

Welcome to the second edition of the **Porthcawl Post** for the school year 2011-2012



Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Spring 2012



Headteacher's Address

Very many congratulations to the Performing Arts faculty and especially the Drama and Music departments for enabling our pupils to provide such an outstanding production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' this year in the Pavilion.

Audiences over four successive evenings spoke in rapturous ways of the gift and talents of our young people and of the huge energy and effort that they had clearly put into this high profile and prestigious event.

Our special thanks and appreciation are extended to Miss Hardwick, Mr Smith in the Drama department and Miss Mayo and Miss Atherton in the Music department. Miss Mayo, our new Head of Music, who only arrived in Porthcawl in January was clearly very impressed by the show and by the various contributions of the whole school community.

My gratitude goes to all of the pupils and staff who helped make the show the success it was.

Sadly there are fewer and fewer secondary schools in South Wales holding an annual Eisteddfod. This is definitely not the case in Porthcawl Comprehensive where the opposite is true as our annual event gets better and better.

Our four houses of Dyfed, Gwynedd, Morgannwg and Powys, the names of the four ancient regions of Wales, fought it out at the Pavilion for the highest honours. Pupils of all ages engaged in a wonderful

celebration of Welsh culture, language and heritage in music, song, dance, poetry and readings before the scrutinising eyes of several specialist judges.

A special 'thank-you' is extended to the Welsh Department in particular, and to the House Leaders and Captains not forgetting to mention the exceptional performances of our young people from Year 7 through to Year 13 on-stage and to the many pupils who took part in the off-stage competitions.

Earlier in the term Year 11 pupils were impressing a different group of 'judges' in the form of representatives from the world of business, commerce, industry and other services. Over two days each Year 11 pupil was interviewed individually regarding their career aspirations and interests.

Many of our guests commented very positively about the politeness, maturity and well developed communication skills our Year 11 pupils demonstrated over two days. My gratitude goes to our interviewing guests.

Space prohibits me from expanding upon the many other initiatives and activities that have taken place since I last wrote to you in the Autumn edition of the 'Post'.

Much could be written of our very successful Christmas Fayre, our Winter Sports, our outstanding Carol Service at All Saints Church and, more recently Year 11 Induction Evening at which parents and student learned of the many courses and exciting experiences available for our young people as they move on to the school's Sixth Form provision.

In closing I should like to mark the success of the school in the recent National Banding System. There has been much discussion and publicity about this system of banding schools in the media.

It was very encouraging to pupils, parents and staff to learn that Porthcawl Comprehensive School was placed in the top band (band one) of five. The banding placement is determined by success in GCSE examination performance, attendance and other factors. Our all time record, results last summer and excellent attendance ensured our top band place, the only one in the Local Authority.

Well done to all!

Enjoy reading this edition of the 'Post'.

Kind regards

K Dykes Headteacher

"It was very encouraging to pupils, parents and staff to learn that Porthcawl Comprehensive School was placed in the top band (band one) of five"

Housekeeping News



As has been mentioned earlier the school has revisited its aims. The aims of a school is where and how we share our vision for our school. A conference was held where learners, governors, support staff and teachers met to discuss the aims. The outcome of this meeting was a new set of aims for our school. The group felt that this new set of aims more closely suited the needs and aspirations of all learners and stakeholders. Mrs Thomas has produced a fuller article for the newsletter, thanks to her and the team for all their effort.

Visitors to school will notice a programme of investment and improvements. The school has been considering a whole range of improvements. The overriding aim is that of sustainability via improvement. We are trying to make changes that will benefit our school for many years to come. We are planning to install photovoltaic cells to the roof of A block. These will generate electricity which will offset out costs. Also while the school is closed we will receive revenue for the electricity sold back to the supplier. Another important dimension is the reduction in our carbon footprint by producing "clean" electricity. A major investment will take place in I.C.T as one I.C.T room will be created. The curriculum is increasingly being delivered via I.C.T so this investment is necessary to give our learners every advantage, School Council has requested additional shelters to keep pupils dry. To meet this need we are currently discussing and planning the creation of more shelter space to allow pupils to stay relatively dry and warm.

The current economic climate is harsh and shows no signs of immediate improvement. School is keen and willing to help should the need arise. Should a family's circumstances change then free school meals and a uniform grant are available. If you feel you may benefit from either source of help then please do not hesitate to contact school. Both sources of help are confidential and are administered very discreetly by school.

As I write this article rehearsals for the show are in full swing. The staffing is now complete in Performing Arts and we eagerly await the production. The school has a national reputation for its Performing Arts, something we are justifiably proud of. As a school we look forward to the future with confidence and assurance. I do hope you all enjoyed the production!!!

May I conclude with a few basic reminders:

Please try not to leave any items in reception. Reception is very busy and it is very difficult to accommodate requests to pass kit or ingredients to learners. Lost property is very full at the moment. Please have a look for anything you may have lost before all the stock donated to charity. Mobile phones are very useful and most have one. However may I remind all they are not to be used in lessons. Further, a phone is brought to school at the owner's risk. The school simply cannot be held responsible for any mobile phone loss however caused.

And finally, please can we remind parents that any pupil who wishes to sign out from school must go to the attendance office with an appointment card or letter stating the pupil's name, form and reason for absence.

Once again thank you very much for continued support, much appreciated.

A Slade - Deputy Headteacher

Anti-Bullying Week



Anti-Bullying Week started on the 14th November 2011. Themed assemblies took place across the school and each year group dealt with a different aspect of bullying: such as friendship, racism, and homophobia. It also coincided with Children in Need Week, so there were lots of great opportunities for all pupils across all age groups to come together to send the message that bullying is unacceptable at our school.

Youth workers from "Bridgend Says End Bullying" also came in to school to work with our year 8 pupils to explore the effects of bullying on the victim and the perpetrator. The music department is currently involved in a competition to write, perform and possibly record music with an anti-bullying message. We are looking forward to some of these songs being performed in assemblies.

If you are experiencing or know of someone else who is experiencing bullying, it is essential that you report it to a Parent/Guardian, Police Officer, Teacher, Youth Worker, to anyone you trust. Remember the school also has a peer listening service where you can talk about bullying or any other worries you might have. It is located in the youth wing at lunchtimes; these are young people just like you who are especially trained to help and support you.

Useful telephone numbers:

Childline: Free phone 0800 1111

Bridgend Youth Service Bridgend says End Bullying: 01656 724057

Just @sk Information Centre: 01656 815150

Family Engagement @ Porthcawl Comprehensive

- Family engagement @ Porthcawl Comprehensive offers a range of support for families and children.
- It gives opportunities for parents/ carers to work closely with the school to positively impact on their child's education.
- Providing learning opportunities for families to support children and young people.
- Drop-in session for parents to discuss worries and concerns about their children and young people.
- Opportunities for families to take part in a range of programmes designed to engage, inform, support and above all have FUN!

Rhiannon Jones
Family Engagement
Phone: 01656 774100
E mail:
Rhiannon.jones@porthcawlschool.co.uk

Please feel free to contact the family engagement officer if you have any questions or if you are interested in becoming involved in our family engagement programmes.



2011 was another successful year for the Children in Need charity at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. A succession of events ran through the week including; Womanless Miss World, "I'm a Teacher get me out of here", Faculty Fortunes, Blind Date, X-Factor and the 6th Form Slave Auction to name but a few. As the total balance was a significant £5,879.84 it was decided that the money could be split between; Children in Need, L.A.T.C.H, The Special Care Baby Unit in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Kidney Research, Ty Hafan, Great Ormond Street Hospital and the RNLI charity. This could not have been achieved without the tremendous hard work and support from the pupils, their families and friends. This generosity was much appreciated by the Head Team as a reward for the weeks of planning and preparation which went into this week of events. A big Thank You to everybody who made this a success!

Tom Newbery
Assistant Head Boy



Children in Need



Photos kindly supplied by Malcolm Nugent'





SKIING TRIP

ZELL AM SEE 2011

On the last day of term in December 2011, 36 pupils from Year 10 and 2 pupils from Year 11, travelled by coach to Zell Am See in Austria. The school has been running the skiing trips for many years now and once you go, you can see why. To start off with, you're on a coach, with your friends, for a staggering 27 hours and let's be honest, it's hard to see how that's going to be boring. The drivers, Joe and Ray, had a great sense of humour and were very sociable, considering they had to put up with 38 pupils for the week.

Once you arrive at the hotel, you just dump your clothes down on your bed and then get your skis and boots from the shop in town. Unless of course you are a boy and most likely dump your suitcase on the floor, don't unpack, leave your clothes in there (this is so you don't have to unfold them). Then when it's time to go home you do up a zip, and your done, no hassle whatsoever, until the point when you think you've lost your phone!

It was a quiet night when the lights went out on the first night, as everybody was shattered from the lack of sleep from the journey, but as the week went on, they seemed to get much louder and louder. Until inevitably, a teacher would knock on your door and tell you to be quiet! Now despite all of that, once you got on the slopes, you're guaranteed to have a great time (And a crash). Sadly though, all the beginners this time, were all rather good and didn't fall over enough to amuse the higher groups and teachers. Within half a day of being there, the beginners were on their first proper slope.



Next up on my list of many skiing highlights is the moose award. What this is? It is a moose shaped hat which is worn over your helmet for the next day. But how do you get it, you may ask? Well, after each evening meal, group members or friends tell a story about who did the funniest thing of the day. You all then have to vote for the funniest story, and whoever gets the most votes, gets the hat. Simple really.

On the last day, as a little sort of grand finale, we took part in a slalom race for everybody to compete in. Prizes were given to the top three. Now it would be absurd if the beginners raced the advanced, so we did it in the different ability groups. Then at the end of the day, medals and certificates were awarded and a picture is taken, with your friends and skiing instructor.

The journey back home was completely different from the way there, less quiet, but everybody slept better because they were exhausted from the week's activities. As you reach the school, with your parents eagerly waiting (unless they follow your bus from Cornelly, which is highly embarrassing) you get off, get your luggage and say goodbye to your fellow friends from the trip, who, you shall probably see within a week or two.

So there we have it, a week's worth of skiing summed up in a few paragraphs yet describing why it's such an amazing trip to go on! And Mr John, if you are reading this, would it be possible if you could put my name down on the next skiing trip list, in advance.

By Tom Matthews 10JS



Year 11 Devised Practical Exams 2011



On the 21st and 22nd November 2011, Year 11 performed their devised practical pieces in the Drama Studio. Each piece had to be approximately 20 minutes long with the script written by the acting candidates. The genre for our devised piece was Physical Theatre. This was quite a challenging genre, especially as many members of the class chose to use dark material to display the theme "behind the door". Some of the subjects the class used were: domestic abuse, child abuse and illness. However, this was effective as all the pieces were very emotive and Physical Theatre helped to emphasise this. We learnt through workshops that if we wanted the piece to be effective we had to over exaggerate our movements to make up for the use of minimal dialogue. Overall, the group were pleased with quality of the work produced.



'Stressful but in the end our hard work paid off' – **Jamie Sayce**

'It was good to experiment with a non-naturalistic style of performance' – **Eve Lewis**

'I really enjoyed learning how to express feelings through physicality' – **Leah Bates**

'A completely new experience, lots of fun' – **Lauren Hill**



Christmas Tree Festival - All Saints Church

The Computer Aided Design Class year 10 were asked to design and make a tree to represent the school in the Christmas Tree Festival at all Saints Church. We made a Christmas Tree that was made out of mirrors with decorations, snowmen, snowflakes and lights. The tree was constructed with a central column holding the leaf shapes in place.

This is a community project where trees of all shapes and sizes from many different groups in the local area were on display. Once our tree was complete it was taken to All Saints church where there was a fantastic display of over 60 trees for the community to enjoy. The project was a fantastic opportunity to bring the local community together to celebrate the festive season.



By Matthew Taylor and Alex Lloyd





'Into the Dragons' Den'

On the 19 November a team of students from Porthcawl Comprehensive School Council made a Dragons' Den type 'pitch' to a panel of 'Welsh Dragons', made up from 'LiveUnLtd' (a Stakeholder Company) at Blaengarw Community Centre, in a bid for funds to set up a website called 'Our Voice', in an attempt to promote and improve the communication links between the school council, all our pupils and the wider community of Porthcawl.

A number of newly elected School Councillors made up the team. It consisted of Lowri Patterson, Becky Wardman, Adam Mounce, Kyle Richards and Tom Parsons.

The tense trio of Lowri, Becky and Adam made the pitch to the Dragons and were 'drilled' in a question and answer session to secure the funding for the website; they were assisted by the backup IT support of Kyle and Tom.

A nervous couple of day followed but news finally came through that Our Voice's bid had beaten off the competition to secure funds for the school totalling £1000 towards setting up the School Council website.

A challenging but great experience was had by all the School Councillors who took part. The 'Our Voice School Council Website' will shortly be set up and activated allowing whole school

community engagement through communication and participation ensuring all pupils have a direct means and link of getting their voices heard and shared.

Many thanks to Mrs. Nadine Thomas for her help, patience and guidance, ensuring the success of our Social Enterprise bid.

Adam Mounce 12HC

HMS RALEIGH

Are you interested in joining the Armed Forces?

I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity by Porthcawl Sea Cadets to experience Royal Navy life.

In the middle of November, I stayed for 6 days at TS. Vigilant in HMS Raleigh, a Royal Naval base in Plymouth, mixing with other cadets from all over the UK and Royal Navy Personnel. I finally had the chance to get the 'feeling' for military life. In all honesty, I loved it!

With a full-week's rota of activities and challenges like, water and fire damage control, expedition training, sea survival, obstacle courses, football, swimming and running. I was in my element.



Dates for your Diary 2012

- 29.03.12
PTA Awards evening
- 02.05.12
Year 10 Parents Evening
- 04.05.12
INSET DAY
- 07.05.12
Bank Holiday
- 08.05.12
Year 10 examination commence
- 15.05.12
Whole school examination commence
- 21.06.12
Transition Day
- 22.06.12
INSET DAY
- 03.07.12
Compact Ceremony
- 09.07.12
Uniform evening and Year 6 disco
- 11.07.12
Young playwrights festival
- 18.07.12
Activities day and Golf day

My week in HMS Raleigh, was later made even better, as I was invited to watch a performance by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines and the Corps of Drummers, which was a real privilege.

I also got to go to Devonport Dockyards on a ship's visit to HMS Bulwark, sister of HMS Albion, a commando carrier, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

This whole experience has pushed me harder and further to wanting a career, that is now in reach, within the Armed Forces, as a Pilot or a Weapons Engineer, and I am determined to get there.

Perhaps you could too?

Bethan Brooks 12LT



RYAN



Returns to School



“Ryan returned to his former school for a Year 9 assembly. During the assembly Ryan presented the school with a signed Welsh shirt.”

Porthcawl Comprehensive School was thrilled and delighted to welcome home one of its famous former pupils Ryan Bevington.

Ryan returned to his former school for a Year 9 assembly. During the assembly Ryan presented the school with a signed Welsh shirt. This was no ordinary shirt, it was the actual shirt worn by Ryan when he played against South Africa during the World Cup. Mr Stradling (Head of PE) and Mr Card (Teacher i.e. Rugby) accepted the trophy on behalf of the school.

Ryan, who was capped at all age groups, stayed to take questions from the pupils. The pupils were thrilled to have the opportunity to speak with a current Welsh international player. Ryan gave a fascinating insight into the World of an international rugby player, an experience that will stay with the pupils for a very long time.

In a touching moment Ryan paid tribute to Mr Card and Mr Stradling for all their help and encouragement during his seven years at Porthcawl.

Deputy Headteacher, Mr Slade commented on how proud the school and wider community of Porthcawl were of Ryan and his achievements. Mr Slade said “Ryan is a fantastic young man, an excellent role model for our pupils and someone who we are all proud of”.

Visitors to the school may take a look at our latest sporting trophy in reception.

Thanks very much Ryan, we look forward to your next visit.

A Slade
Deputy Headteacher

Rotary Young Musician of the Year 2011-2012

The superb musical talent of Porthcawl Comprehensive School was on prominent display at this year's Young Musician Competition for Bridgend and Porthcawl Rotary Clubs, held on the 9 November 2011 in All Saints Church. The competition required competitors to prepare two contrasting pieces of their choice. Out of the seven entrants, five competitors belonged to Porthcawl Comprehensive's sixth form, each demonstrating their extensive ability and flair for their instrument as well as representing the high standard of the music department in Porthcawl.

The competitors were:

Peter Greenwood – Tuba

Christopher Hontoir – Violin

Sophie Howe – Piano

Lucy Millership – Bassoon

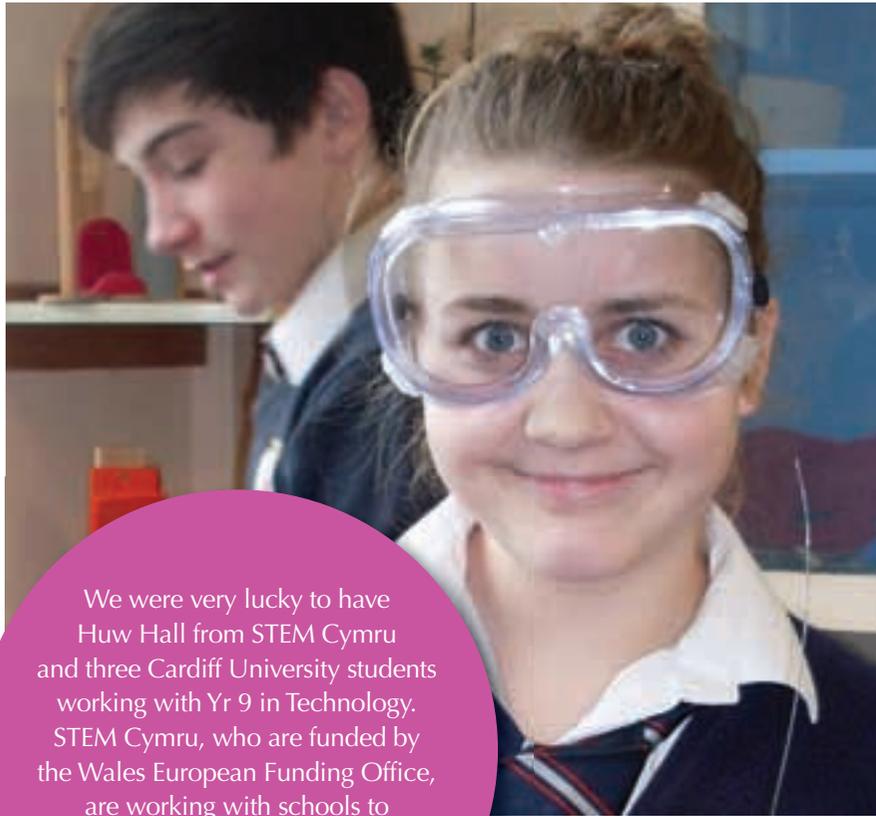
Daniel Pugh-Bevan – Organ

Each gave a brilliant performance, entertaining an audience of family, friends and teachers as well as members of both Rotary Clubs. The adjudicators were very impressed with the standard of all performers and after much deliberation it was decided that 1st place would go to Sophie, 2nd place to Lucy and 3rd place would go to Daniel. This was a great achievement for the school as well as the individuals. Lucy and Sophie then went on to represent Bridgend and Porthcawl Rotary Clubs in the next round of the competition on 7th December. This was the area final and was held in Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. Again, Porthcawl was over represented, making up two out of the four competitors. Another night of sparkling musical talent ensued and both performers played extremely well. This competition was won by Carwyn Jones on the cello, and Sophie Howe was given 2nd place, as runner up. Carwyn will now go on to the district final in the new year. All competitors thoroughly enjoyed the experience and should be very proud of their achievement.

Sophie Howe



STEM IN TECHNOLOGY DAYS



We were very lucky to have Huw Hall from STEM Cymru and three Cardiff University students working with Yr 9 in Technology. STEM Cymru, who are funded by the Wales European Funding Office, are working with schools to encourage pupils into Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).



For this project, pupils worked in groups of three to design and make a wind turbine. All the turbines were tested to see which team produced the most energy. The pupils worked out whether 2 or 4 gears would work better. They drilled, soldered and worked hard to create their turbine. The winning group from each day was awarded STEM medals. On day one Stephanie Harper, Katie Mainwaring and Lauren Owens were the worthy winners.

On the second day we had final testing, where Erin Fraser & Megan Goldberger were the overall winners.

By completing the day and writing up the project, pupils could also achieve a Bronze Crest Award. CREST is a nationally recognised accreditation scheme for project work in the fields of Science and Technology regulated by the British Science Association.



The Winners

We hope the STEM Technology experience will motivate the students, build their confidence and encourage them to pursue careers in Engineering or Technology!

L. Thompson (Head of Design & Technology)

Comments from one of the winners:

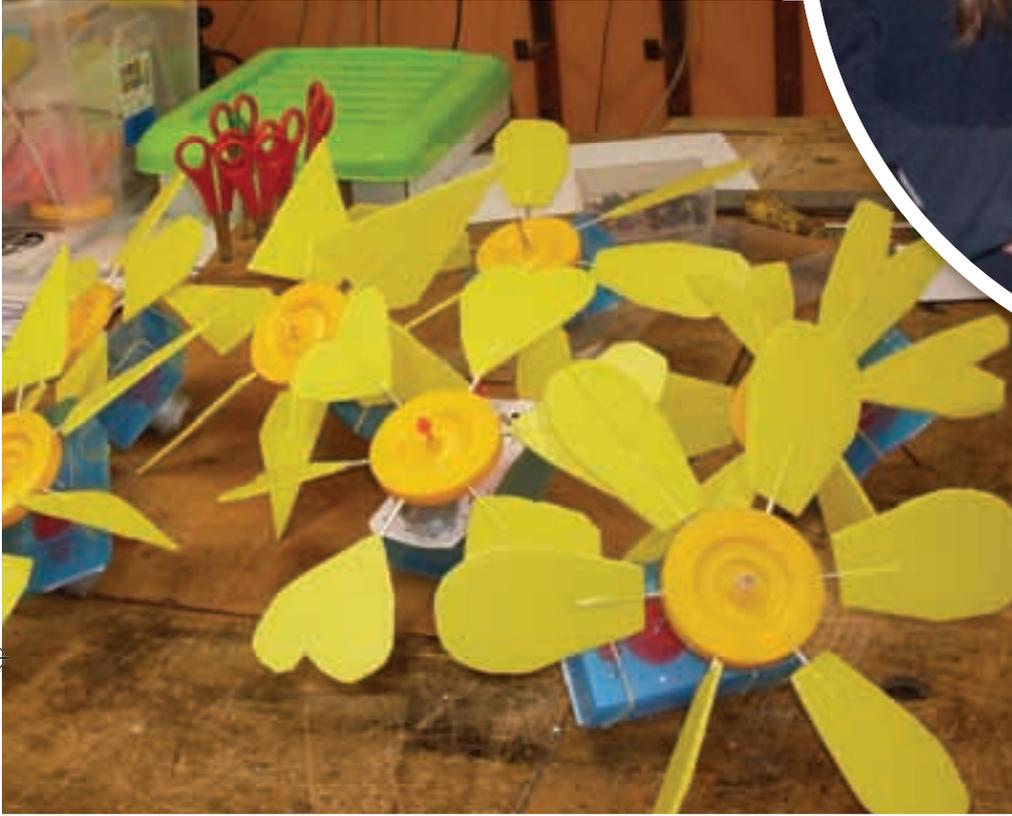
Today me and my partner Megan participated in the Alternative Energy Project. We found it very creative & interesting. I now know a lot more about saving and producing energy without damaging the environment with green house gases. I am very grateful that I was able to take part in this project & won.

Erin Fraser.





23rd & 24th January 2012



We hope the STEM Technology experience will motivate the students, build their confidence and encourage them to pursue careers in Engineering or Technology!



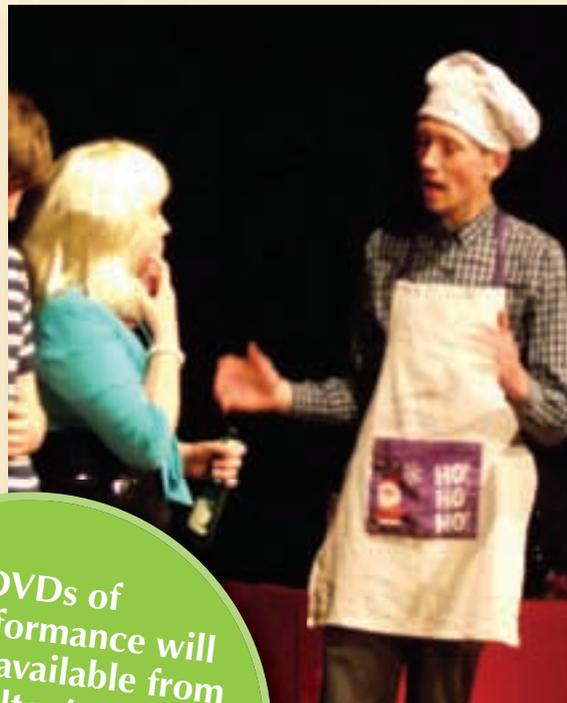


On 12th and 13th
December 2011

a group of Year 9 & 10
students brought the
much-loved and well-known
characters from one of the
nation's favourite sitcoms,
"Gavin & Stacey" to
the Jubilee Theatre stage.

Gavin & Stacey Christmas Special Article





DVDs of the performance will soon be available from Mrs Felton's room in P13.

By Sam Pryce (10BH),
Richard Price (10CR)
and Elli Rosser (10GM)

A sell-out on both nights, the overall production raised just under £150 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity. A massive thank you from the directors goes to the entire cast, technical staff, teachers, audience and anyone else who was involved in the production in some way. It was truly a night to remember. It all started when we, the three directors (Sam Pryce, Richard Price and Elli Rosser), came up with the idea 'once upon a lunchtime'.

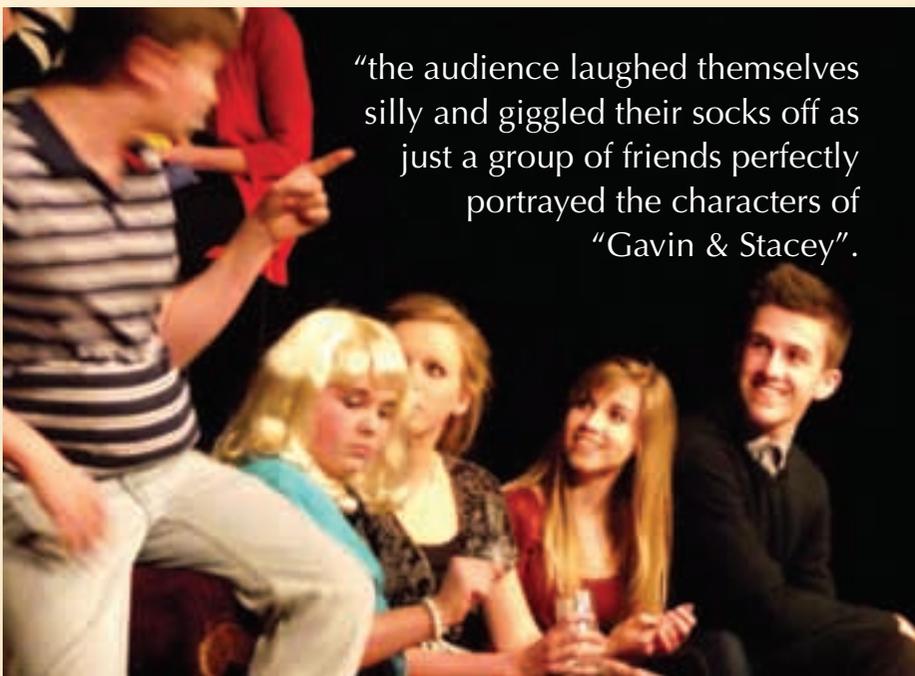
We believed that "Gavin & Stacey" would be a smash-hit show to perform because almost everyone knows it, hardly anybody hates it and, of course, it has brought together two past pupils of Porthcawl Comprehensive:

Rob Brydon and Ruth Jones. Let's hope that some of the actors that performed that night follow in

the footsteps of Brydon and Jones. We then got hold of the script and began to cast the parts in our heads.

We didn't bother with auditions as that would have wasted time, so, we just chose our cast and got on with it! And, after all of that, we could not have asked for a better cast!

Although there were a few mishaps on both nights (e.g. Thomas Rees' nosebleed mid-scene), the audience laughed themselves silly and giggled their socks off as just a group of friends perfectly portrayed the characters of "Gavin & Stacey".



"the audience laughed themselves silly and giggled their socks off as just a group of friends perfectly portrayed the characters of "Gavin & Stacey".





MRS ATHERTON'S CONTRIBUTION
WAS INSTRUMENTAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SHOW!
THANK YOU!



FIDDLER ON



PHOTOS – WITH MANY THANKS TO MALCOLM NUGENT

At the beginning of October the annual school musical production began by auditioning a principle cast.

Dozens of pupils from year 9 – 13 auditioned making the teachers jobs nearly impossible. After the success of

Les Miserables 2011, the pressure was certainly felt by all concerned! But after selecting what was sure to be an outstanding principle cast the show began to progress.

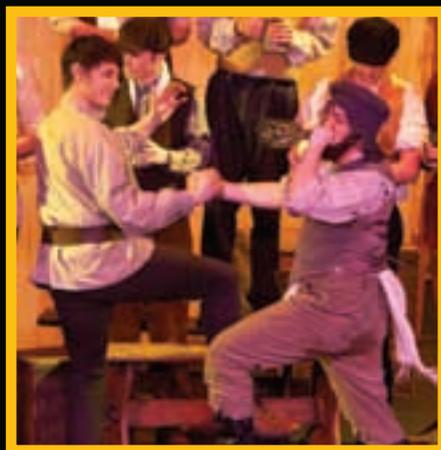
The whole cast and production team hit the ground running, and with Mrs Lewis' imminent Maternity Leave work quickly began to put the big numbers together, with superb assistance in the form of Miss Grant, Miss Hardwick began to choreograph the chorus numbers.

As the weeks rolled by the production team, again supported by Mr Kelvin Isaac, designed, built and painted the set, ensuring the production looked as good as the cast.

Mrs Atherton showed her experience in maintaining excellent singing rehearsals, whilst Mrs Lewis left to start her family. Mrs Atherton's contribution was instrumental to the success of the show! Thank you!

The next hurdle the company had was to adjust to the arrival of Miss Mayo Music's new Head of Department. However as Mr Dykes said on the final night 'after ONLY 25 working days in the school' she has blended into the department with ease!





THE ROOF

After his leading role in *Les Miserables*, **Joe Wiltshire Smith** again excelled in a performance that showed excellent comic timing, powerful physical status, emotionally poignant monologues and mature stage craft whilst owning the stage and captivating audiences with his fantastic singing voice





FIDDLER ON THE ROOF CONTINUED



THE PERFORMANCE RAN FROM WED 1ST – 4TH FEB TO HUGE AUDIENCES THAT PROVIDED THE PUPILS WITH THE FINAL PIECE IN THE PUZZLE!

After his leading role in Les Miserables, Joe Wiltshire Smith again excelled in a performance that showed excellent comic timing, powerful physical status, emotionally poignant monologues and mature stage craft whilst owning the stage and captivating audiences with his fantastic singing voice.



Special mention must go to Cath Walters and Harmony Millar in their final year, again applying their mature and by now experienced acting and singing skills to their leading roles Golde and Hodel.

A highlight of the show must be the huge Chorus numbers, namely 'Tradition' and 'To Life' songs that brought out the humour, excitement and energy of this hugely talented group of pupils.

The Chorus made this year's production, and without the efforts of the crew and backstage team, the show would not have been such a success.

The hours, in fact DAYS that go into these shows requires dedication, commitment, energy and focus all of which Miss Hardwick developed and encouraged in the cast and production team! Thanks Miss!

The show was more than worthy of the standing ovations! Well done! 'To Life!'



Drama

This year we say goodbye to our dedicated year 13 leavers

Cath Walters

Harmony Millar

Sophie Howe

Nathan Wootton

Jack Bravery

Chloe Carson

Andrew McQueen

Dylan Griffiths

Phillip Pickett

Christopher Hontoire

Peter Greenwood

Lucy Millership

Rachel Tayler

Hannah Eve Thomas-Peters

Kath Owen

Suzanne Owen

Hannah Skidmore

Grace Reynolds

Jack Davies

Callum Pearsall

Owen Thomas

Rhys Waring

Good Luck in all that you do!

Mr Smith

BTEC Performing Arts – Aladdin Tour 2011

A cast of five people, a van packed to the brim, more technical equipment than ever before, eight primary schools, bright colourful costumes, makeup, a wooden set, projection screen, tea and Ben...pretty much sums up the BTEC Performing Arts 2011 tour of Aladdin. On the frosty morning of December, the BTEC's made history for the most equipment to leave the school in years, and the heaviest. Never before has a panto tour set been made out of wood! And if anyone dares to say that BTEC is soft hand approach, they might want to try building a projection screen in the middle of an eight foot set...and lugging it through a primary schools corridor, which for the record is mighty narrow. We had it all, from screaming infants to dancing teachers. It's fair to say, one of the most eventful, draining and yet bizarre couple of weeks we have ever endured.

By Ryan Jenkins (Year 12)

Andrew McQueen (Aladdin) "The kids were brilliant, and they all loved it!"

Ryan Jenkins (Abanazar) "Only in panto can an actor be reduced to sitting down within a scene, by screaming children" Kieran Bluck (Window Twanky) "Walking down John Street and having kids shout "Hello Twanky, Where's Your Hanky?!" ...brilliant"

Leah Richards (Genie, Empress and Slave) "Getting into a freezing van at 8am...was it worth it? Oh yes!"

Chloe Carson (Jasmine) "Amazing! Was very excited to be asked to join for the tour!"

BTEC Performing Arts – Song and Dance Evening 2011

Another year, and the BTEC Performing Arts updates their members, and with every year comes a different feel. This year Kieran Bluck and Ryan Jenkins joined the course and brought...well...something new indeed! This year's goal is to make BTEC bigger and better, but no one expected it to have started so soon. The first project being the annual tradition of the "BTEC's Song and Dance Evening", where normally everyone sat and listened to the same old songs, performed in the traditional all black uniforms. Not this

year. We had clowns, circus music and more comedy than ever before! The audiences were dazed by the amount of acts three boys could fit into an hour. Costumes changes...Pfft...you don't know the meaning of the word! Now we look on to the year ahead, and if its anything like what we started with...be afraid, be very very afraid...Because the BTEC's are coming to town! ...wow, that was cheesy. BTEC (Year 12 & 13)

YEAR 12 Theatre Trip Bridgend College

On the 10th November, the Year 12 Drama Class took part in an educational trip to Bridgend College as part of the 14-19 Consortium, to see a performance based on a segment of William Shakespeare's life. The primary purpose of the piece was to give the audience insight into Shakespeare's supposedly relationship issues with his father and peers.

'Overall it was highly enjoyable and entertaining' – Harvey Jones

'It gave me a better understanding of Shakespeare, I thoroughly enjoyed it!'

Caris Ferrari-Lane.

YEAR 12 Theatre Trip Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama

On the 8th September, 6th Form Drama students took a trip to the Richard Burton Theatre at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, to watch fellow students in a performance of Welsh history – the migration of Welsh people to Patagonia in South America – as part of the National Youth Theatre of Wales annual touring production.

Our trip didn't start off as planned, as the mini bus decided to break down we ended up spending most of the afternoon on the hard shoulder of the M4 motorway in-between Pencoed and Llantrisant.

However, when we eventually arrived we did get to see some of the second act and our friends Natasja Bryant, Joe Wiltshire Smith and ex student Corey Bridgeman show off their stuff, which was fab! The level of talent was outstanding and the set and performance style was really creative. We even had time to stop for some tea on the way back. It was eventful to say the least but very worthwhile.

Rebecca Brown & Rebecca Hurn (Year 12)



The Seagull Has Landed

During October half term, a flock of Porthcawl Seagulls took a bite out of The Big Apple.



Day five saw us take in Universal Studios and experience the Wizarding World of Harry Potter visiting Hogwarts castle and the shops of Hogsmeade.

The forty four disciples, (it was nearly was only forty three but the visa was accepted) of Mrs Mackey and Ms Davies landed in New York for a very Educational Visit! And oh yes! with a little retail therapy thrown in.

For many of us it was our first visit to The Big Apple and the 'well worn' tourist trail of familiar landmarks from films, books, etc was duly trodden; Central Park -awesome, Brooklyn Bridge, Harlem, Greenwich Village -awesome; Statue Of Liberty, Ellis Island - awesome; Empire State Building and the Sky Ride simulator -awesome; Times Square – you've guessed it-awesome! But amongst these wonders of New York,

a last visit to the Freedom Tower at the site of Ground Zero where the World Trade Centre once stood proudly, was a very sombre experience.

Finally, and only finally, on to 'The Church' of Abercrombie and Fitch on Fifth Avenue where parents' dollars flowed like confetti without even a thought of exchange rates or the credit crunch.

When we had our fill of The Big Apple it was imperative in our itinerary for some R and R (Rest and Recreation) in the hotter climes. Mickey here we come!





Jetting down to Orlando in the early hours after a very interesting morning start on the 4th day of the trip. Forty four pale and freckly bodies braved it in the pool in Orlando, Florida.

'Lo and behold' Mickey was still looking good even at 84 years and Disney's fireworks and his 'Not so Scary' Halloween party were spectacular.

Day five saw us take in Universal Studios and experience the Wizarding World of Harry Potter visiting Hogwarts castle and the shops of Hogsmeade.

On to the next, where would seagulls want to visit? SeaWorld of course and the flock descended. An inexplicable event occurred at SeaWorld- so much fun was had by a small group of sixth formers, and we know it is difficult to believe, but their watches actually all stopped at the same time and they were unlucky, to be only marginally late at the meeting point, honest! To be greeted warmly and with understanding by our compassionate members of staff. All was forgotten and forgiven though after a whirlwind dash around Mall Millenia and the parting of many more dollars and the accumulation of many more purchases. How many pairs of Ugg boots came home to Wales?

All the 'Seagulls' who landed (again it was very nearly only 43) had a very Educational Visit and it only remains to say a big Diolch yn fawr to Mrs Mackey, Ms Davies, Miss Painter and Mrs Rose.

Adam Mounce and Dan Evans.



The Marines visit Food Technology

The marines came to visit us for the day, while they were here they explained their roles, also they showed us their ration packs and talked about their experience within the navy and marines.

While talking, they chose some pupils to help make 'crème fraiche chicken'. They chop onions, chilli and mushrooms to create the dish we all then tasted.

We all had good time and it made us all consider what jobs are available within the food industry and that it is better to stay on at school and get the qualifications to go higher in a job.

Hannah Weaver 10JM



It's a Fair Cop!

(L to R) Alex Hunt, Lauren Pugh, Lydia Pickett, Hee Chan Kang and Michael Thomas.

On Friday, 18th November, five members of year 8 (Alex Hunt, Hee-Chan Kang, Lydia Pickett, Lauren Pugh, Michael Thomas), took part in a Drug and Health Safety quiz which was held in the Pavilion. It was a competition which six schools took part in and the questions asked were based on what we had learned from set booklets.

The competition consisted of six rounds and the questions were very difficult but we managed to answer most of them. It was very competitive and was very heated.

We started slowly and didn't manage to do so well in the first round but soon we were working as a team and started to catch up rapidly. We then had some really high scores and even achieved full marks in the "Ages of Law" round thanks to Lydia; who learnt all the ages.

By the end of the competition we had caught up with the other teams. Despite having very high scores in most of the rounds we fell just short of winning the competition. In the end Maesteg Comprehensive School won and we came third but we narrowly lost by three questions.

I would like to say a big thank you to Miss Evans for coaching and supporting us; Mrs. Thomas for taking us to the quiz competition and finally; the team for all their effort.

Overall, it was a great experience and I hope we have another chance like this to come in the future.

Alex Hunt and Hee Chan Kang

“Porthcawl Pals”

“Between the covers”

– an interview with
Mrs Kath Barron

Mrs Barron is Porthcawl’s librarian, catering for your every need regarding books, or anything else in ‘A’ Block library. Here are some facts about her:

What is your favourite book?

James Herbert – Fluke is brilliant, and my ultimate childhood favourite - George’s Marvelous Medicine by Roald Dahl.

Who is your favourite author?

Roald Dahl and Stephen King, I can’t put his books down!

Why did you want this job?

I have always enjoyed with children/young adults.

Is there any year which is a major problem?

Most of all of them are lovely.

What is your favourite film?

Rainman with Dustin Hoffman.



Who is your favourite singer?

No one in particular, I enjoy Thin Lizzy and Bryan Adams and believe it or not Barry Manilow!!

What is the favourite part of your job?

Working with the kids.

How long have you worked in the school for?

Since February 2011.



On Wednesday 25th January, the Modern Foreign Languages Department arranged a trip to Swansea University for a ‘Routes into Languages’ Convention.

We attended lectures on Careers with Languages (including Business, Engineering, Translation and Sciences). We also heard amazing personal accounts from five final year students about their year abroad (their experiences ranged from European Countries to South America as volunteers, students and teaching assistants).

The day was very enjoyable and also very informative. It showed that German and French are still at the forefront of the advancing European Business World and showed the importance of learning languages in this current economic climate.

By Year 13 German



Physics Christmas lectures at Swansea University

On the 6th December we went on a trip with the Physics department to Swansea University and attended two physics lectures. The first lecture was on radioactive substances like X-rays, tracers and other emissions; we use to look at the human body, which was an eye opening experience. The demonstrations to go with the lecture brought the ideas to life and made it easier to understand. The second lecture was titled “Rock guitar in 11 dimensions” and it was an introduction to String Theory. It was a difficult topic to understand but the lectures demonstrations and his musical abilities entertained and explained String Theory very well. We also got to explore the campus and got a taste of what university would be like. I would recommend everyone to go on the trip because it is well worth the experience.

By Katie Keepins, Julia Kalmuk and Emily Bluett (Year 11)

Go Green with N.V.



As an Award winning ‘Echo’ School

We do not rest on our laurels!!

The next venture was to hold our ‘Wear something Green Day’

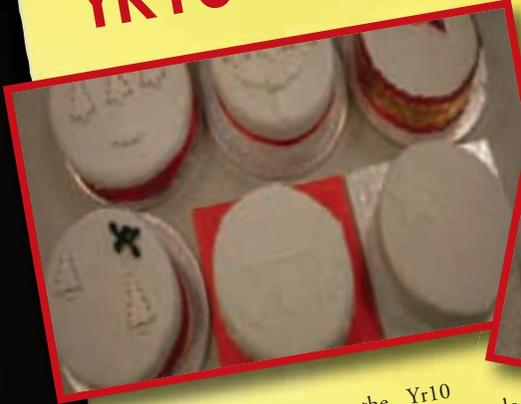
which was held on Thursday, 9th February.

All pupils were asked to wear something ‘green’ along with, on top of or even underneath school uniform!!

A donation of 50p collected from pupils helped us raise funds to sponsor acres of rainforest with ‘Rainforest Foundation’.

Green N.V.Group

YR10 Christmas Cakes



Early in November the Yr10 Catering classes and teachers made Christmas cakes, some pupils (and staff) took them home to feed with tasty liquids! During the last week of term in December we marzipanned and iced the cakes, Mrs Thomas joined us for this activity. As you can see, the results were fantastic and did many a Christmas table proud. They were really tasty too!

Laura

Senior Maths Challenge

November 2011

Eleven pupils across Years 12 and 13 had a go at the Senior Maths Challenge. This challenge is very tough for those just entering year 12. Well done to those who took part. The following pupils achieved a certificate,

Well done to

Philip Pickett Best in School and Silver Certificate

Lewis Williams and Jordi Bonet receive a Bronze Certificate.

'Stepping into the Breach'

When Mr John's knee eventually decided enough was enough, he had no option but to 'have the op'!! Worrying times, as who would look after his Year 10 pupils on their return to School in September?

That's when Miss K Owen (Assistant Tutor Year 10) stepped into the breach! I'm sure Mr John would agree that Miss Owen has done a great job and would like to thank her on behalf of all pupils in Year 10 for looking after them so well!!



In the July edition of the "Porthcawl Post" last year, I wrote about the National RE festival that had taken place in March. The Religious Studies Department had participated in a number of activities including entering a powerpoint presentation of Dan Pugh-Bevan's into a national competition being run in the festival. Dan's powerpoint had originally been done as a GCSE homework on the theme of "selling the idea of God".

At the time of the July edition we still did not know if Dan had been successful or not, but I am really pleased to say that not only was Dan's entry considered to be the best in his category, but it also won the overall national prize and in so doing

won £200 for the Religious Studies department. Dan was formally presented with the prize in November by Richard Landy, the Assistant Director of Learning and Skills in BCBC, the Rev. Edward Evans, chairman of the Bridgend Standing Advisory Council for RE, and Carys Pritchard, advisory teacher at ESIS. We decided that as Dan had done all the work, he should receive £150 of the prize money and with his collaboration, the department will use the remaining £50 to buy an artefact that will serve as a reminder of his success. Well done, Dan. A fantastic powerpoint presentation and thoroughly deserved win.



Year 10 Hospitality Cake Sale



As a class we began baking a range of cakes in our lesson. We made lots of different types of cakes like red velvet whoopie pies, gingerbread men, sweet palmiers, chocolate and orange cup cakes and jam tarts. We had so much fun baking in teams and preparing for our cake sale.

The lesson before the sale we decorated our cakes, piping lovely frosting onto our cup cakes and dressing our gingerbread men. Adam and Andrew decorated G block quad and presented our cakes beautifully.

The money raised went to Children in Need. We had a banner with Pudsey the bear on it and stickers on the window, even balloons. All of the pupils running the cake sale really enjoyed making, preparing and selling the cakes.

Thank you very much to Mrs Steer and Miss Thelwell.

Adam Jones 10TL

THE MONEY RAISED WENT TO CHILDREN IN NEED



Bridgend Young Consumer of the Year Competition

On Friday 18th November a quiz team consisting of Robyn Wilkins, India Rees, Dan Evans and Adam Mounce was invited to compete in the Bridgend Young Consumer of the Year Competition held at Bridgend Civic Offices.

Five strong local teams competed for the coveted prize: Porthcawl Comprehensive, St. Clare's School,

Brynteg Comprehensive, Archbishop McGrath and Cynffig Comprehensive.

After a hard fought contest, with the lead changing after each round, it was still 'neck and neck' between the strongest teams, Porthcawl, St Clare's and Cynffig.

It came down to the wire with a couple of 'killer questions' in the

last round, with staff and supporters on 'tenterhooks', there wasn't a nail left unbitten in the place but the final questions separated the 3 top teams. Would you know the answer to this question with only 10 seconds and no conferring? What colour is the neutral wire in a plug? Yellow and green, NO! It was blue. Distaught

we were! A gallant third. Congratulations to the winners St. Clare's and second team Cynffig.

It was an exciting and close quiz competition and great just to be part of it. A 'big up' to Miss Morgan and Mrs. L. Evans (Business Studies) for coaching us and their support.

Adam Mounce 12HC





Zoolab comes to school

Young Enterprise Trip to IKEA

Friday 2nd December 2011

'The Hawkers' Young Enterprise Team attended the IKEA Christmas Fayre on 2nd December 2011. The team manufactured scented candles to sell at the Trade Fayre and made a profit of around £80.00. This involved purchasing raw materials and making the products which they thought would sell well over the festive period.

Members of the Young Enterprise Team enjoyed the day and made very good contacts with other schools regarding their product. The team thought

The team manufactured scented candles to sell at the Trade Fayre and made a profit of around £80.00.

the day was a success and more importantly all Directors improved skills such as communicating with customers, team work, selling and promotional techniques.

Their Business Advisor Karen Whittle from HSBC Porthcawl was very impressed with the team's hard work and performance on the day. Following the event the Directors attended Christmas Fayre's at two schools from the local area and made more sales.

The team are going to invest the profits made into Research and Development of a new product. They are attending the University of Glamorgan Training Event on February 8th 2012 and attending the Young Enterprise Final on 29th March 2012.

Good Luck

Years 7, 8, 9 and the Sixth Form had a lovely experience with the animal handler and the animals from Zoolab with a few 'oohs' and 'ahhs' (and maybe a few 'EEKS!').

There were Giant Snails, Corn Snakes, two adorable rats called 'Noah' and 'Splinter', Cockroaches, a Giant Millipede, and a Tarantula called Tracy. We got to hold and stroke some of the amazing animals and we got to test our bravery.

We had a great time with the weird and wonderful creatures and learnt a lot about them. We all hope that there will be another opportunity to meet the animals again soon!

Report by Berry Williams and Daniel Song



There were Giant Snails, Corn Snakes, two adorable rats called 'Noah' and 'Splinter', Cockroaches, a Giant Millipede, and a Tarantula called Tracy.



School Canteen Menu | 2012

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Monday 	Salmon nuggets or Chicken Ball Seasonal Vegetables Rice or Oven wedges <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Chili con carne or baked fish Peas or baked beans Rice and Potato wedges <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Chicken Korma Wholegrain rice and salad Baked fish New potatoes or oven cooked wedges Seasonal vegetables <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad
Tuesday 	Pork Chops with apple sauce or Sausage with Yorkshire pudding Roast or Creamed potatoes Seasonal vegetables <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Meat balls in tomato sauce Cottage pie with Cheese topping Seasonal vegetables <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Chicken and leek hotpot Fishcakes and mixed salad Seasonal vegetables <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad
Wednesday 	Spaghetti Bolognese Barbequed Chicken New Potatoes or Seasonal vegetables <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Farmhouse Grill Beef Lasagne New and Roast potatoes, vegetables <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Chicken Chasseur Ham and Tomato pasta bake New or Jacket potatoes Seasonal vegetables <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad
Thursday 	Bacon chops with parsley sauce Roast turkey and stuffing Roast and new potatoes Seasonal vegetables <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Roast Turkey with stuffing Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding Roast and creamed potatoes Seasonal vegetables. <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding Roast Turkey with stuffing Roast potatoes Seasonal Vegetables <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad
Friday 	Oven baked Cod Sweet and sour chicken Brown rice Oven cooked wedges Peas or baked beans <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Beef burger in a bun Baked fish and salad Oven cooked wedges Peas or baked beans <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad	Baked Cod Chicken Rogan Josh Wholegrain rice and salad. Oven cooked wedges Peas or baked beans <i>Vegetarian Option</i> Assorted desserts and fresh fruit salad

GLAMORGAN VALLET CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Wednesday 1st February 2012 we made a second attempt of attending the Glamorgan Valley Cross Country Championships, after it being postponed in December due to torrential rain. The championship was again a tough challenge for the young athletes, this time it was freezing conditions making the running difficult. We arrived with over 50 athletes in all ages

categories. All athletes give off their best and as a result we had a few team successes (top 4 athletes). In the Junior Girls category we finished in 2nd place and in the Middle Boys category finished in 3rd place. This was thanks to some excellent individual performances of which the three top finishers in each age category are listed below:

Year 7 Girls (99 runners)

Katie Hill	– 25th Place
Rebecca Kelly	– 26th Place
Nia Bowen	– 27th Place

Year 7 Boys (88 runners)

Harry NICHOLLS	– 14th Place
Laurence HUNT	– 24th Place
Mit RUSSELL	– 30th Place

Year 8 & 9 Girls (95 runners)

Felicity WILLIAMSON-SARLL	– 8th Place
Leah THOMAS	– 11th Place
Sarah SPENCER	– 28th Place

Year 8 & 9 Boys (100 runners)

Robert DAVIS	– 19th Place
Cameron BEST	– 32nd Place
Cameron REES	– 38th Place

Year 10 & 11 Girls (55 runners)

Hollie Short	– 6th Place
Olivia NORRIS	– 11th Place
Katie Robers	– 20th Place

Year 10 & 11 Boys (81 runners)

Morgan Thomas	– 6th Place
Harry JENKINS	– 14th Place
Owen LEARY	– 26th Place

Senior Boys

Morgan Davies	– 1st Place
Tom Davis	– 2nd Place
Jack Couch	– 3rd Place

Dyslexia Awareness Week November 2011

Dyslexia Awareness week was fun. In some lessons we had quizzes and puzzles. We did competitions on poetry and we made posters. I won!

Dyslexia Awareness week is when teachers tell you about Dyslexia. There are loads of people with

Dyslexia and there are lots of pupils with Dyslexia in Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

DYSLEXIC, like me!

Dyslexia isn't a problem

You just need to find other ways of doing things,

Simply find things you are good at,

Like running and drawing,

Everyone thinks it's hard,

Xexcept the dyslexic

Look at me,

I'm dyslexic

And you always see me smiling!

By Calum Daily 8AW

A lovely time was had by all during Dyslexia Awareness Week in November 2011. We played lots of games and had a number of competitions.

I'd like to say a big 'thank-you' to all the members of staff who acted upon the information given and who used some of the Dyslexia friendly classroom tips with their pupils.

Christine Rose
(Specialist Dyslexia Teacher)

Dance News

Congratulations to Elise Thomas and Tara Phillips who competed with Popstars Dance Club in The Essex Street Dance Championships in November 2011. The pair beat off stiff competition to win 1st place in The Duo dance and were then placed 2nd in the team performance.

Well done to both for what were clearly outstanding performances!!

Miss H. Davies

P.E. Department



Pupil Achievements

Many congratulations go to the following:-

Allie Young

Selected for training - Wales Women's U14 County Netball

Selected for Wales Women's U17 Football Team

Youngest player to be capped by Wales at two different levels

Angharad John

Selected for British Squad Training Camp – Barbados

Welsh Junior Girls Champion (U18)

Ben Vance-Daniel

Winning team - Glamorgan County Golf Championships

Bethan Brooks

Sea Cadets Course

Cameron Morris

Winning team - Glamorgan County Golf Championships

Dan Pugh-Bevan

3rd Place – Rotary Club Young Musician

Welsh National Youth Choir – Albert Hall

S4C – Played organ in Welsh Songs of Praise

Elise Thomas

1st Place – Essex Street Dance Duo

2nd Place – Team Performance

George Beale

Winning team –Glamorgan County Golf Championships

Hannah Jenkins

Tang Soo Do

Gold medal – Form

Silver – Sparring

Isabel Humphries

Black Belt – Tang Soo Do.

Gold Medal – Tang Soo Do

Silver – Tang Soo Do Championships – Amsterdam

Gold – Tang Soo Do Championships – Amsterdam

Jacob David

Bronze medal – Pool Lifesaving

Jacob Prosser

Winning team - Glamorgan County Golf Championships

James Evans-Jones

Represented Porthcawl Youth Centre in BCBC Talent Show

Keland Phinnemore

3rd Place – Junior Welsh Dragon Open Water Swim

Kieran Richards

100% Attendance Years 7 - 11

Kyle Richards

100% Attendance Years 7 – 11

Lewis Scott

The Artful Dodger – Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society

Lora Roberts

Gold – Athletics Welsh Championships

9th Place – AAA's combined events in Stoke

3rd Place Representing Wales in SIAB combined events in Glasgow

Lucy Millership

2nd Place – Rotary Club Young Musician

Owen Leary

1st Place – Junior Welsh Dragon Open Water Swim

Rhodri Booth

Winning team –Glamorgan County Golf Championships

Robyn Wilkins

Played for Ospreys U18's Ladies Rugby Team

Played for Wales U18's 7's Ladies Rugby Team

Welsh Academy - Selected to train with women's Welsh Team

Chosen to play for U18 County Netball Team

Scott Pedersen

2 Gold Medals – Kickboxing

British Champion

Sophie Howe

1st Place – Rotary Club Young Musician

2nd Place – Young Musician Finals

Tara Phillips

1st – Essex Street Dance Duo

2nd – Team Perform

Tom Furneaux

Winning team - Glamorgan County Golf Championship

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Has your child achieved success or recognition relating to an extra-curricular activity? If so, please contact Mrs Wallace at school (Tel:01656 774194) to let her know.

Design - HathaGraphics 01558 822433



Porthcawl
Post

www.porthcawlschool.co.uk

