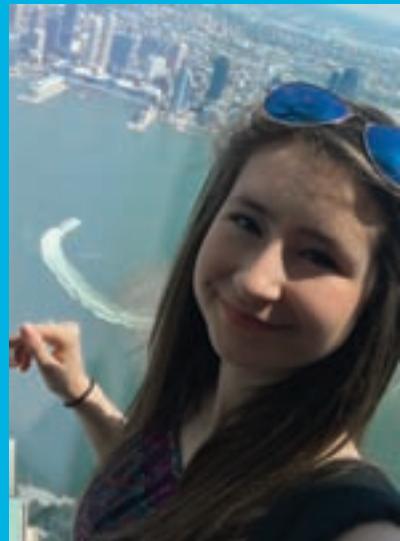
Hello! My name is Elaine Dockrell and I am the new School Health Nurse for Porthcawl Comprehensive and its feeder schools. You will see me around school for immunisations and health teaching. On a Friday lunchtime I will usually be available in the support centre for any students who want to discuss particular health concerns or worries. All year groups welcome.

Thankyou!

Elaine Dockrell
School Health Nurse Specialist

Bridgend Young Poet of the Year

The winner of the Bridgend Young Poet of the Year is our very own Eleri Williams of Year 8. She won the award whilst still in Year 7. Enjoy her beautiful poem below...



The Unique City

When the city wakes and the day begins the city starts to sing and grin,

The hustle and bustle starts to grow and the thunderous city begins to roar,

By the afternoon towering skyscrapers reach to the sky and begin to fill with tremendous laughter,

The resilience and strength of the present residents reflects in the memorials of disaster,

As the evening comes colourful stage personalities appear and crowds of people start to cheer,

As the day turns into night the dark sky gets lit up in bright lights,

With tourists' hearts beginning to soar their gut is telling them to hit the dance floor,

As the night begins to slowly reach morning the rhythmic city is still always warming!

By Eleri Williams

Coaching and Feedback Skills Day

Last year, Year 8 took part in the coaching and feedback skills day. Firstly pupils learnt the importance of emotional intelligence and the need to be aware of their behaviour and the impact it has on their own and other people's lives. An important aspect of coaching is questioning. Pupils worked hard to understand the importance of questioning by coming up with a variety of questions to ask their hero. Another key element to coaching is listening skills. With the help of the film "Inside Out", the year group were able to understand the importance of listening skills and what characteristics were important for a good listener. Finally pupils focused on effective feedback.

After identifying the key characteristics of constructive feedback, pupils were asked to design posters explaining how to be a good coach/peer assessor. Out of the whole of the year group, two fantastic designs were chosen as the winners. Congratulations go to Rohan Johns now in 9MC and Stella Marks now in 9HG who produced excellent posters that will be displayed in departments across the school.



Charity

Connie shaves her head for charity!



Connie McDonnell is only 13 years old and has recently been diagnosed with Alopecia, she has already lost a large amount of her hair and as it is getting harder

to cover, she made the very brave and selfless decision to shave her head for an amazing charity called "The Little Princess Trust". This charity gives wigs to children who have lost their hair to Cancer, Alopecia and other illnesses. So on Saturday 27th August, Connie went ahead and as well as making lots of money in sponsorship, Connie also donated her hair to the trust!

Incredibly, Connie raised £2532.16 – 1012% of her target of £250!

167 supporters helped her achieve this amazing amount!

Thank you to everyone who contributed.



PORHCAWL PUPILS GET INTO THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

On 13 and 14 July, students from Years 9 and 10 completed improvements to the area near the harbour known as Cosy Corner, as part of the community project section of the Welsh Baccalaureate. Ably assisted by volunteer teachers, they tidied up the path and wall areas, painted the benches, mowed the grass and weeded and planted the circular border with flowers. This improved this area for Porthcawl residents, holiday makers and Summer visitors, before the planned new development takes place.

Miss Emma Pugh (Head of Maths) who organised the event said,

"The pupils were fantastic and many of the public stopped to talk to us and commented on the work. Many told us of their memories of the park when they were children and about the boating lake and crazy golf. People were pleased to see us doing something with it. One man even donated money towards our costs!"

Over 150 students also volunteered their services in the Porthcawl area, giving their time to charity shops, the Library, YMCA and Primary Schools as part of a project to give something back to the local community. With the support of Keep Wales Tidy, pupils have also spent a day cleaning up the beaches of Rest Bay and Pink Bay and thoroughly enjoyed making a positive contribution, to be appreciated by all.

On 18 July, staff and pupils were joined by 3 members of the Royal Marines to complete their annual charity walk from school, back to Newton and on to the Prince of Wales in Kenfig. After a long, hot walk, much needed refreshments and sandwiches were kindly provided by Gareth Maund the proprietor. Last year, this "Lavender Walk" raised over £1600, and this year money will be donated to Cancer Research.



Sixth Form Interact Members Raise £700 for Teenage Cancer Trust



Interact is a Sixth Form lunchtime club that dedicates its time to raising money for local, national and international charities. The members organise all of the events including Sixth Form socials, quizzes, Krispy Kreme doughnut sales and Christmas Jumper days and also decide on the charities they will donate to.

Last year the pupils presented a cheque for £700 to Victoria Jones at Teenage Cancer Trust who kindly gave them a very informative talk on the benefits of their donations. It was lovely to see how happy the pupils were to donate this significant amount to teenagers less fortunate than themselves.

They are continuing to do a great job this year after raising thousands of pounds last year. They hope to present a cheque to both Air Ambulance Wales and the Rainforest Trust for £700 very soon and they have already organized a Sixth Form social to raise money for the RNLI. A great, hard-working and selfless group of pupils that are an asset to our school!

Mrs Strong

WHAT'S IT ALL FOR?
Teenage Cancer Trust is the only UK charity dedicated to improving the quality of life and chances of survival of 13 to 24 year olds with cancer. To do this we fund specialist and innovative units in NHS hospitals, support young staff and research centres to help young cancer patients understand what may be ahead.

THE CHALLENGE

WHAT?
Raise over £1000 for Teenage Cancer Trust by taking part in one of our challenges.

WHY?
Come along to support your school, college or university to take part in our challenges. We want schools, colleges and universities that have demonstrated their commitment to their students and encouraged their staff to support our challenge to come forward.

WHO?
Everyone can take part by getting involved in one of these challenges. You can nominate your friends and encourage them to get involved in our challenges.

WHERE?
Our challenges are designed to accommodate all sorts of environments so there's no need to travel far to take part. You can host your challenge in your school, college or university or even online via our website.

THE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART...

For the students:
Our school-based challenge will help your students gain lots of business skills in their CV.

For the school:
Raise your profile within your community by taking on a regular event and use local charity stalls to catch the attention of parents and teachers before the next BACC (qualification) at the same time.

THE SIMPLEST IDEAS USUALLY WORK BEST! INVEST THE WRISTBAND MONEY INTO...

- BAKE / ICE LOLLY SALE
- LUNCHTIME OR AFTER SCHOOL
- SECOND HAND BOOK SALE
- TALENT SHOW
- CAR RAFFLE
- THIMED DRESS DOWN DAYS
- GOLF COLLECTION
- SCHOOL QUIZ
- SUMMER / CHRISTMAS FAIR
- RAFFLE
- AFTERNOON TEA
- QUICK WEIGHT OF SWEET JAR
- BREAKFAST PARTY
- FUN RUN
- PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION
- DVD OR CD SALE
- SMARTIES CHALLENGE
- WALK

The best is audience. What's important is you have fun taking part!



Macmillan Cake Week

Our annual Macmillan Cake Week proved to be very successful, resulting in a total of £260 being raised for the charity.

Thank you to all staff who brought in cakes and donated generously.



Year 10 Race for Life 2016



In June of this year, Year 10 completed the Race for Life during their games lessons. It turned out to be raining on the day, but a substantial effort was made by all pupils to complete the event. Some teachers also participated and supported the event. During the Race for Life, each pupil could choose whether to run 5km or walk 3km. Many pupils ran for people they know who are fighting cancer, have survived cancer, or in memory of people who have lost their lives to cancer. They did this by wearing signs showing the names of these people on their backs.

At the end of the event everyone received a medal or rosette as a thank you from Cancer Research UK. Once again, the event brought out the best in everyone and a total of £655 was raised for Cancer Research UK. This is the greatest amount of money raised by any year group since we started taking part in the event! Congratulations to all who participated in and supported the event.

Jessica Thornton
Year 11



Nunsense



On the 6th, 7th and 8th of July, BTEC Performing Arts performed a musical called Nunsense for an excited audience in the Jubilee Theatre. A nerve-racking experience for the Year 12 and Year 13 Performing Arts students, who were faced with a challenge of playing six confused, hysterical nuns. The musical Nunsense was set in 1985. It is a musical comedy with a book, music, and lyrics by Dan Goggin. Originating as a line of greeting cards, Goggin expanded the concept into a cabaret that ran for 38 weeks, and eventually into a full-length musical. The original Off Broadway production opened on December 12, 1985, running for 3,672 performances and becoming the second-longest-running Off-Broadway show in history. The show has since been adapted for television, starring Rue McClanahan, and has spawned six sequels and three spin-offs.

Lauren Ellis-Stretch played Sister Robert Anne, a very exciting personality; Sarah Williams played Sister Mary Amnesia who is very childlike and naive. Keeley Fry played Sister Hubert one of the more mature sisters. Kayleigh Hodgson played Sister Julia (Child of God), and Stephanie Harper took on the role of Sister Leo who wanted to become a nun ballerina. Lastly Erin Brown played the role of Reverend Mother, who is in charge of the whole society.

It was an emotional last performance for Stephanie Harper, Kayleigh Hodgson and Erin Brown who will be missed by the group! Well done and break a leg in university! The Performing Arts students would also like to thank the Drama and Music Departments for all their hard work and help towards the production.

"I really enjoyed the experience and I have gained a lot more confidence. I now feel ready to go to university to study Performing Arts." Sarah Williams

"It was such an amazing experience. I learnt so much as a performer." Keeley Fry



HAIR CREAM

On May 23rd, Year 9 Drama Club performed Hair Cream, a version of the famous musical, to a packed out audience in the Drama Studio. The production was directed by Max Williams, starring Carys Rosser-Stanford as Tracy Turnblad, Elys Davies as Penny Pingleton, Josh Russell as Seaweed and Edna Turnblad and Keighan Dyer as Link.

Other Year 9 actors were: Eddylia Osbourne, Rhiannon Drummond, India Clatworthy, Sophia Keepins, Ellie Granville, Max Williams and Jazmin Gamble.



"I enjoyed taking part in the performance. It may not have gone perfectly to plan but oh well!" Carys Rosser-Stanford

"It was a great experience to do something new" Elys Davies

"I thought it went really well. It was a great experience working with people I wouldn't usually work with" Eddylia Osbourne



AMERICAN VISIT



Thursday June 30th was marked once again by the return of approximately 25 people, aged between 15 – 50, from First West Baptist Church, Louisiana. This was the 8th consecutive year for the group to visit Porthcawl Comprehensive and they spent the day delivering lessons in Drama, Music, PE, RS, History and English.

Throughout the day, students experienced vocal workshops in Drama; specialist guitar workshops in Music and seminars and presentations in History and RS on topics such as Civil Rights. Key Stage Three English classes learned about Life and Culture in Louisiana.

As usual, it was a rewarding day, with pupils responding positively and enthusiastically to the range of sessions.



FAME

In the Summer, a number of AS Drama students were involved in a Performance House production of *Fame the Musical*. Many of the pupils were lead roles in the show which was performed in the Pavilion on 4th and 5th of August.

“Such a great laugh!” Siobhan Cartwright

“Thoroughly enjoyed performing with amazing friends!”
Blythe Hughes-Davies

“From the rehearsals and until the show was over I loved every minute of it!” Maddie Dawson

“One of the best shows I’ve done” Sophie Wells

“So much fun to perform and such a professional show”
Elin Morris

“I had so much fun!” Annabelle Morgan

A Summer at the National Youth Theatre of GB

The National Youth Theatre is the world's longest running youth theatre organisation – achieving its 60th anniversary this year; it holds the reputation as a breeding ground for renowned British actors. Alumni include Daniel Craig, Sir Daniel Day-Lewis, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Matt Smith, Dame Helen Mirren, and Colin Firth. The NYT's guiding principles set out to develop young people socially and creatively, teaching them to work as a team through an ensemble approach to theatre and creating

positive social change. This is evident not only in its social inclusion work around the country, but also in pioneering cultural exchange work abroad.

During my time with NYT I followed an intensive schedule of physically and mentally demanding rehearsals, met friends I will forever cherish, and came to understand the realities of this fickle thing we call ‘show business’. Under the direction of professional director/actor Seda Yildiz, I built skills and techniques to carry into all future

performances and training, not to mention life skills ready to utilise in the face of any adversity or obstacle. It was a wonderful opportunity that I struggle to articulate because of the momentous impact it had on me (cringe). Finally, I'd like to thank the Drama Department for being so supportive; continually encouraging me to develop further in my training.

Lauren Ellis-Stretch
Year 13





Young Playwrights' Festival 2016



Writer and Director

Hello, my name is Will Foskett. I was involved in the Playwrights' Festival 2015 as a cast member in Year 7, whereas in Year 8, I was lucky enough to also be a writer of one of the winning plays. Our play was called 'Bag of Figs' and it was directed by a Year 11 GCSE Drama student George Neeson. Our original script was very different to the final product, as it was improved extremely by George. It was made a whole lot funnier and the audiences on both nights laughed a lot!

For students involved in the Playwrights', we always learn so much through the process - how to adapt and develop our script ideas, our performance skills, in particular, comic timing! The Playwrights' Festival is all about teaching Key Stage 3 pupils new skills and I have certainly learnt many.

'Bag of Figs' wasn't the only play though. There were actually six: 'The Brooch', 'Farmer Society', 'Conscience Murder', 'Bag of Figs', 'Misunderstanding' and 'Wolf'. Two of the plays performed were written by Year 7 pupils, two by Year 8 pupils and two by Year 9's.

The Young Playwrights' Festival is a brilliant opportunity for aspiring scriptwriters, actors and directors to 'begin their journey' in a relaxed environment. It is an amazing experience and I would recommend it to everyone - whether they are into drama or not, it is an incredible way to meet new people.

Will Foskett
Year 9



Marco and Pablo





Year 7 pupils celebrated their reading success this term in the Reading Olympics.

The scheme, launched at the end of the Summer term, aims to promote a love of reading. Year 6 pupils were given reading challenges to complete over the Summer holidays to gain points and win Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates when they began Year 7.

A special Assembly was held to present the certificates to the many pupils who completed the challenges including Drew Howells, William Jarman, Adam Prescott, Olivia Kirby, Bethan Owen, Emma Jones and Storm Woods.

English Teacher Mrs Kemberry says, "Children that read for pleasure are, on average, 18 months ahead of their non-reading peers academically. We are determined to encourage children to develop life-long reading habits that help to develop their reading and writing skills."

EU Referendum 2016



Staff and pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School took part in a school EU Vote on 23rd June 2016. The main aim of this event was to encourage pupils to carry out their own research on this important political decision. Pupils enjoyed the experience gained from voting in an election and being part of the 'democratic process.'

All staff and pupils received a polling card and a number of stations were set up around the school. 6th Form pupils helped by counting the votes from each year group and the overall vote for the school was in favour of the 'Remain Campaign'.

Thank you to all that participated with the process.



Two super spellers, Amy Griffiths and Bethan Wilson represented the school in the summer 2016 Year 7 'Spelling Bee' competition at Brynteg Comprehensive School. The pupils coped brilliantly under pressure as they had to spell a range of words in front of a live audience and a panel of judges. Despite stiff competition from six other comprehensive schools from across the borough, our girls held their nerve throughout the competition, securing a place in the final round of the contest! Porthcawl Comprehensive was ranked second overall. We'll be looking for 'super spellers' from our new Year 7 pupils to participate in the 2017 Spelling Bee. Ospreys players presented certificates to the pupils in front of proud parents and teachers.

Well done, girls!

The Garden Committee

HARVEST

If you have school dinners, you may well have eaten vegetables straight from our school allotment this year: totally fresh, packed with nutrients, no air-miles destroying the planet and they taste great, especially when cooked up by the clever team in the canteen!

Our harvest this Autumn has included potatoes, spring onions, chard, broad beans, runner beans, apples, black currants, peas, mange-tout and sweet corn. The pumpkins were ripe too, just in time for Hallowe'en.

We have been using the vegetable peelings from DT lessons in our compost bins: a great way to recycle. Thanks if you have contributed some of those.

We'd also like to say a quick thank you to everyone who made the brilliantly coloured bird-scarers, which might save more of our soft fruit next year!

If you fancy a go at planting, sowing seeds, growing fruit, vegetables and flowers and generally saving the planet, you are welcome to come along on Monday or Wednesday lunchtimes.

The allotment is in the sunniest spot in the school, behind the art rooms.



Restart a Heart ~ CPR Training for Year 8

Pupils and staff at Porthcawl Comprehensive School were delighted to take part in "Restart a Heart Day" which was launched in the Welsh Assembly and rolled out across Wales on October 18th. The school was fortunate to be visited by Resuscitation Officer, Helen Williams, Dr Craig Williams and a team of First Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians who supervised the training on behalf of the Welsh Ambulance Service.

Throughout the day, the 190 pupils of Year 8 were given basic CPR training on manikins, guided by a training DVD provided by the British Heart Foundation. Sixth Formers and staff were also keen to take up the initiative which it is hoped was delivered to 12,000 young people across the country.

Mr Emrys Davies, Non-Executive Director of the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust came along to see the training being delivered and said,

"The aim is that young people will have life-saving skills so that they are ready when, or if, they need to help save a member of the family, a friend, a neighbour or a stranger."

Headteacher, Mr Slade said, "I am delighted that this valuable opportunity was taken up by so many of our young people and staff. We are very grateful to the team of volunteers who shared their expert knowledge and equipped our students with basic CPR skills."



Thanks to the CPR training team of Mrs Helen Williams, Dr Craig Williams, Lynne Duance, Barrie White, Nick Horton and Roger Stennett.



Geography Field Trip

As part of our A level Geography course our class visited the Gower to do a river enquiry on the River Ilston. After a scenic drive down to the Gower peninsula we arrived at our first site, which was in the middle of nowhere and we had to climb through the stingy nettles. Also, the area was waterlogged due to heavy rain the previous days. After a determined attempt to get to our first site driven on by a very determined Mrs Coleman, various people had got stuck in the mud and George Hurray was having difficulty finding a path without puddles (Guess who forgot his wellies?). Miss Evans decided enough was enough! It was time to give up on this and move on to the next site.



When we got to the second site, we were shown how to use the equipment which meant we had to get into the river! Some of us were prepared with wellies but some of us weren't, as a result some of us ended up with rather soggy feet. We continued to move down the river stopping at different sites to collect data on the shape and depth of the river and the speed it was travelling. Before we knew it, it was lunch time so we stopped to have well deserved lunch. As we were getting pushed for time Charlotte, Anna, Jack and I had to rush to the last site. On the way to this site, we passed a family who seemed to be in trouble as they were stuck and couldn't get up the hill as it was muddy and they had push chairs and babies. So, Jack and Mrs Coleman went to the rescue and helped them, Jack was in charge of babysitting and was quite the hero helping the little ones to safety.

After everyone got up the hill safely, we continued on our way to the site and when we got there we realised that by now the tide was coming in so we couldn't collect the data for this site after all. Therefore, we left and went back to our class. Luckily they had managed to collect from two more sites and we had enough to do a reliable and valid enquiry. After a long day, the high light of the day was having ice cream. Now the real work has begun writing up our enquiry, but it will all be worth it!

Claudia Milza-Wyatt
Year 13





Junior Maths CHALLENGE REPORT



SILVER CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Meg McCloy
Scarlett Jenkins
Jonathan Munro
Mackenzie Randle

BRONZE CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Orla Danahar
Katie Liu
Rhian Abuleil
Jack Bartlett
Rohan Johns
Matt Morgan
Noah Henderson
William Foskett
Annot Ignesious Regington

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 sat the Junior Maths Challenge back in May.

Over 250,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths challenge with roughly the top 6% receiving a Gold certificate, the next 13% Silver and the next 21% Bronze.

Approximately 6500 of the top students are invited to sit a follow on competition, the Junior Mathematical Olympiad or Kangaroo. This year we achieved another pupil entry into the follow on Kangaroo Paper and Year 8 did very well in the number of certificates that they were awarded.

Best in School / Best in Year / Gold Certificate Winner and Follow on Kangaroo Paper Isaak Cronje

A big well done to Isaak on this achievement. His score was a good 30 marks above the next certificate winner!

Isaak then went on to achieve a Merit in the Kangaroo Paper, the top award for this internationally sat paper. In obtaining a Merit pass for this paper it put him in the top 25% of pupils for this paper.

A big well done go to the other certificate winners also from Year 8.

Surprisingly there were no certificates for Year 7 this year. Better luck next time, Year 7.

The UK Mathematics Trust is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. It organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for UK secondary school pupils. You can find these enrichment activities and other information at www.ukmt.org.uk

Here were a few questions from this year's paper. How would you have got on?

Which of these is the closest to zero?

- A) $6+5+4$ B) $6+5-4$ C) $6+5\times 4$ D) $6-5\times 4$
E) $6\times 5\div 4$

In a group of 48 children, the ratio of boys to girls is 3:5. How many boys need to join the group to make the ratio 5:3?

- A) 48 B) 40 C) 32 D) 24 E) 8

(Answers on the back of the magazine)





Summer Concert



The annual Summer Concert came around this year, and it was bigger and better than ever before! The Jubilee Theatre was filled to the brim with beaming parents and friends, ready to enjoy an evening of talent. We started off with some amazing performances from the percussion ensemble, wind band, and woodwind ensemble. All these students had shown fantastic commitment and dedication to the Music Department, by attending extra rehearsals in the upcoming weeks to the concert.

The BTEC Performing Arts students then performed a snippet from their June musical 'Nunsense', which put a smile on the audience's faces as they danced around the stage. There were many excellent solo vocal performances and duets from students such as Millie Stables, Elys Davies, Anna Arrieta, James Evans-Jones, and Rhys Owen. A group of Year 8 girls also sang a very creative pop medley, which they had composed themselves. The audience gave us some fantastic feedback and thoroughly enjoyed the talent that they witnessed. Especially after the magical sounds created by junior orchestra and senior orchestra, along with junior and senior choir.

We would like to thank the wonderful Music teachers who helped put this evening together, and to students who made the evening mesmerising. We would also like to congratulate the hilarious duo Rhiannon Griffiths and Rhys Owen, on doing a fantastic job of helping keep the audience entertained in between the performances. Unfortunately it was Year 13's last Summer Concert, but they continued to show their commitment to the Performing Arts Department by helping out at the performance and showing off their talents one last time at Porthcawl Comprehensive. We wish them all the best for the future!

Well done to all involved in the Summer Concert 2016. The Performing Arts Department are very proud of the outstanding performances given by pupils and it was truly a wonderful evening!

We are now looking forward to the Christmas Carol Concert and also to rehearsing for the annual school show "Little Shop of Horrors" which will be performed in the Grand Pavilion at the end of January 2017. We hope to see you all there!

Anna Arrieta
Year 13



When I was in Year 8, as many of my peers know, I was off for a while due to a few body confidence issues. When I came back to school in Year 9, I started to attend a confidence building group in school for girls, this helped me build up my confidence in myself and gave me a new perspective of body image. I have written this to hopefully help express what these issues do and how they come around, but to also let people know that they are perfect just the way they are.

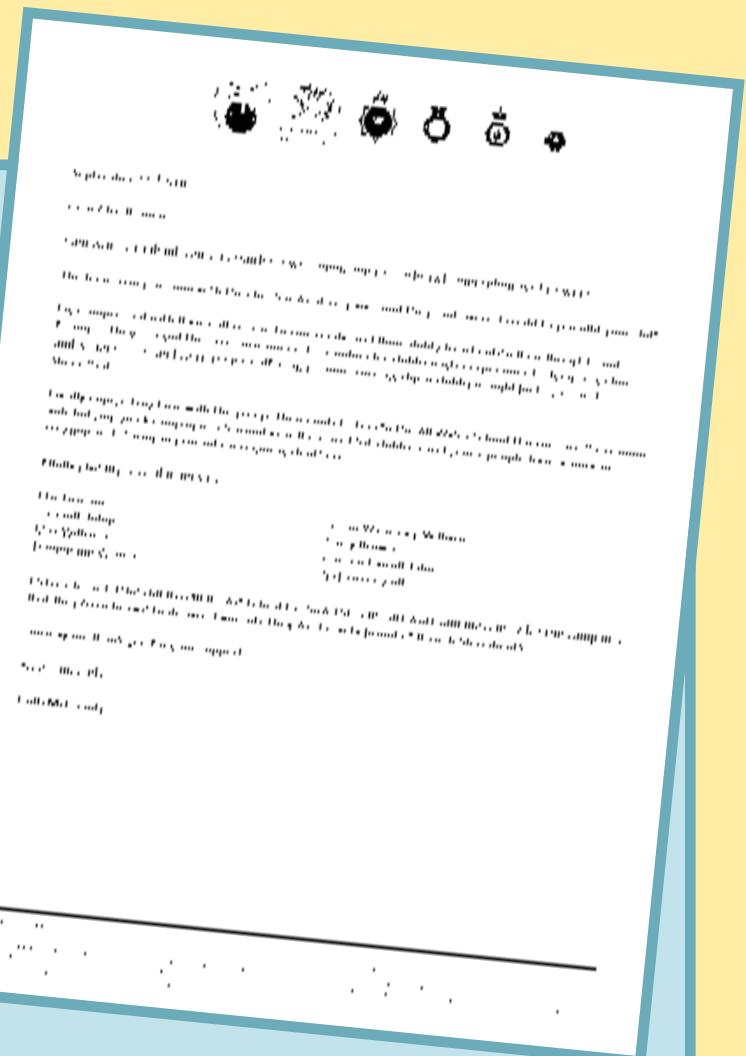
Society

This is a world that we live in nowadays, where there are slim, fit female models with photo-shopped boobs and butts, and there's men with touched up eight packs with titles like "the perfect body". It's a place where people look to social media for fitspo and makeup tips, where the girls act how they've seen the girls in movies act and the guys act all tough because they think that it's how they should be. A place where somebody's outward appearance is somehow more important than their mental health.

It's the place where when you don't look or act a certain way then you get shamed and made fun of, but we don't know anything different because we live in this awful place called society.

The place of depression and eating disorders, the place of built up anxiety over the way you look or act. It's the place where people seem to think that black lives don't matter as much as white lives do, where people joke about homosexuality like it doesn't exist. The place where what someone was wearing is actually questioned in accounts of sexual assault. The place where children are thinking that they aren't beautiful because they don't look like the models in magazines, the touched up faces and bodies of them, these children don't understand that it's not real.

The question is why? Why does this happen, why do people care more about their appearance than their amazing, beautiful personalities. But instead of using 'beautiful' to explain the personality of someone, we use it to describe one's physical appearance. Why can we not use this word to describe the kind, caring personality of someone, when they are intelligent and loyal? People nowadays don't seem to care about that, all they care about is beach bodies and high end clothes.



I just wish I could tell every single person in the world that they are beautiful no matter how they look, what the colour of their skin is, what their sexuality is, if they are transgender, if they are curvy or slim, no matter what religion they follow or what they believe in.

Everyone is beautiful when it comes down to it, every individual is beautiful in their own special way, we are all unique.

You need to be YOU; get on with your life; be happy with who you are, and let everyone else do the same!

Isabelle John
Year 10



UK Girlguiding Advocate Panel – Alice Webber

Alice Webber in Year 12 has been successful in her application to sit on the UK Girlguiding Advocate Panel. She has become one of only 18 Girlguides throughout the UK, the only one from Wales, between the ages of 14-25 to do so. The panel meets in Girlguiding HQ London four times a year to feed into the Girlguiding research programme on issues affecting girls and young women today. Alice will have the opportunity to discuss such issues as body image, sexual harassment, violence against women and girls, equal opportunities and mental health in young women with MP's, business leaders and Parliamentary Advisory Groups.

A keen girl guide for eight years, this is Alice's most recent achievement. During the Summer Alice spent a week volunteering in the Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells, last year she obtained the Baden Powell Award, the highest award achievable as a Girl Guide.

Headstart for Elle at Cambridge



The week commencing the 19th June 2016, I attended a Headstart course for engineering at the University of Cambridge, and lived at Jesus College for the duration of the course.

Throughout these 5 days, there were many different tasks to give us the first-hand knowledge and experience of what it was like to be attending university as a full-time student. For example, on days 2, 3 and 4, we visited the Engineering Department for lectures by different Dr's and Professors on Fluid Mechanics, Structural Mechanics, An Introduction to Design, Materials and Thorium-filled Nuclear Power. In each lecture we were expected to take notes and ask questions to show that we were listening. Following this, we were given an example paper on structural and fluid mechanics and were asked to complete it for the next day using the information from the lecture, so that we could refer to these whilst we were having 'supervisions'. A supervision is only available and known to Oxbridge universities, this is where you have small group tutoring from a very experienced professor on a specific subject, and anything that you may have been stuck on or did not fully understand in the lectures, your assigned tutor would help and explain things to you two or sometimes three times a week. I found this very useful.

There were also plenty of opportunities for us to meet and make new friends from all over the UK, no two people were from the same area, so everyone that was there was in the same position as you, not knowing anyone. On the first day of arrival, we had the chance to talk to everyone during tea, dinner and also the ice breaker activities, this is where we spoke about ourselves and got to know each other as a group, we were also put into groups of 4 and had the challenge to build a tower that withheld two boxes of chocolate, (each weighing around 500g), using as little materials as possible. We were only allowed to use straws or pins; this encouraged us to think like an engineer, make new friends and work together in teams. On the third day we also took part in punting on the Cam River, which allowed us to be

with our friends and have a break from the university work, and have fun. After each day was finished, we were able to chill out in each other's rooms or walk to town until however late we wanted to; as long as we slept at some point!

On the third day, we had to undergo a project where we had to design a robot made from Lego, and programme it to follow a set of specific tasks and complete a course along a white line, and to pick up and drop off an object and also avoid driving into other objects on the way. During this, we were all in random teams of 4, and it was a race of who could finish the course first. Not one team had finished completely, because of course, not all of us had done programming before, and others that have, had only known a small amount.

Throughout the days, we also had other numerous activities such as Grapevine sessions, where past students had come back to talk about everything that they did throughout the time that they were studying at Cambridge and allowed us to ask them questions for the whole hour. We also had a talk from Dr Geoff Parks, the admissions tutor and also the organisation of the course that I was on. He explained everything that the tutors were looking for in a student, grades that were needed, and also how to write a personal statement, specifically for Cambridge admissions.

I think that this course gave me a good experience, helped me make new friends, and helped me gain an insight into general engineering and university life. It was an opportunity that I was proud to be a part of, and an experience that I won't forget.

Anyone interested in applying to university for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects, please see Mr McKenzie for further details of how to apply for Headstart taster sessions. More information is available online on:
www.headstartcourses.org.uk
www.etrust.org.uk/inspirecourse

Elle Morey
Year 13



STEM Inspire Course – Summer/16

In July 2016 I went on a STEM Inspire course for girls only at Bristol University. The course was to inspire girls to pursue Engineering in further education and as careers. We stayed in resident halls about 10 minutes from campus with female mentors who took Engineering courses. We could discuss any questions we had about Engineering with them.

There were about 30 girls on the course in total. They were all like-minded girls who were interested in Science and Maths, they weren't really interested in Engineering at the start, but after the course over half of the girls there, including myself, are now considering studying Engineering in further education. During the course, we went to different talks about the variety of Engineering courses available to us. Not only that, but we also went on little trips around Bristol and tours of the campus and the Engineering labs and other things which was really interesting. Actually seeing a university and its lecturing halls and labs is completely different from how you imagine it if you're considering or wanting to go to university. During the lectures, they encouraged us to do practical activities that involved that subject: some examples are building a wooden aeroplane for Aerospace Engineering and making it fly, building a 2m bridge out of sellotape and straws that can hold 3 coke bottles for Civil Engineering and building a self-standing balloon structure with just balloons.

I made lots of friends on this course and have a really good thing to put on my CV and personal statement!
Lauren Edwards

Year 12

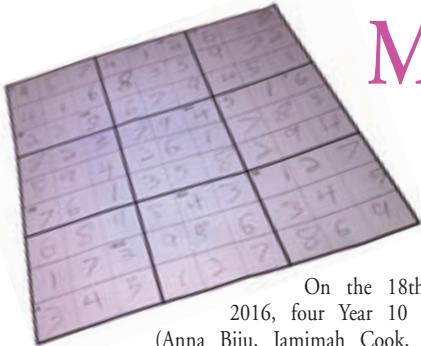
Problem Solving with Techniquest



Here are the Year 7 pupils enjoying practical problem solving activities from Techniquest before the Transition Evening. They all really enjoyed working together, and the idea of having a tangible problem to solve rather than just writing concepts in their books.

Mr G McKenzie - Maths Department

Maths Masterclass Trip to Bath University



On the 18th June 2016, four Year 10 pupils, (Anna Biju, Jamimah Cook, Conor Farrell-John and Jenny Passingham), went to the University of Bath after being invited to attend by the Royal Institution. We were invited as all four of us had attended the Royal Institution Maths Masterclasses in the University of South Wales for two years.

Once we arrived at Bath and (eventually!) found where we were meant to go, we were given a bunch of tasks to do: Product Sudoku, where boxes next to each other, when multiplied, make up the other adjacent square (e.g. $5 \times 4 = 20$), figuring out films from Maths symbols and some problem solving questions. Once everyone had arrived we were all shuffled into one of the lecture rooms where, after a short introduction, we got down to what we were there for: Maths.

First off was Mathematician Chris Budd, who was talking to us about the “Maths of Mordor and other films”. Here we learnt about the different tricks film makers use to make things seem bigger/smaller (forced perspective), the actual way to create realistic visual effects and the Maths of animations. It was a great start to the day, and was really enjoyable.

Next up was Ben Sparks, who thoroughly confused, flummoxed and bewildered us with his “Magic of Maths”, where we learnt amazing tricks and the Maths behind them. Ben also had set up a code-breaking treasure hunt at lunch (where we went into groups and solved puzzles, found the answers around the university and recorded them to win). We didn’t win, but we did come fifth out of around 26.

Finally, it was “Radio 4’s Voice of Maths” Vicky Neale, who told us “Seven Things You Need to Know about



Primes”, (with such facts as the “Twin Prime Conjecture” that made everybody’s heads hurt!). Vicky then made us draw some “Envelopes” – which are actually weird curves made by lines in a circle – before the Royal Institution spokesperson told us about possible activities we can do in the Summer and how we could go to the Christmas Lectures.

All, in all, it was an amazing day where everyone got a chance to learn interesting things, meet new people and see what university life is like. It’s an unbelievable experience and I recommend it to anyone, whether or not you want to do Maths in the future (but especially if you are!).

Tony DeRose (Mathematician and one of the Pixar founders): ‘Learn as much Maths as you can’

Conor Farrell-John
Year 11



HEAD TEAM 2016-17



CAMERON REES

Hi, my name is Cameron. I'm Head Boy and Year 10 Rep. I enjoy playing football and badminton. I'm currently studying Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry and I'm hoping to study Maths at University to make my degree count!



ISOBEL OVERTON

Hi I'm Issy! I'm Head Girl and one of the Year 11 Reps! I do Biology, Business Studies and Textiles and I'm working towards studying Fashion Management at university. I enjoy surfing, ballet and reading anything Vogue.



LAUREN ELLIS-STRETCH

Hi, my name is Lauren, and I'm Deputy Head Girl. I'm currently studying BTEC Performing Arts, and A Level English. I am a member of the National Youth Theatre of Wales, and Great Britain; after school I hope to become a struggling actor.



KATIE WILLIAMS

Hi! I'm one of the Deputy Head Girls and I'm currently studying History, English and French. I love reading and writing outside of school, as well as playing the violin. After Sixth Form, I want to continue studying English and History at university.



BEN WHITE

Hi, I'm Ben and I'm studying Maths, Physics and Chemistry. I'm Deputy Head Boy, as well as Year 9 Rep and I hope to pursue a career in Engineering. I also enjoy athletics and intend to run cross country for the school this year.



CAITLIN WHITELEY

Hi! I'm Cait, I'm Deputy Head Girl and one of the Reps for Year 12. I'm studying English, History and RS. I enjoy reading (my favourite book is To Kill a Mockingbird) and writing. I hope to study English at university next year, and become a human rights lawyer or evil overlord of the universe (whatever comes first).



CHARLOTTE LEVEY

Hi I'm Charlotte! I'm Assistant Head Girl and a Year 8 Rep. I'm currently studying Maths, Biology and Chemistry, with the hope to study Biomedical Science at university. I enjoy keeping fit and I run the School Circuits Club every week.



LAUREN PUGH

Hi, I'm Lauren and I am Assistant Head Girl. I'm studying Biology, Chemistry and German, aspiring to study Psychology at university. Any suggestions or problems you may have, don't hesitate to speak to me!



LYDIA PICKETT

Hi, I'm Lydia and I'm Assistant Head Girl. I'm studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics and I hope to go on and study Medicine, although you'll probably find me somewhere in Drama or Music!



BLYTHE HUGHES-DAVIES

Hi guys, I'm Blythe. I'm Assistant Head Girl and also the Year 13 Rep. I'm studying English, Drama and Philosophy & Ethics and hoping to study English Language at university!



LORCAN BREHENY

Hi I'm Lorcan, and I'm Assistant Head Boy and one of the Head Team links for Year 9. I'm currently studying Chemistry, Physics, Biology and the Welsh Baccalaureate at A Level, and in the Summer I work as an RNLI Beach Lifeguard. I hope to go on and study Pharmacy to degree level at university.



LIK KAN CHUNG

Hi. My name is Lik Kan, also spelt Likkan (casually). I am an Assistant Head Boy and one of the Year 12 Reps. This year I'm studying Computer Science, Physics and Maths. I do a lot of computer stuff in my spare time and I hope to study Computer Systems Engineering or Computer Science at university.



MADDIE DAWSON

Hey! I'm Maddie and I'm one of the Assistant Head Girls. I'm also one of the Year 10 Reps and am currently studying Drama, Media and English for A Levels. I love to dance and hope to carry this on as a professional career in the future.



DANIEL HUGHES

Hello, I'm Daniel Hughes your Assistant Head Boy. I've taken Physics, Chemistry and Maths, and wish to do Mechanical Engineering in university. I'm keen in helping others as I am an Explorer Scout and a Young Leader. I am linked with Year 11 so I'm here for those who want to talk about any worries or improvements they may have. I'm easily approachable so please don't hesitate.





SCHOOL COUNCIL



Just before half term, students across the school volunteered and have been selected to form the School Council of Porthcawl Comprehensive School for the coming academic year. Within this group, students have been elected for different roles including Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Publicists; these students have been allocated certain jobs to do within the team to help everything run smoothly. The School Council is a means of allowing pupils to have a voice in major decisions that the school have to make, as well as pitching our own ideas to help improve the school in any way possible. The team is made up of students from each year group up to Year 13, and together we will strive to achieve many things over the course of this year. The School Council has not failed to succeed in the past, and hopes to continue to do this into the future. Last year alone the team implemented much-requested benches all around the school, and these were very well received by the students of Porthcawl Comprehensive. Furthermore, the School Council also fought for more sheltered areas which have also been a very good addition to the school campus, especially during rainy days. Finally, the opportunity to be

on the School Council this year has given us the chance to have greater say in matters that affect our school and wider lives, and with the help of ideas from our fellow pupils, we hope to have a very productive and successful year as the School Council for Porthcawl Comprehensive.

Scarlett Jenkins and
Ffion Walmsley-Williams

School Council Representatives

Year 7	Alina Biju Tal Giess
Year 8	Ffion Walmsley-Williams (Publicity)
Year 9	Scarlett Jenkins (Publicity)
Year 10	Kyran Hayes Max Williams Holly Sinclair
Year 11	Daisy Brown (Secretary) Conor Farrell-John (Vice Chairperson) Ieuan Walmsley-Williams (Chairperson) James Powell Lauren Ellis-Stretch Caitlin Whiteley
Year 13	



OFFICERS' BLURBS

Hi, I'm Ieuan and I am the chairperson of the School Council. I am in Year 11 and am currently representing my year group. This is the 5th year I have been on the School Council, as I have been part of it since I was in Year 7. I have a lot of experience in getting other people's ideas across though working with others and speaking to members of staff. This is shown through various developments in previous years that the School Council have brought to the school, such as the toilets being refurbished and other additions like more benches, bins and shelters. I am very approachable and easy to talk to so if you have any ideas don't be afraid to pass them on to me.

Hi! My name is Conor Farrell-John and I

am Vice Chairman and a Year 11 Representative for School Council. This is my third year on the School Council.

My name is Scarlett Jenkins, I am the publicist for this year's School Council, and my interests include drama and dance.

Hi I'm Ffion Walmsley- Williams and I am one of the Year 8 Representatives for the School Council. I am active and friendly. I love sport and take part in most school teams. I am looking forward to being a part of School Council this year.

Hi! My name is Daisy Brown and I am Secretary for the School Council and a Year 11 Representative. This is my second year on the School Council.



Sport



Triathlon

Arriving home at 2.30am the night before starting a new school was not ideal preparation, but Year 7 pupil Abigail Davies had a very good reason! She had been up in Glasgow, competing for Wales in the Inter Regional Triathlon Championships at Strathclyde Park, and a delayed flight home after competing meant a very late night indeed!

Abi finished 29th out of 37 girls from throughout the UK and was the first Welsh girl across the finish line! She only turned 11 in August, so was one of the youngest in the competition and has another year next season in this age

category. Many congratulations on representing Wales Abi. We hope that you are settling in well. Keep up the hard work!

KICKBOXING

Thomas Salberg 11AF achieved his 1st Dan Black Belt in kickboxing in 2016 after 7 years of training and development in Martial Arts Kickboxing. He has gone on to teach classes within the Martial Art School and is learning valuable coaching experience helping the young competitors at competitions.



Thomas also won two Grand Slam Champions at a high profile Martial Art Competiton in Birmingham this year which was run over a tri series of events.

He won:

Three Gold Medals and Grand Slam Champion - Fighting/Semi Contact – Boys' 9-15yrs +65kg

Two Bronze and one Gold and Grand Slam Champion - Fighting/Semi Contact – Men's Adults -75kg

One Gold and one Bronze in Fighting/Semi Contact Boys' 9-15yrs Black Belt +65kg



Open Water - Great East Swim

Last June, whilst only in Year 9, PCS pupil Ioan Evans, (Bridgend County) came 1st in the British Qualifier in 14/15 age category and 9th overall in the open age category in the Great East Swim. Following his success, Ioan was selected to represent Team GB in the World Open Water Swimming Championships in Hoorn in July. Ioan has had an exceptional year and has deserved his place on the GB team.

Later in the season, Ioan won the U17 Welsh Open Water Swimming Championship and was selected to represent the U18 Welsh Surf Lifeguards in an international against England in Cornwall.

Well done Ioan!



Football - Boys' and Girls' Club of Wales

Josh Baroth was chosen as part of an 18 man squad for the Under 14 Football BGC of Wales. The squad went to Germany at the end of May for a week where Josh played in all the games. The squad made history by becoming the first squad to win all games including Scotland at home and not conceding any goals in the club's 40 years of history playing in Germany.

Athletics

During the Summer term, 4 teams of athletes took part in the annual NASUWT county competition. All pupils involved did themselves proud but it was the Junior Girls' team who did exceptionally well and came 2nd overall. This took the girls to the national round of the competition where they competed in the Plate competition in Brecon in July. Although there were a few outstanding individual performances, the girls had to settle for 5th place. Still, a great achievement by all those involved and a great experience for those new to athletics competitions.

Several pupils competed in the Junior Glamorgan Valleys Schools Athletics Championships in July. There were some outstanding performances from some of the girls. A particular mention should go to:

Nia Clatworthy 1st in 1500m

Amber Williams 2nd in 300m

Meg Mccloy 3rd in 800m

Nia then went on to represent Glamorgan Valleys in the Welsh School Championships in Cardiff on July 2nd, where she came 3rd in the 1500m for Years 8 and 9.

On the same day, Felicity Williamson-Sarll won the Welsh Schools Championships in Cardiff in the 800m – a wonderful way to celebrate her 18th birthday! She has knocked 10 seconds off her time this season.



Glow in the dark Zumba

The 'Girls' Engagement Programme' which aims to get more Porthcawl girls active and having fun kicked off their first session with 'Glow in the dark Zumba'. 20 pupils from Years 8-10 took part in the lunchtime session in the Jubilee Theatre, a good time was had by all and it was a fab, fun way to get fit and active.

We will be running various different activities on a Friday lunchtime which will be open to all girls so look out for posters and announcements in Assembly.

For further information see our Year 10 Girls' engagement leaders (who will be introducing themselves in assemblies soon) Lucy Beale, Aimee Brown, Phoebe Keepins, Holly Sinclair, Hannah Strong and Erin Richards.



Rugby



The rugby season so far:

September and October is the fixture peak of the Autumn term, as we try to make the most of the good weather and light nights. So far this year, each year group has played in a festival around the Ospreys area and played many fixtures against our local schools. The Year 9 and 11 boys have started their campaign in the Welsh Cup, hoping to progress to the knockout stages by finishing high up in the Osprey's East league.

Being into our 3rd year as a WRU school of rugby and HUB centre, rugby has continued to thrive and be an integral part of the extra-curricular programme offered to our pupils. Our aim is to provide quality, enjoyable rugby opportunities to boys and girls across the school. A high percentage of our players currently play for a club outside of school, be it Porthcawl, Kenfig Hill, TATA or one of the many other clubs around the Bridgend area. We are looking to help these clubs flourish by encouraging those that are ready to join a local club and make further improvements in their playing ability.

Last year the end of the school term saw Year 10 Wesh Bacc students offer the whole of KS3 a coaching and playing opportunity in touch rugby. Some of these pupils will continue with their coaching experience for their GCSE PE, AYPD leaders qualification and the WRU leaders award.

The following players have made it into the Bridgend District Schools squad for the 2016/17 season

Harry Copper	Max Shears	Will Hapgood
Joe Markey	Dafydd Jenkins	



The new Year 7 pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School have made a bright start. They have already fully immersed themselves in school life and none more so than the boys that make up our latest Rugby squad. This fledgling Year 7 Rugby team have already competed in the first of this seasons Bridgend Schools Rugby Festivals held at Brynteg Comprehensive School. The format of the day saw our boys play teams from Brynteg, Bryntirion, Pencoed and Coleg y Dderwen. Encouragingly Porthcawl were able to field two teams at the festival. Both teams recorded notable victories over all the other schools under the watchful eye of Welsh National Team Coach Rob Howley. Perhaps he was on the lookout for the next Ryan Bevington or Tom Prydie? Watching our boys play, he will not have been disappointed. The school game is buoyant at Porthcawl thanks largely to the school partnership with the WRU and our partner club Porthcawl RFC. The link between school, club and union is more important than ever for the future success of the game. The joyful performance of our young players at the recent festival is proof that the future of the game is bright in Porthcawl.

Mr Stradling and Mr Davies

Training nights after school:

Seniors Monday 3.30-4.30 Year 7 & 8 Tuesday 3.30-4.30

Years 9,10,11 Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30

Porthcawl RFC Junior Section train Wednesday 6-7pm
at Porthcawl RFC

Sky Sports Partnership

During the Summer term the PE Department entered into a partnership with Sky Sports For Living. The idea of the partnership was to set up a project within school. Beth Fisher (an International hockey player) from Sky Sports, was our student mentor and her help was invaluable in getting the project off the ground. Beth came into school and took an inspirational assembly for Year 10 pupils, using her own sporting pitfalls and successes to illustrate what can be achieved if you want it badly enough.

Beth then trained several girls in Year 10 (most of whom were involved in the Active Young People's scheme) to lead a variety of sporting activities for younger pupils. The idea was to use sport to improve self-esteem and foster pupil inclusion. The project was very successful and the Year 10 pupils took their leadership roles very seriously. It was a shame that we didn't get the project off the ground until the Summer term, but are hoping to restart again soon and aim to involve more active participants.



Netball Success

Congratulations to Lucy Edwards (Year 13) who has been selected for the Welsh U21 talent squad.

Congratulations also to Amy Bradbury (Year 10) who has been selected for U16 Glamorgan Valleys Netball squad.



Thank You Technology!

I'd like to say a big thank you to the Technology Department for the generous donation they made towards my trip with the Welsh Basketball Team to Georgia this Summer. I competed in the FIBA U18 Women Div. C Tournament in Tbilisi and gained yet another great experience as captain. Our tournament campaign was not as successful as we had hoped, but I learnt lots in that week that will stay with me forever. I was amazed by some of the architecture and how often there were buildings in ruin next to buildings of sheer beauty. The way of life in Georgia is very different to our own and that was something we had to adapt to but enjoyed thoroughly. The memories I made and the basketball I played would not have been made possible had it not been for the generosity of people like yourselves and the money you generated from numerous cake sale projects during the year - I myself remember taking part in these in school.

As a DT and Textiles student myself, I would like to take this opportunity to let others know how valuable it is to study Technology-based subjects at GCSE. Both subjects developed my creativity and problem solving skills and taught me that things don't always work out first time; you

often have to change strategy and make mistakes before reaching the end goal. I believe these are important transferable skills that can benefit everyone no matter what career path you choose. I also found great enjoyment in the various projects I did and pushed myself to try and create things that I thought were impossible. This is what has spurred me on to now take Technology at A level - something I never expected I'd be saying at the beginning of Year 10! My long term plan is to study Sports Design Technology at university.

Unfortunately, I won't be working with the same great teachers when furthering my education, as I have the opportunity to push my basketball further in Cardiff. I hope that in the coming years I can combine study with playing sport and continue to travel to competitions. It is reassuring to know that when it's all over I'll have a STEM qualification which will enable me to get a great job.

Thank you once again to the amazing Technology Department for all your support and time during my time at Porthcawl Comprehensive.

Emily Stradling
Year 11 Leaver



TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2016

Tuesday 12th July – Thursday 14th July 2016

The tenth annual Porthcawl Comprehensive School Tennis Tournament was a huge success once more, attracting over 200 entries both male and female from Years 7 to 10.

With the huge number of participants for the tournament, qualifying games were played throughout lunch time sessions and after school clubs, to achieve entry to the main competition. This format allowed players of all abilities the opportunity to participate and enjoy. The response to tennis, as always, was magnificent, culminating in a well organised and supported event, with pupils producing an excellent standard of play on the courts.

At court side, Year 10 Welsh Bacc pupils aided the PE staff in planning fixtures, officiating, recording results and coaching pupils.

The winners of each event were awarded with an engraved 5x60 slate trophy and certificate to remind them of their achievement. The runners up of each competition also received a certificate to mark their achievement.

The event has again proved to be a huge success, and will no doubt continue to be an important part of the Summer Term at Porthcawl.

Boys' Tournament

In the Senior Boys' Final, Harley Stephens continued to show the great form of the last two years, and set another record by becoming the first player to win a hat trick of titles. Harley beat Max Shears in a fast and furious final played in very windy conditions.

Kieran Tantum responded to his first round loss by going unbeaten to win the plate competition, beating Year 10 Will Evans.

The final of the Year 7 competition was a tight game and could have been won by any of the 2 finalists who are half backs together in the school Rugby team. It was scrum half, Alex Williams, who came out on top against Elliott Bennet 6 – 4.

Girls' Tournament

In the Girls' Plate Final, Nia Clatworthy showed her athletics talents are transferable by beating Zoe Juliff-Jones.

The Year 7 Girls' winner was Bethan Wilson who beat Molly Gilbert 6 – 0.

In the Senior Girls Final, Ffion Masters, having already beaten favourite Cherisse Lau in the semi-final, was under pressure against a classy Anni Martin. However, Anni having played a few games one after another, was given no sympathy by Ffion who went on to win in the final game of the set when a tie break looked ominous.

Doubles Results

In the Mixed Doubles Final, Harriet Thomas and Harley Stephens took the title, and in Year 7, Jack Collett and Bethan Wilson were victorious.

Tennis Team News

Again this year an U13 Boys', U13 Girls', U15 Boys' and U15 Girls' team were entered into the Aegon Schools' Tennis Competition. Our success and love for tennis as a school was completed by the U15 Boys Tennis teams winning the Swansea and Bridgend League and progressing through the South Wales Finals at the David Lloyd Centre Cardiff in September. The U15 team comprised of Harley Stephens, Max Shears, Dylan McKay and Patrick O'Neill. Well done boys!

PE Department



A summary of the Boys' Tournament (Years 8 -10)

	1/4 FINAL	SEMI FINAL	FINAL	WINNER
Harley Stephens William Evans	6 5	Harley Stephens William Evans	6 5	
Jack Strong 0 Ioan Williams	4			
Joshua Audsley Rhys Morgan	5 4	Joshua Audsley Rhys Morgan	0 2	
Jacob John Drew Williams	3 4			Harley Stephens Kieran Tantum
Max Shears Josh Lewis	6 1	Max Shears Kieran Tantum	6 5	
Levi Snell Kieran Tantum	2 5			Max Shears Kieran Tantum
Marcus Fish Keegan Carlsson	6 5	Marcus Fish Keegan Carlsson	2 0	
Dylan McKay Rhys Leary	2 3			

A summary of the Girls' Tournament (Years 8-10)

	1/4 FINAL	SEMI FINAL	FINAL	WINNER
Cherrise Lau Jessica Jones	4 2	Cherrise Lau Jessica Thornton	5 4	
Sarah Davidson Jessica Thornton	2 5			Ffion Masters Nia Clatworthy
Nicola Hughes Nia Clatworthy	2 3	Ffion Masters Nia Clatworthy	6 5	
Ffion Masters Rosanna Brown	5 0			Ffion Masters Nia Clatworthy
Amy Bradbury Rhian Abuleil	5 0	Amy Bradbury Zoe Juliff-Jones	4 5	
Ella Staveley Zoe Juliff-Jones	1 4			Annie Martin Zoe Juliff-Jones
Jazmin Gamble Lucia Brown	3 2	Annie Martin Annie Williams	6 2	
Annie Martin Annie Williams	5 5			



News from the Primary Schools



NEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been an exciting time in Newton Primary School for the pupils in Year 6. As part of our Cornerstones topic 'Scream Machine', we visited Oakwood Theme Park in Pembrokeshire. After establishing some strong links two years ago, we managed to again secure exclusive access to the theme park for one day only. Oakwood opened Megafobia, Speed, Snake River Falls and several other rides just for our visit; therefore there were no queues or crowds! Oakwood also provided a private tour, offering several activities based around the science of roller coasters.

At the end of the Autumn Term topic, we designed and built our own working roller coasters using various construction kits and showcased them to the younger pupils in the school. Each group named their designs and used mathematical skills to work out the equivalent scales of measurement in relation to theme park rides in the real world. Parents were also invited to attend to see all the hard work the pupils had put into this topic. We also used iMovie to create big screen marketing adverts for each ride, which were shown live on the projection screens in the school hall.

This was the time of the year that our pupil leadership team were selected. After all the applications were submitted, the School Council chose the following year 6 pupils:

Head Boy - Luke Ferrier

Head Girl - Roxy Marks

Deputy Head Boy – Sam Taylor-King

Deputy Head Girl - Kate Evans

Head Prefects - Callum Wallis and Isobel Evans

We look forward to our Spring Term topic, 'Mods and Rockers', which is based around the life and times of the 1960's. We will begin the topic with fancy dress themed '60's disco!



NOTTAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are very excited about the new term here at Nottage Primary School. We have been busy getting to know new pupils, settling in to new classes and making new friends. This is particularly true for me as the new Head Teacher of this vibrant school. We have celebrated all things Roald Dahl this half term and have also celebrated the Paralympics which I know the children found extremely inspiring. On Tuesday 13th of September our Year 6 class took a trip to Margam Park. The purpose for the visit was to begin to understand World War 2. We were immersed in the everyday life of a local shop owner in Swansea during the Blitz. The play was based on an informative and touching story. I can honestly say we learnt a great deal and can't wait to learn more.

Finally, everyone has been voting via our ballot boxes in the foyer, to choose our new school Motto. I am pleased to announce our new school motto is 'Together we can'.

Picture shows our Year 6 trip to Margam Park.

Mrs Adele Thomas
Head Teacher



WEST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a busy start to our Autumn term at West Park Primary! Our theme this term is Victorian Inventors and we began our topic by having an immersion day where we all became inventors for the day. We also had to present our ideas in a 'Dragons' Den' style! Quite scary. However, we all really enjoyed the experience and developed our speaking and listening skills as well as working in teams.

We have also been very fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Swansea Museum and Theatre Na'Nog. We thoroughly enjoyed watching the play, 'The Ghost of Morfa Colliery' (even though some of us were frightened!!) and spent time in the museum looking at Victorian artefacts.

Transition to the comp has already started for us in West Park. We met Mrs Sloggett right at the beginning of term and she gave homework diaries to us all. These have been great help to make sure we are going to be organised in Year 6. We have also been to the comp for our Science transition, and this was an amazing experience. We were able to use the Bunsen burners to heat up chemicals and to use the microscopes to examine and compare different materials. A great big thank you to everyone in the Science Department! We thoroughly enjoyed our first taste of Science in the comp! This year, we have started to have transition lessons every week from the English and Maths Departments from the Comp, so moving to the comp next year should be a breeze for us!!

We have all been made prefects in Year 6 this year. This has given us all extra responsibilities such as looking after certain areas and pupils in the school, selling fresh fruit and being a 'buddy' on the infant playground. We have all been given prefect badges and are extremely proud to wear them.

It has been a good start to our netball and rugby season so far and we have been lucky with the weather. Let's hope this continues!



Porthcawl Primary race aces top the UK podium



A model car that reaches a top of speed of 85mph in less than one second has helped a team of pupils from Porthcawl Primary School top the podium in a national Formula 1 based challenge.

After designing their own car, the young engineers raced their way to win the UK final of the 'Formula 1 in Schools – Jaguar Primary School Challenge', held at Coventry's Ricoh Arena.

The school's Porthcawl Power team – made up of six students aged 10 and 11 – beat off competition from 24 other schools to take the UK title after successfully completing five stages of judging which were overseen by experts from the automotive industry.

They had originally earned their place in the final after their balsa wood model car was the fastest at the regional South Wales heat when propelled using an air canister. Deputy Head, Evan Richards said: "Our school very much enjoys taking part in this annual competition and we're extremely proud of the pupils' outstanding achievement. The help we received from EESW which promotes engineering studies in schools was invaluable. We are also very grateful for the support that we have received from parents, and our sponsors. Work is already well underway on our 2017 car!"



Since winning, the team has even been mentioned in the House of Commons, with Madeleine Moon MP congratulating her young constituents, while one of the pupils spoke to DJ Chris Evans live on his Radio Two breakfast show.

Councillor Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's Deputy Leader, said: "It is an exceptional achievement to win a UK-wide competition, so huge congratulations are extended to everyone involved at Porthcawl Primary School.

"It is also pleasing to see so many girls on the Porthcawl Power team, as these subjects aren't always traditionally the ones that girls enjoy as much as boys.



Music Transition

We finished off a very busy and hectic Summer term in the Music Department with our lovely Transition Day and concert. It was great to welcome Year 6 pupils for the day and we certainly have some budding musicians in our midst!

All pupils worked tirelessly throughout the day, preparing for the concert after school. It was amazing to see what was achieved in such a short space of time! We were so fortunate to have a choir, orchestra and guitar group perform during the concert at the end of the day.

Well done to all involved. A massive Thank You to our peripatetic staff for their continued support!

It was great to have you and your parents with us, Year 7, and we look forward to hearing you perform in many of our future concerts!

Music Department





My Transition

Being in Year 7 at PCS is amazing! When we were in primary school, some people we knew were quite nervous about moving up to the comp but then along came Mrs Sloggett who helped get rid of their worries. She came to talk to us in our class and brought us each a copy of the Porthcawl Post so we could see what the pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive had been doing.

Next we were invited to PCS for some transition days. My favourite was the full day event, where we were split into classes with the other primary pupils and had a lesson timetable to follow for the day. We were led around by 3 sixth formers who were very kind and funny. They gave us a tour of the comp and took us to each of our lessons. I think it was very successful because some of the people I met during this transition are now my best friends. I enjoyed being taught by the comp teachers and I liked completing the group tasks and worksheets with my class.

Another very helpful transition was when a Maths and English teacher came to our primary school from the comp to give us a lesson once a week. We learned how we should lay out our books in comp and what the lessons would be like. These sessions taught us lots of interesting facts and methods that have helped me in my Year 7 lessons.

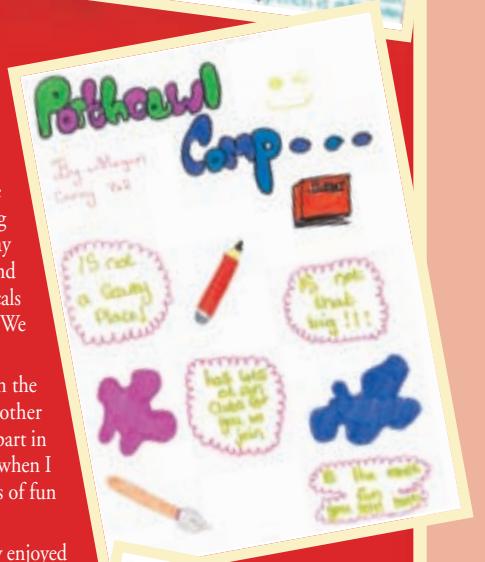
I really liked the ICT transition because we got to have a go at computer programming. It was really good fun as we could program the shapes that our computer avatar made.

I was really looking forward to the Science transition as I had already heard of the exciting experiments you get to do in the comp. Our day was brilliant, where we had to look for clues to find out who kidnapped Mr Slade! We used chemicals and Bunsen burners, microscopes and test tubes. We narrowed it down until we found the culprit.

We all really enjoyed the Transition Disco held in the Assessment Centre. I met lots of people from other schools and made some new friends. I also took part in a transition gardening club in the school gardens when I was in Year 6, which I really enjoyed and had lots of fun with the other pupils and Mrs Sloggett.

All the transition events were excellent and I really enjoyed them. I think I find comp life much easier because of them.

Lucy Griffiths
Year 7



Duke of Edinburgh Award



As someone who has a complete aversion to the outdoors, I was definitely not the most likely candidate for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. I had never been camping before, never put up a tent and, having only hiked once before, D of E was about to be one of the biggest challenges of my life. It wasn't easy. D of E isn't just walking in the countryside with a massive backpack. The expedition is only one part of D of E; there's volunteering, practising a skill and a sport that also has to be completed. On top of that, D of E is something that involves commitment; that means attending all meetings, the skills training and first aid.

I know that sounds like a lot but I really hope I haven't put you off. It has honestly been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. As soon as we embarked on the practice expedition, everyone felt the pressure to prove themselves. The first day is assessed by a teacher (in our case Ms Raine) to deduce if, as a group of seven, we could survive the second day back. And genuinely, I didn't feel ready. The bag was basically as big as me and it was so heavy. But (somehow) we grouped together and I finally got the hang of orienteering. As for the views – well, they were worth all the blood, sweat and tears. All of us passed the assessment and woke early the next day after a pretty sleepless night to head off for day two. After reaching the end... I'd honestly never felt that exhausted in my life. Or so happy to see a café.

The real expedition was like a perfected version of the practice, as it's meant to be. The packs were lighter, having left behind any unnecessary kit, and we were fitter and more prepared. The two days were a blur, marked by the relief of reaching checkpoints and jokes that had you crying whilst climbing what felt like a cliff-face.

But I honestly wouldn't change one bit. It's bittersweet signing off our paperwork and performing our presentations. I've developed so many different skills; map work, team working, leadership just to name a few. And the achievement you feel once you've finished is indescribable. It would be impossible not to thank Mr Pucella and Ms Raine, just a couple of the amazing staff that have helped us to complete it together with Mr Blanche and Mr Holt. So, if you have the chance to do the D of E Award, take it. I promise you won't regret it!

Katie Williams
Year 13



Trips

New York and Washington 2016



Our journey started in the early hours of Saturday 28th May, when we travelled to the airport full of excitement and anticipation. After arriving at our hotel in New York, we went to Times Square, before heading to the Empire State Building to take in some amazing views of the 'city that never sleeps'.

On the following day we went on a tour of the city, taking in sites such as Central Park and the Brooklyn Bridge. In the evening we went to Citi Stadium to watch the New York Mets play baseball... the atmosphere was amazing! During our final day in New York we went to see the Statue of Liberty and the 9/11 memorial site. It was an emotional experience for all involved. We finished off our experience in New York with some shopping on Fifth Avenue and a Broadway show... School of Rock! The show was amazing and it rounded off a perfect few days in an incredible city.

After New York, we travelled to Washington D.C., stopping to take in some of the sites of Philadelphia on the way. When we arrived in Washington we were excited to take in some of the amazing historical sites. On the first day we went on a full tour of the city, and we saw sites such as the White House and the Supreme Court. We also went on an illuminated night tour of the Washington Monuments, which was an unforgettable experience. For the rest of our stay in Washington we went to Arlington Cemetery, followed by some shopping in Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. Finally, we went to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and got the chance to speak to a Holocaust survivor.

We learnt a huge amount during our trip, not just about history, but about American culture as well. It was a life changing experience for all involved and we are so grateful that we got such an amazing opportunity at such a young age. A special thanks to Mr. Holt for organising the trip and to Mrs. James, Mrs. Hammerton and Miss. Williams for making this experience so memorable.



Swansea College of Art Trip

24th May

On a sunny Tuesday May morning, Miss Lambert and Miss Pearson took 47 Year 9 students to The Swansea College of Art. All of the pupils had either opted for Art, Textiles or Technology for one of their GCSE choices. The day was broken down into two parts.

Part 1: Taking part in a workshop with some of the college tutors and foundation students, making badges.

Part 2: The pupils explored the different end of year shows, (Foundation, Fine Art, Surface Pattern Design, 3D Computer Animation), displayed at the various campuses around Swansea. It was an excellent opportunity for the pupils to get inspired by all the amazing art work and it was a good way for the pupils to get a feel for what it's like to study at the college.



"My favourite part of the day was using the VR goggles - it was surreal! I love photography, so looking at it on a much larger scale really changed my perspective."

Phoebe Keepins Year 10

"The part of the day I enjoyed the most was going and trying people's computer games. It was really cool. Also the room with the secret messages on the floor that could only be seen with an ultra-violet torch."

Holly Sinclair Year 10

"The best part of the day was the badge making. We designed our own mythical creatures out of the parts of different animals by cutting out pieces of paper and sticking them together to form hybrid animals. We then made these into badges to take away with us.

I really enjoyed looking at other's art work and finding the thinking about the meaning of it. It's interesting to see how everyone defines art."

Abigail Williams Year 10

"My favourite part of the day was looking at all the different forms of art. There are so many ways of expressing your emotions through art and I think that all the students had done that."

Jazmine Lewis Year 10

"The trip was really good; I really enjoyed the workshop and the different tours. I will definitely consider Swansea college of Art. I have really enjoyed today."

Meg Pritchard Year 10

"My favourite part of the trip was learning new skills and discovering different types of art."

Erin Richards Year 10

"I enjoyed walking around all the different exhibitions."

Eve Manley Year 10

"I really enjoyed looking around all the different campus' because it will help me decide if I want to go there when I am older."

Ellie Granville Year 10

Italy Trip



After an early pick up from Porthcawl we arrived in Italy and were treated to the many delights of Sorrento and Rome over the course of 6 days. We took in a tour of Pompeii, a boat trip to and around Capri; made our own ice cream and sampled many other flavours and we were treated to the making of Mozzarella cheese. It didn't stop there though; we then made our own pizzas at la Sorgenta Farm. Delicious! One of the highlights of the evenings in Sorrento was 'Pink Night', Max, Iwan, Alex and Jenny really made an effort! Well done - pink is obviously their colour! As the week progressed we trekked Mount Vesuvius and jumped on the caldera of Solfatera- very smelly!

Rome was very different- for a start it rained but that didn't stop us visiting the Vatican City and the famous Sistine Chapel - although Andrew Munro was rather baffled why we had gone into the chapel in the first place - he missed the famous fresco on the ceiling painted by Michelangelo. We then went to the Trevi fountain to throw in our coins before the amazing Colosseum and the Forum. The night finished with a quiz and prizes to be won.

Our last day started with Georgina Andersson's birthday and a visit to St Peter's Square, where the Pope was conducting mass. Here we stayed for a while before heading off to the catacombs and the shopping mall and then finally our flight home.

An enjoyable, memorable week! West Coast 2018!



SIMPLY DO Ideas



The team from 'Simply Do Ideas' spent two days working with Year 9 pupils during the last week of the Summer term. Ideas were generated throughout the morning and pupils fully engaged with the activities and challenges set. The 'Countdown' timer added a fun element, pupils were ordered to meet back in the D Block area for the next set of instructions when the alarm was raised.

Pupils worked extremely well in groups and they researched and discussed a number of ideas before planning a presentation for the class. Pupils enjoyed using iPads to create a business plan using the online platform set up by the company. All presentations were pitched to a very good audience and it was evident we had a few budding entrepreneurs in the making amongst our Year 9 pupils.

Form classes voted for the best idea and these groups participated in a final presentation. This was a challenging and daunting experience for some pupils; however pupils pulled together and delivered! All pupils present were provided with monopoly money and they acted as 'Dragons', they placed the money in the teams voting box. We had two winning teams over the two days and pupils should be very proud of their achievements.

I would like to thank and congratulate all pupils for taking part. Pupils developed a variety of skills throughout the activity and this will set them in a good position for undertaking the Welsh Baccalaureate challenges ahead.





Year 10 Welsh Baccalaureate Enterprise and Employability Challenge

Past pupil, Hannah Jones was invited by Mr Thomas to come in to adjudicate the pitches for the Enterprise and Employability Challenge. All pupils had to work in teams to devise and develop products or services aimed at promoting Welsh culture.

"As a past pupil, it was great to return to Porthcawl Comprehensive to help judge the Welsh Baccalaureate pitches with Mr Thomas. Working in PR and communications, I was really impressed with the quality of projects and how well the pupils presented their ideas and thoughts collaboratively.

"Many were eloquent, confident and, most importantly, passionate about their work, delegating roles within their teams and critically assessing their research to produce the best outcome. Congratulations to all involved - I look forward to hearing more about our future business leaders."

Hannah Jones

Year 10 Parents' Forum

In September, we held a very successful forum for parents of pupils in Year 10. Many areas of importance were covered to help inform parents of what to expect throughout Years 10 and 11. The following topics were covered: key dates and the assessment process, study skills information and Hwb, the pastoral support within the school, pupil progress, the Welsh Baccalaureate and e-safety. The attendance at the forum was very encouraging and feedback from parents was very positive. All pupils and parents received an information pack to help with organisation and success.

A reminder of important up and coming dates for Year 10 are:

End of November

Assessment Marker 1 and issue of interim reports

Friday 2nd December

Progress Review with Form Tutor/Head of Year

Monday 12th December

Welsh Baccalaureate Focus Day (X band)

Tuesday 13th December

Welsh Baccalaureate Focus Day (Y band)

End of February

Assessment Marker 2 and issue of interim reports

Friday 3rd March

Progress Review with Form Tutor/Head of Year

Wednesday 8th March

Year 10 Parents' Evening with subject teachers

Year 11 Leavers' Ceremony



On 27 May, just before all the Year 11's disappeared on study leave in preparation for their long awaited GCSE's, a special leaving ceremony was held to mark the occasion. After 5 years together, they were all gathered as a year group for the very last time with some pupils going on to jobs and apprenticeships after the Summer break. Their Head of Year, Mr Card delighted pupils by producing some entertaining photographs of them taken over the years and gave the pupils a terrific send off.



Miss Owens
Head of Year 10



Leavers' Prom

Before she embarked on her Law degree at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Felicity Williamson-Sarll penned this report for us about the Leavers' Prom...

The boys were booted and suited. The girls all sequined and satiny. There were dickie bows and diamante everywhere. This was, of course, THE event of the Year 13 calendar, our long-awaited leavers' prom, held this year at the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff.

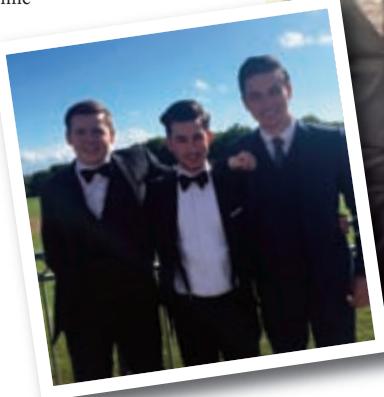
It started with the customary pre-drinks at the Grove Golf Club, a frothy (both sartorially and beer-wise!), photo-filled affair, with a sound track of whoops, whooshing dresses and popping-with-pride parents and grandparents.

No sooner was the obligatory posing for the said parental paparazzi over than our chariots arrived (aka a few buses) and off we were whisked to the Hilton hotspot.

After a meal of soup, chicken and sticky toffee pudding, we bopped about a bit before swapping our regalia for something edgier and heading off to various night-clubs (over-18s only, of course). By the small hours, we were no longer tottering, but all tucked up in our various overnight hostelleries, where we regaled each other with stories, getting just a few hours welcome shut-eye, before the next gastronomic treat and highlight of the whole affair - a hotel breakfast.

A memorable evening to end our time together in the Sixth Form, before our lives take us all in different - and exciting - directions.

Felicity Williamson-Sarll
Year 13 Leaver



Pupil Achievements

Autumn 2016

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Lowri Howell Year 13
Grade 6 Ballet - Merit

Joshua Baroth Year 10
U14 BGC of Wales Football

Isaak Cronje Year 9
Kangaroo International Challenge -
Maths

Elen McCloy Year 11
Selected to represent Wales in Surf Life
Saving at the Celtic Cup Summer 2016

Eleri Williams Year 8
Winner of the Bridgend Young Poet of
the Year

George Neeson Year 11
Lead role in the film "Francois" which
is premiered in the Wales Millennium
Centre in November

Ocean Poultney Maddy Year 9
Selected for U14 County Hockey

Amy Bradbury Year 10
Selected for U16 Glamorgan Valleys
Netball Squad

Lucy Edwards Year 13
Selected for U21 Wales Netball Talent
Squad

Abigail Davies Year 7
Represented Wales at Triathlon

Abigail Davies & Angelica Davies Amos
Year 7
Swimming - Selected to represent
Bridgend County for the Arena League.

Jake Morgan Year 8
Kayaking - Achieved BCU 1*

Thomas Salberg Year 11
Achieved 1st Dan Black Belt in
Kickboxing

Alice Webber Year 11
Selected to UK Girlguiding Advocate
Panel

Nia Clatworthy Year 9
Winner – Welsh Mile Road
Championships
Winner – Aquathon – Pontypridd

Ian Evans Year 10
Qualified for European Championships
Italy – Open Water Swimming,
Represented U18 Welsh Surf
Lifeguards in Cornwall and Winner of
Welsh Open Water Swimming
Championship

Alex Hunt Year 13
Selected for Halloween Concert at St
David's Hall with BBC National
Orchestra of Wales

Selected for Four Counties Orchestra

Alex Hunt

Laurence Hunt

Naomi Kierl

Rhianwen Kierl

Jenny Tanner

Millie Fry

Olivia Pownall

Rachael Appleton

James Clear

Isaak Cronje

Matthew Pugh

Lauren Pugh

Layla Millar

Instrument Exams

Congratulations to all musicians that have sat grade exams over the past term!! Remember to update your music teacher on any success that you achieve or see Miss Thomas so that she can update her records and publish your achievement in the next Porthcawl Post!

Diolch, Miss Thomas

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade
Lowri Howell	Year 12	Flute	Grade 8 Distinction
George Neeson	Year 11	Musical Theatre	Grade 8 Merit
Edward Neeson	Year 7	Singing	Grade 4 Distinction
Jake Morgan	Year 8	Tenor Horn	Grade 1
Isaak Cronje	Year 9	Bassoon	Grade 3 Merit
Anousha Cronje	Year 7	Oboe	Grade 4 Pass
Olivia Geddes	Year 8	Violin	Grade 4 Merit
Jude Dabernig	Year 9	Saxophone	Grade 2 Pass
Lucy Vinen	Year 12	Musical Theatre	Diploma Pass
Josh Williams	Year 9	Alto Saxophone	Grade 3
Jamie Davies	Year 9	Tenor Saxophone	Grade 3
Stella Marks	Year 9	Flute	Grade 4
Isabelle Hone	Year 9	Flute	Grade 4
Jamie Harrowing	Year 10	Oboe	Grade 5
Pippa Harrowing	Year 8	Flute	Grade 4
Ben Pownall	Year 7	Clarinet	Grade 4
Sunil Yummiti	Year 10	Violin	Grade 4
Jenny Tanner	Year 10	Violin	Grade 5

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

We rely on you for our information! Has your child achieved success or recognition relating to an extra-curricular activity?
If so, please email Nicola Evans at

pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk

Answers from the Maths Challenge: Answers B) and C).