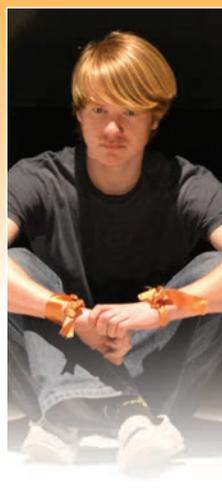


Welcome to the third edition of the **Porthcawl Post** for the school year 2011-2012



# Porthcawl Post

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter ~ Summer 2012



## Headteacher's Address

Amazingly, another academic year has flown by and as the term draws to a close we reflect on the many and varied successes of our young people over the school year 2011/12.

The school's successes are judged by many in a whole range of ways but first and foremost it is our young people's success in learning that is important and will serve them best for the future.

That is why last summer's examination results remain in the memory as a true highlight.

Pupils in Year 11 smashed the 80% barrier (82%) of the national measurement of five or more A\* - C at GCSE level not only representing an all time school record but an achievement that no other school has accomplished in the history of the borough.

Add to this fact that a staggering number of thirty-four students gained eight or more GCSEs at grade A\*/A with some getting nine, ten and eleven GCSEs at this top level. It's no wonder the school was placed in the top band, Band 1, in the Welsh Government's new system of grading schools.

This school year has been a year of awards. These have included the International Eco Green Flag Award, the Healthy Schools Award Wales, the Wales Careers Quality Mark, the BECTA ICT Quality

Standard, the Welsh Heritage Award scheme, a SACRE award in Religious Education, the Investors in People Bronze Standard and the top grade in National Food Standards and Hygiene Assessment in our food provision.

Well done again to all pupils and staff in gaining such impressive success at national level.

Again my reflections of the school year 2011/12 are woven with many happy memories of highly successful cultural, social, performing, musical and sporting events that were held throughout the year.

These included our carol service, our school show, 'Fiddler on the Roof', our Eisteddfod, various B-Tec and other drama performances and the huge range of sporting events including rugby, cross country, basketball, tennis, netball, hockey and dance at local, national and international level to name a few.

We anticipate viewing an impressive range of achievements in track and field at our sports day to be held in Swansea on 13th July 2012.

The school Governors have had another very busy year under the Chairmanship of Mrs M Carlson and Vice Chair, Mrs A Thomas. The Governing Body has welcomed some new Governors to the school and together they have been providing the important vision, direction and policy decisions affecting the school.

Again my reflections of the school year 2011/12 are woven with many happy memories of highly successful cultural, social, performing, musical and sporting events that were held throughout the year

At this time of year we say farewell to a number of people both young and older. To the pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 who are leaving this summer to take up employment, training and further and higher education we wish them every success for the future. We also extend our best wishes to a number of staff who retire this summer. Look out for our special 'retirement feature' contained in this edition of the post.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking parents, pupils and staff for their continued support.

I wish you all a warm and pleasant summer.

**K Dykes**  
Headteacher.

# Housekeeping News



As we all returned to school after Easter there were some noticeable changes to greet all. During the break we completely refurbished two of our Science rooms. Rooms G19 and G20 are now brand new with new flooring, furniture, ceilings and lights. Also G20 has twenty computers installed to enhance teaching. Our aim is that the students will be able to 'data log' and record equipment results in 'real time'. Room G14 has had new work surfaces, sinks and taps so is ready for a few more years yet. As a school we feel our learners respond well to a quality environment. We are so lucky that our students value and look after the school, so instead of repairs we can invest in their futures.

I do hope many of you read our recent articles in the 'Gem' newspaper. We were delighted to show our success with the community of pastoral and beyond. It is very rewarding to share good news stories with the media. I hope you agree with me that the articles illustrate the contribution our students make to their community. A school merely reflects its community and we are delighted by the number and range of contributions our young people have made.

I should like to touch upon the issue of sickness and signing out of school. If your child is taken ill at school s/he must report to the first aid person, Mrs Dee. I would discourage the practice of children telephoning parents to collect them. This practice can lead to confusion with attendance as we are then not sure of a child's location.

On a similar theme please ensure your child has a note if they need to sign out. We accept fully that appointments sometimes have to be made in the school day. However, children who do not sign out correctly will appear as 'missing' which causes us problems. Once again it has been a long and very demanding four weeks. Thanks very much for your valued continued support.

A Slade - Deputy Headteacher

## 100% ATTENDANCE AWARDS CEREMONY



This year, the school was extremely proud to receive invitations for two of our pupils to visit the Senedd in Cardiff, to receive awards for their excellent attendance. The two pupils, twins Kyle and Kieran Richards, were invited to attend this presentation for achieving 100% attendance throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, i.e. from the start of Year 7 to the end of year 11.

Mr. Phil Morgan from Careers Wales, which manages the Compact initiative through its Education Business Partnership, chaired the ceremony and explained the significance of good attendance and how it boosts young people's employability skills.

Mr. Morgan then introduced the guest speaker, ex-Welsh rugby international, Rhys Williams, before the Minister for Education, Mr. Leighton Andrews, presented the awards. Following the presentation, Kyle and Keiran, along with other recipients, were treated to a guided tour of the Senedd before enjoying a well deserved buffet.

## Children, Sexuality and Sexualisation

On the 20th of April, members of Porthcawl Comprehensive School Council attended a Conference in Cardiff University. The conference was entitled "Children, Sexuality and Sexualisation" and it aimed to explore the role of Sex, Relationship Education (SRE) in schools.

When we arrived we were led into a large lecture theatre and listened to a number of lectures about how society is making kids grow up too fast and how teenagers have a certain body image forced on them. This discussion around Growing up sexually as a children's rights and equalities issue was led by Keith Towler (Children's Commissioner for Wales) and Gwenda Thomas (Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, Welsh Government).

Then there were talks on "What do we know about young sexualities and sexualisation?" by Emma Renold, Cardiff University; "Sexting", Sexualisation and Young People by Jessica Ringrose (IoE, University of London) and "Parents, Sex and Sexualisation" by Sara Bragg, Open University. There were many challenges to assumptions around the delivery and content of the subjects as well as an opportunity to look at the many sexualised images in advertising, music and other media.

The first of two short drama presentations called "Enough" by Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr delivered anti-homophobic messages. The second parodied the popular TV show "Snog, Marry, Avoid" by taking a teenager and vamping her up; so asking

the question "Where are the boys in 'girl power'?" This explored the message of self esteem and self worth. Then we went on to attend workshops that we had earlier signed up for. These included:

- **Your Views:** shaping the WAG cross-party group 'Childhood, Sexuality, Sexualisation and Equalities' (led by AM member Jocelyn Davies, Keith Towler and Emma Renold)
- **Size matters:** Can policy really change practice? (led by Anita Pilgrim and Sarah Oerton, Glamorgan University) - Using creative resources: an LGBT drama workshop (Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr)
- **Fears on the frontline:** teaching and learning SRE in schools (led by Cheryl Joscelyn, Senior Health Promotion Specialist)
- **What's it like to deliver a peer-led SRE lesson** (Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr)
- **Combating young gender-based violence** (Rebekah Burns, Cardiff Women's Aid)

We all attended different workshops, some were about policy, others looked at the aims of SRE, a perfect tutor period and the role of peer education. Overall we all thoroughly enjoyed the day and all came away with tons of information to help make our PSE lessons better.

Megan Goldberger

# RETIREMENTS

## MRS ANNE HINTON



Mrs Anne Hinton has served as a cleaner in Porthcawl Comprehensive School for thirteen years and in this time has witnessed many changes to the cleaning team. She has earned the envious record of being one of the

most conscientious, hard working and careful workers in the school. All employees are important to the smooth running and functioning of the school and without the good work of people such as Mrs Hinton the school could not remain open. Anne is known not only for her timeless efforts maintaining the hygiene and cleanliness of the school but also for her outgoing, cheerful and caring personality for those with whom she comes into contact.

We will all miss the melody of her Irish accent as she finally retires after an impressive period of commitment to the school over many years.

## MRS WENDY MULVANY

This summer has brought the retirement of another very important employee in ensuring the support and assistance of our young people. Mrs Wendy Mulvany has served in the Science Faculty for 5 years as a Science Technician. Her role has been crucial in ensuring resources and apparatus are prepared in advance for pupils conducting experiments or having their skills tested in science practicals.



Mrs Mulvany's skills of meticulous care and accuracy have ensured that students have better understood scientific phenomena and gained maximum grades in practical exercises in science. We wish Mrs Mulvany a healthy and happy retirement.

## MRS LINDA EVANS



Mrs Linda Evans was appointed to the school in 1994 and has been a member of the Business Studies department throughout this time. She has taught Business Studies, Applied Business, Economics and

Sociology at GCSE and 'A' level over her career. During her time at Porthcawl, Mrs Evans has immersed herself in many aspects of school life and has accompanied students over many years in a wide range of business based competitions and projects not least the 'Young Enterprise' initiative in which pupils achieved national recognition. More recently, Mrs Evans has been overseeing the Business Studies department as Head of Department. She has been responsible for inspiring students over many years to go on and pursue a career in the field of business and economics.

Impressive though this has been, it may possibly be for the pastoral care of pupils that Mrs Evans will be best remembered. Over her career she has consistently shown a care and concern for the students in her charge. Equally, pupils have responded with respect and affection for Mrs Evans and the many 'thank-you' cards and presents often evident in her classroom are a small indication of the regard in which she is held. Mrs Evans officially retires from her post this summer but has characteristically demonstrated her unflinching commitment to her students by asking to return in September to ensure her Year 12 pupils are guided and supported through their course to completion in Year 13. We wish her a happy retirement whilst at the same time look forward to seeing her in the next academic year on an informal part-time basis.

## MR JOHN MURDOCH

Mr John Murdoch will leave the school this summer after 34 years' service. During his time at Porthcawl Mr Murdoch has been not only an exceptional teacher of German but has guided colleagues as Head of Department and Head of Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages. Further to this he has served on the Governing Body of the school as teacher representative.



As a result of the good management and promotion of the German language by Mr Murdoch in Porthcawl Comprehensive school over many years, successive generations of students have not only been better equipped to visit mainland Europe but some have gone on to study the language at university and then pursue a career in language. Indeed Mr Murdoch has not left pupils' visits to mainland Europe to chance. Again over several decades he has organised educational excursions to foreign parts for pupils so they could practice their skills in German and French. Mr Murdoch's influence on education has not stopped there. As Senior Mentor for student teachers, Mr Murdoch has been instrumental in planning and co-ordinating professional experiences for student teachers entering a career in teaching. The programme devised by Mr Murdoch was highly

commended by universities training a new generation of teachers and the students themselves always provided positive feedback on the level of support and guidance offered by Mr Murdoch.

Mr Murdoch will be sorely missed for many reasons but one stands out for its uniqueness. This relates to his frequent appearance in the annual school show at the Pavilion. Audiences over several years have been treated to the acting and singing skills of Mr Murdoch as he played leading roles in a variety of performances along with pupils. This, together with his loss from the senior school choir, is irreplaceable. Mr Murdoch will be missed by all at Porthcawl and we wish him a very happy retirement.

## MRS DAPHNE EVANS

It is with fond sadness that we say farewell to Mrs Daphne Evans as she retires from the Science department of the school. Mrs Evans commenced her career in teaching twenty-six years ago and has been Head of Biology/Science since 1999 at Porthcawl. Biology has flourished under Mrs Evans' watchful care, growing in popularity and examination success year on year.



Mrs Evans' professional influence has been felt beyond the boundaries of the school in her very important role as team leader in the formulation and marking of the AS/A2 examinations with the WJEC.

She is much sought after by this and other examination boards for her knowledge and expertise in her subject. Mrs Evans who began her working life as a successful pharmacological research officer has been instrumental in the impressive take-up levels of her subject at KS4 and KS5 with countless students testifying to the enjoyment and rewards they have gained in their studies.

Mrs Evans has shown total commitment to Porthcawl Comprehensive School over her thirteen years at the school both in and out of the classroom. She has planned, organised and led many trips to the USA and other destinations and in recent years established a very successful Gardening Club developing a busy and fruitful allotment in the school grounds. She has been one of the schools' most effective form teachers having taken responsibility for students under her care in the sixth form. She has consistently demonstrated an interest in her form class and ensured that the UCAS process and the preparation for university applications have had her full support.

Mrs Evans will be very much missed when she retires this summer and we all wish her a happy and enjoyable retirement as she is able to spend more time with her grandchildren.

# Eisteddfod 2012

Cynhaliwyd Eisteddfod yr Ysgol eleni ym mis Mawrth yn y Pafiliwn. Yn y bore cynhaliwyd yr Eisteddfod Uwch ac ar Ôl cinio yr Eisteddfod Iau. Roedd cystadleuthau o bob math, yn cynnwys canu, dawnsio, adrodd ac actio. Braf oedd gweld safon uchel y performwyr a brwdfrydedd y disgyblion oedd yn cefnogi eu tai. Longyfarchiadau arbennig i enillwyr y Gadair a'r prif wobrau. Rhaid diolch i'r beirniaid am eu cyfraniad gwerthfawr ac i staff yr ysgol sydd yn cynorthwyo bob blwyddyn. Eleni y tŷ llwyddiannus oedd Morgannwg. Longyfarchiadau iddyn nhw.

This was Mr. Dykes' last school Eisteddfod. Our thanks go to him for his enthusiastic support of this important event to celebrate Welsh culture. Diolch yn fawr!

**Mrs. A. Weedon** (Head of Welsh)

The school has held a very successful Eisteddfod in the Pavilion on the 9th March. The whole school participated, senior school for the morning session and juniors for the afternoon.

The whole event was an extravaganza of young talent in traditional and non traditional competitions. At the end of the day the following results were arrived at:

## Overall Eisteddfod:

- 1st Morgannwg 762
- 2nd Powys 739
- 3rd Dyfed 544
- 4th Gwynedd 522

## Choir competition:

- 1st Morgannwg
- 2nd Gwynedd
- 3rd Powys/ Dyfed

## Junior Eisteddfod Champion:

- 1st Anna Arrieta (Dyfed)

## Senior Eisteddfod Champion:

- 1st Joe Wiltshire Smith (Morgannwg)

## Senior Drama Competition:

- 1st Ellie Rosser Stanford (Dyfed)

## Winner of the Junior Welsh Chair:

Megan Goldberger (Morgannwg)

## Winner of the Junior English Chair:

Sophia Mathews (Morgannwg)

## Winner of the Senior Welsh Chair:

Hope Dabernig (Dyfed)

## Winner of the Senior English Chair:

Tom Parsons (Powys)

The highlight was the fanfare of trumpets that greeted the charring ceremony. In their ceremonial robes the winners were chaired and 'peace' declared with the 'sword sheathed' for another year.

# Sixty years our Queen



On 6th February 1952, George VI died after a long illness. His eldest daughter Elizabeth Alexandra Mary became his successor to the throne. She is the constitutional monarch of 16 Commonwealth countries; she is the supreme governor of the Church of England; and she is the second longest reigning British monarch, after Queen Victoria. Here is a list of some of the major events of her reign:

Born 1926 - Married Prince Philip, 1947

Children: Charles (b.1948), Anne (b.1950), Andrew (b.1960), Edward (b.1964)

Grandchildren: William (b.1982), Harry (b.1984), Peter Phillips (b.1977), Zara Phillips (b.1981), Beatrice (b.1988), Eugenie (b.1990), Louise (b.2003) and James (b.2007).

- 1954 Roger Bannister runs a mile in under four minutes.
- 1955 Disneyland opens.
- 1966 England wins the Football World Cup for the first (and only) time.
- 1969 Men walk on the moon for the first time.
- 1971 The first commercial video game is invented.
- 1974 Post-it notes are invented.
- 1984 The first Apple Macintosh computer is invented.
- 1990 The World Wide Web is invented.
- 2001 First artificial heart is put in a patient.
- 2004 Adidas invent trainers with a built in microprocessor that decides how soft or firm support the wearer needs.
- 2005 You Tube is founded.
- 2011 Prince William married his sweetheart Kate Middleton - the ceremony is the most watched event in the world, ever.
- 2012 Britain hosts the Olympic Games; it's the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration.

In fact, in 1952, Princess Elizabeth (as she then was) was a young mother of two children, Charles and Anne. She was with her husband, the dashing Prince Philip, in Kenya, in Africa, when the news came that her beloved father, George VI, had died. Can you imagine how she must have felt? She would have had to travel that long journey home, knowing that not

only did she have to go to the funeral of her dear father, but that she was now Queen, and had to lead the country. That's a very big job indeed for a 25 year old young woman.

The Queen has never seen her special role as just a job: to her it's her duty to lead the country and to meet her people as much as she can. So what does the Queen herself say about her role in Britain?

'I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else - I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations'. (Christmas broadcast 1957)

The Diamond Jubilee Committee of Porthcawl sent a presentation party including Mr Lindsay Morgan, Lord Kenfig, Mrs Barbara Stubbs and Mr Bill Stubbs representing Porthcawl Council; Mr Gary Victor, Porthcawl SHOUT Chairman; Clive Mort Publicity Officer; and members Terry (Sinbad) Davies, Victor Davies and Tony Schofield to issue a medal to ever pupil in the school commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. They met with representatives from the school council, the Head team and every year group to present the medals. Then in assemblies we presented all pupils with these medals as we looked at the life and reign of our Queen of sixty years - the second longest amount of time that any king or queen has sat on the throne of our country. Queen Elizabeth II has executed her duties for with grace and smiles and unending dedication to duty. **We are proud to celebrate her many achievements this year.**

**N Thomas** (Assistant Headteacher)





## Alice in Wonderland

In year twelve, we do community action, where one of the options could be to visit an old folks' home and play backgammon, or help in a maths lesson. So there I am, wondering what on earth I'm going to do.....year eight and nine drama club every Tuesday lunchtime! Tidy, I'll help with a couple of games, maybe make some scenes.....sorted!

Three months later, I'm sweating like a pig, running round with thirty kids calling me for help, gathering the final props for a full production...wow, "Ryan mun" it's happened again!

At 6.05pm (yeah, we ran over a bit) on Monday 30th April, the lights dimmed and over thirty year eight's and nine's filled the stage in weird and

wonderful costumes, with our lead girl Hannah Beesley playing Alice in the centre...even then I was proud. The evening brought a somewhat "darker" and "weirder" adaptation of the well known story "Alice in Wonderland".

Both nights went down a hit! Two nights of packed out audiences left smiling and amazed with the new talent Porthcawl Comprehensive has to offer in the future. To those who were in the show and reading this...Well Done! You Rocked! ...To those of you who came to watch...Thank you for coming! ...And to those who didn't...LOL you missed out! And as for me.....well.....I'm still so proud of you all!

**Ryan Jenkins** (Year 12)

## Joe Wiltshire Smith

Recently, Joe Wiltshire Smith (12LT) has been selected to join the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain. Only 50 were selected out of nearly 5,000 and Joe was chosen as one of the lucky 50! This prestigious acting course has given birth to some of Britain's most accomplished actors such as Helen Mirren and Timothy Spall. Joe will endure a six week training course at NYT campsite in Manchester preparing a show which will be toured around the UK.

The course will not be cheap and Joe is hoping to organise a fundraiser to help support his endeavour. This fundraiser will hopefully take place in the summer.

Joe has become quite a well-known name in the area due to his superb acting talent and amazing voice. He has taken the leading roles in our last two school productions, Les Miserables 2011 and Fiddler on the Roof 2012, and he is also busy outside of school with his involvement in Bridgend Youth Theatre and The Performance House, and various other projects.

We wish Joe all the very best and hope he has an amazing time and an unforgettable experience!

We will keep you posted on Joe's experience in the next edition of the Porthcawl Post!



## 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

On the 13th March the AS Drama & Theatre Studies class went to see a production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Whitchurch High School, Cardiff. The whole class agreed that to see the play we were studying in performance was such a worthwhile experience and hopefully will help us to gain better marks on the written paper.

The piece was set in WW2 and the actors played their roles well and showed a good understanding of the text. The music interludes; two boys singing and one playing the ukulele, was different and helped to create a nice ambience. Overall, a very nice night out.

*'The bus ride up was excellent, featuring the acapella works of 'Sweeney Todd' and 'The Wheels on the Bus'.*

*'Chocolates were given out by the lovely Abbie and just added that extra dimension to the show.'*

**Joe Wiltshire Smith & Harvey Jones**

## Drama Trip to London

On the 29th February, very early in the morning, the Year 13 Drama Class along with Kieran Bluck, Andrew McQueen (BTEC) and Connor Watkins (Year 11) set out in the school mini-bus on a day trip



to London to see two productions; the musical 'Wicked' and a play 'The Madness of King George'.

After parking in the O2 Arena, we caught the tube to Victoria Station. Before Wicked we had an hour or two for our own personal time and a quick shop around London. Arriving at Apollo Victoria Theatre we watched the world renowned show 'Wicked', the set was spectacular, the colours and the costumes were spectacular. We sat so close to the front it was Wicked! A previous Busted member Matt Willis starred as the male lead and had many of the girls in awe!

After travelling across the West End via Covent Garden for a quick coffee, we arrived to watch 'The Madness of King George'. This intense, intellectual and historical performance didn't appeal to us as much as the musical, however we appreciated the talent we witnessed.

A big round of applause to Miss Hardwick for her expert driving skills negotiating the fog, wrong turns and finally arriving home promptly at 4am!!

**Year 13 Drama Class**

# Porthcawl C.S. Leo's Club

Recently Porthcawl C.S. Leo's Club has been helping with the Lions Club International worldwide campaign to plant over a million trees. This is to help offset the damage we inflict on the world's eco system by our actions.

Over the past few months we have contacted some local primary and comprehensive schools to see if we can help this campaign by donating trees for their grounds.

Mynydd Cynffig received their batch of trees when Leo's Michael Thomas and Likkan Chung went along to present them to the school at assembly. They presented approximately 30 trees including a batch of Blue Spruce and Japanese Larch which the School's Eco Team will nurture and plant out.

Other trees have been donated to Afon y Felin and there are plans to plant trees around the Porthcawl area as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.



## Year 11 GCSE Drama



On Thursday 19th April the Year 11 GCSE Drama Class performed their set text pieces to an outside examiner. The majority of pieces lasted between ten to twenty minutes depending on the group size. There were a variety of pieces performed and each student gave their best performance on the day. Their conduct on and off stage was exemplary. Well done everyone!!

## Year 13 Drama Practicals

On March 22nd the Year 13 Drama Class had their Practical Examination. They had to perform two pieces - a devised piece and an extract from a play.

*'I really enjoyed making Nathan's character go mad!!'*  
Mary Maloney

*'It all came together in the end!'*  
Harmony Millar

*'I liked being evil  
HA HA HA!'*  
Nathan Wootton

*'I really enjoyed myself - stressful  
at times but very rewarding.'*  
Dylan Griffiths





# GET SET...

## TEE TIME!

The Friends of Porthcawl Comprehensive (PTA) will be holding their annual Golf Day this year on Wednesday 18th July at the Grove golf Club. Tee-off times start from 12am onwards. For the 8th year in succession, we have been extremely fortunate in being able to maintain the cost of the day at £120 which includes a round of golf and a meal for a team of 4 players.

Funds raised by the Friends of PCS enrich the curriculum for every child. Your support by putting a team together, sponsoring a pupil team or providing prizes would be greatly appreciated. If you have any further enquires or would like to get involved please contact me on 01656 774186. I look forward to hearing from you

**Ms. C. Crook** - Secretary- Friends of PCS



In 2012, Olympic and Paralympic fever will grip the nation. Porthcawl Comprehensive School has been invited to join the Get Set network.

That doesn't mean we have to be sportier nor do we have to be sports fans. As a school community we have to show that we can live our lives according to the seven important values of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement...

- Friendship
- Inspiration
- Equality
- Excellence
- Respect
- Determination
- Courage

To promote the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games a competition was run for pupils to design an Olympic Torch. The winning design was by Adele Powell and Charlotte Williams (8IE). During the coming months pupils will be hosting an assembly and taking the torch on a relay around our feeder primary schools: Porthcawl, Nottage, Cornelli, Newton and Westpark.

For the work we are doing Porthcawl Comprehensive School has been acknowledged as part of the Get set Network.



## What do you want to be when you grow up?



On the 14th March Year 10 students from Porthcawl Comprehensive School attended a careers convention in Pencoed College. The purpose of the careers convention was to give us an insight into what occupations are available .

In preparation for this day we were given a booklet to show us the range of representatives and careers that would be attending the convention. A second booklet contained questions that we could ask, such as "What training is needed for this occupation?", "what further experience would be helpful if we were interested in applying for this careers?" These 'question booklets' had spaces where we could write down the answers to our questions.

When we arrived at the college, there were two halls which were filled with careers advisors and their dedicated spokesmen. There was a real "buzz" and we were able to chat to the representatives and get some "hands-on" experience, from changing a baby's nappy to applying nail art. There were many opportunities for the students to discuss certain jobs and further education with a variety of choices to please everyone. Most of the students got involved and enjoyed interacting with demonstrations of different careers. For example, learning how to deal with first aid and even feeding wildlife which had been brought in.

Overall, all students learnt something from the convention and have a better idea of what they want in the future. This has been essential as the pupils are now in the process of identifying and applying for their work experience placements for next year.

The convention has helped some pupils identify a full complement of opportunities in a range of occupations and careers.

**Mel Cuddihy & Tamara Lafferty**

## “Is Peace possible and what can we do about it?”



On the 28th January 2012, Porthcawl Rotary Club sponsored five pupils from our school who are studying Religious Studies in sixth form to attend a “Peace Conference” at Atlantic College. The conference was entitled “Is Peace possible and what can we do about it?”

The speakers were drawn from the world famous Conflict and Resolution course at Bradford University. A range of various specialists were invited to join the conference to share their experiences and offer their views on what is happening around us.

Jan Egeland, who currently serves as Deputy Executive Director of Europe for Human Rights Watch opened the conference. He gave the students ten valuable lessons from the peace processes he has been involved in, from ‘Make an effort to fully understand the conflict,’ to ‘You can only achieve peace when the parties are really ready for it’.

**Eric Kaufmann**, Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College, University of London, provided awareness into the different types of conflict we can see around the globe, and what role nationality, ethnicity and religion play in them.

**Srdja Popovic**, Executive Director of the Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS) and student leader of the non-violent protests against Milosevic in Serbia, talked about how and why non-violent protest is better than approaching a conflict violently.



**William Schabas**, Professor of International Law at Middlesex University, offered an insight into what should happen to a country once the violent conflict has ended

There were also personal testimonies and a drama presentation from students of Atlantic College that explored conflict through the theatre of the oppressed.

Overall, the students thought it was an excellent day with speakers who were passionate and knowledgeable. They felt privileged to be there.

**Mrs N Thomas**

## Rotary Club Concert

Porthcawl's Music department was delighted to be asked to perform at the ‘Rotary Club of Porthcawl’s’ annual ‘International Evening’ held on the 27th February 2012. Due to the success of the school production ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ in February 2012, pupils were then invited to perform extracts from the Jewish Musical.

Twenty pupils were involved in the evening with Joe Wiltshire Smith, Cath Walters, Tom Hunt, Harmony Millar, Cara Malorey-Vibert, Richard Evans, Sophie Howe and Dan Pugh Bevan leading the evening of song. Pupils were thrilled to have the opportunity to perform some of the iconic songs from the 1964 Broadway Musical again. Aside from ‘Fiddler on the Roof’, the Rotary Club audience were treated to an evening of Musical Theatre. Pupils performed other famous songs from Broadway and West End shows.

‘If I were A Rich Man’ gave the audience some comic relief but here were many heartfelt moments during ‘Now I have everything’, ‘Far From the Home I love’ and the superb duet ‘Do you Love Me’

The Porthcawl Performing Arts Department would also like to congratulate many pupils on their successful performances in ‘Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and dramatic society’ production of ‘The Sound of Music’ in the Pavilion. We were so proud that so many pupils were involved and showed yet again the talent that we have here in Porthcawl. Well done to all on a very successful run!

**Miss Hardwick**

## Royal Mint Visit



Sixth Form Product Design students have had the amazing and very fortunate experience to visit the Royal Mint in Llantrisant. Porthcawl was the first school to make the visit in the last 12 years. Under very tight security we were shown around the different areas of the 35 acre site.

We started at the design studios where the ideas originally begin, through development and prototyping, to final production and quality control.

It was fascinating to learn that they produce coinage for over 64 countries, producing 90 million coins and blanks a week - almost five billion coins a year. The highlight of the tour was to actually

hold the Olympic and Paralympic Medals. They are the heaviest medals ever produced for the Olympic Games. Students were allowed to hold them carefully around the edge; no one is allowed to wear an Olympic medal except for the actual winner themselves.

With the combination of state-of-the-art technology and centuries-old hand skills, each medallion is crafted to the highest quality and accuracy, capturing each minute detail of design.

We had a wonderful and very interesting day and very much look forward to seeing the awards ceremony at London 2012 to say we’ve actually held those medals!



## TIME2SHOW

Since September 2011 I have been teaching street dance to nine schoolgirls, namely, Leah Ellis, Sophie Bradbury, Angharad John, Abi Gallafant, Taylor Brooks, Cody Braham, Amy Osborne, Charlotte Evans-Jones and Katie Hill. They are now a team called 'RADIORZ'.

The girls had been rehearsing twice a week after school to prepare themselves for a fantastic routine that they were to perform at a dance competition in the Grand Pavilion. Unfortunately, the dance competition was cancelled and as the girls were very disappointed I decided to organise a show so that they could perform the dance routine they had been rehearsing so keenly.

As this was my last year teaching dance in the school I thought it would be a great idea to turn this show into a fundraising event and the money raised would be used to take the girls to Pineapple Dance Studios as a treat for all the hard work they had done. Mr Dykes very kindly allowed me to use the Jubilee Theatre when I told him that I would like to put on a fundraiser, which I turned into a variety performance.

'TIME2SSHOW', was performed on Thursday 22nd March 2012. It was a great success not only for RADIORZ, but also for the other acts that put on a wonderful performance. The acts were as follows: The Performance House, Nicky Phillips, Geraint Williams, Joe Wiltshire-Smith, Natasja Bryant, Richard Evans, Owain Miller, Cath Walters, Harmony Millar, myself, and, of course, RADIORZ.

Ruth Jones, of Gavin & Stacey fame, also supported the fundraiser by sending me a box set of the full Gavin & Stacey series signed by Ruth Jones herself for us to raffle on the night. Many thanks to Ruth for this very generous gesture. The total amount raised was a staggering £840. The day at Pineapple Dance Studios has now been booked for the 8th June 2012. We are all very excited and you will hear all about it in the next Porthcawl Post! Many thanks to all the acts, to everyone who supported us and a big thank you to Mr Dykes for the use of the Jubilee Theatre.

**RachelBowen-Jones - Dance Coach**



### Velindre Cancer Centre MacMillan Cancer Support

To thank staff for supporting our fundraising effort for these two charities in 2012 by knitting and selling coloured chicks. We raised a total of £7765.00

**Mrs Megan Luff**  
On behalf of "The Rainbow Chicks"

Thank you  
Thank you  
Thank you  
Thank you  
Thank you  
Thank you



Many thanks to Mrs Ruth Evans, who together with staff & pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School collected over 900 Easter Eggs for ROMANIA



## Live UnLtd Presentation Evening

On the 20th of April several school council members attended a VIP soirée organised by Live UnLtd. Live UnLtd is the organisation that is funding the school council's latest endeavour: a brand-spanking-new website 'Our Voice' aimed at pupil participation.

Six months since receiving our funding we were invited back to Blaengarw for their 'partay', or perhaps their 'pardy' (should you be a 'Made in Chelsea' fan). The event aimed for all the organisations who had received money to make contacts with each other, establish links, and fill up our address books with other young people in the area who could potentially contribute to our project, and vice versa. It was also a great opportunity to showcase the work we'd done so far through a video presentation.

All I can say is - Steven Spielberg, eat your heart out! Seeing how other organisations were spending their money was fantastic, and you could appreciate how the funding is having a tremendous impact on many young people in South Wales. There was everything: from poetry to art exhibitions, music to free running

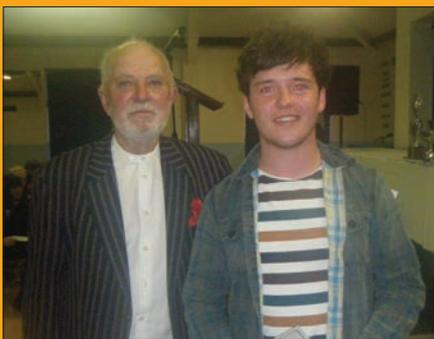
(and also parkour - the difference between parkour and free running I still can't quite grasp...).

The evening was a chance to celebrate our work - it was what I imagine it must be like to win a task on the apprentice and go on one of Lord Sugar's treats. We'd already made it through the boardroom after our successful pitch in October, and so didn't have to endure the awkward eye contact after 'you're fired' and didn't have the emotional black cab ride home. Instead of a black cab home, we did make it home safe eventually, even after the white-knuckle-ride that was attempting to do a hill start on what I can only assume is one of the steepest hills in the South Wales Valleys...

But all in all, it was a good night. There was amazing entertainment from some very talented young musicians and a great chance to celebrate the work of young people's organisations in South Wales. Oh, and the buffet. The buffet was pretty good too.

**Lowri Patterson, Year 13**

# PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2010/2011





Congratulations to all those pupils past and present who gained an award this year. It was a very enjoyable evening which was well attended by many proud parents and guardians. It was particularly pleasing to see our past pupils attending the evening who were visiting us from their universities across the UK.

The awards were given to representatives from every form class in Key Stage 3 for Excellence, Progress and Honours. Awards were also given to pupils in Key Stages 4 and 5 for excellence in Drama, Physical Education, Music, Maths, Science and Technology as well as many others.

Thanks to Ms Crook who was our photographer for the evening and of course our thanks and gratitude goes to the Friends of Porthcawl Comprehensive School for sponsoring the evening.



# ARMY MILITARY CHALLENGE



In March, ten pupils from Year 10 were chosen to represent the school in a Military Challenge at Margam Park, organised by the Education Business Partnership (Careers Wales) in conjunction with the Army. The team of 5 boys and 5 girls representing the school included Gareth Evans-Rees, Jordan Norris, James Townsend, Rhys Mortimer, Dylan Winn-Davies, Allie Young, Becci Wardman, Bethan Eales, Ellie Henderson and Olivia Norris.

The day consisted of various physical and mental challenges designed to motivate and improve communication and teamwork skills. The team performed admirably throughout the day and managed to complete most of the tasks successfully. They even found time to entertain the army officials, who were definitely impressed with our communication skills (a plea for ear plugs was heard throughout the day!) However, when it came to announcing the winners at the end of the day, there was disappointment as another school was awarded the trophy. Despite the girls appealing enthusiastically against the result, (we were robbed!), their appeal, led vociferously by Allie, was over-turned and we were left to reflect on what might have been! On the way home, a trip to McDonald's helped ease this disappointment. A brilliant day was had by all. Well done!

**Mr John** (HoY 10)



## Intermediate Maths Challenge Report

A big well done to all the year 9, 10 and 11 students who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. We had 9 certificate winners but many more students came close. All those who had a go enjoyed the questions and there are a few at the end to see if you can solve what these pupils had to do. If you are in year 9 or 10 and weren't successful this time, there will be another chance next year so don't give up!

### Certificate winners are

#### Year 10

#### SILVER AWARD AND BEST IN SCHOOL

Tom Parry

#### BRONZE AWARDS

Chris Blake

Rhys Barrett

Thomas Booth

Jack Bridger

Rebecca Wardman

#### Year 11

#### BRONZE AWARD

Tom Allen

Jennifer Sham

#### Year 9

#### BRONZE AWARD

Richard Lugg

Could you answer some of these?

1 **How many of the following four numbers are prime?**

3 33 333 3333

If you don't know what a prime number is ask a maths teacher!

A) 0 B) 1 C) 2 D) 3 E) 4

2 **How many minutes will elapse between 20:12 today and 21:02 tomorrow?**

A) 50 B) 770 C) 1250 D) 1490  
E) 2450

3 **Auntie Fi's dog Itchy has a million fleas. His anti-flea shampoo claims to leave no more than 1% of the original number of fleas after use. What is the least number of fleas that will be eradicated by the treatment?**

A) 900,000 B) 990,000  
C) 999,000 D) 999,990  
E) 999,999

4 **What value of 'x' makes the mean of the first three numbers in this list equal to the mean of the last four numbers ?**

15 5 x 7 9 17

A) 19 B) 21 C) 24 D) 25 E) 27

Answers 1) B 2) D 3) B 4) A

## BTEC Performing Arts - Dwarfs

Fresh from the Easter break the BTEC Performing Arts class began the Summer Term with a performance of Harold Pinter's 'Dwarfs', an intense look at the lives of three friends set in a London flat. An apparently simple scenario that dealt with complex psychological emotions.

The main character Len, played by Yr 13's Andrew McQueen, created a character who slipped in and out of sanity whilst engaging his audience through careful comic timing and long complex monologues. The Flamboyant actor friend Mark was approached maturely by Yr 12's Ryan Jenkins, in this part Ryan was able to generate stage presence and personality in a role that on paper lacked these qualities.

An effective aspect of the production was the onstage chemistry between the 'sane' characters in the piece. This was carefully created by Kieran Bluck's interpretation of the complex character Pete, a shift worker on the London Underground. His retelling of a nightmare was a highlight of the play which blended lighting and clever sound effects to create the sense of a train moving in the apartment.

The staging directly involved the audience by splitting them in half, presenting the stage in the style of Traverse, a catwalk style construction. The audience were therefore directly confronted by the characters as well as fellow audience members across the room; this created discomfort and ensured that the audience questioned the characters as well as the issue of sanity.

It is rare that a play is able to create discomfort as well as entertainment, but the small cast, ably assisted by sound technician Rhys Owen 9RB, were able to lift the complex dialogue through inventive characterisation, imaginative sound effects, clever staging and inventive lighting techniques that certainly broke from tradition.



## Year 9 Geography Department - Plantasia trip

From insects, reptiles, fish and monkeys to bananas, pineapple plants, prickly cacti and giant bamboo - Plantasia had it all!

Year 9 enjoyed a day out to Plantasia. We were given a presentation from a guide on her experiences in the Amazon rainforest. We were shown the different plants and animals that live there. We also enjoyed being shown artefacts from the amazing indigenous tribes that live there.

The guide also told us about the huge environmental issues that have occurred due the destruction of the rainforest. It was especially interesting to know how we

can help by looking for the rainforest alliance logo on fruit in the supermarket and on furniture that we buy! We were then given free time to look around Plantasia, which was fantastic. It was like being in a mini tropical rainforest! There were parrots, spiders, snakes and giant snails! The indoor waterfall was brilliant and feeding the fish at the bottom was especially fun.

Plantasia had a replica hut that tribes would live in the rainforest and the musical instruments that they used- which we all had a go on.

A brill day!

Harriet and Sara 9YG3



## Technology Transition Days

Throughout March this year we hosted nearly 200 Yr6 pupils in our Technology Department. The theme this year was Italy and the pupils designed and made pizzas and came up with original designs to package their pizzas.

The pupils were great and worked well. After a busy morning tasting commercial pizzas, their own pizzas and the delicious chocolate cookies made in our canteen the pupils left with smiling faces, enthusiastic to join us in September. They had to get back for lunch!





# Lessons from Auschwitz

## Surely it can't happen again! Can it?



On 22nd February 2012, 165 students from Wales travelled to Auschwitz, Poland as part of a 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project, run and funded by The Holocaust Educational Trust. Two students from Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Adam Mounce and Jonathan Berry (both Year 12) made successful applications for funding to attend the National project.

A BBC Wales film crew followed the Welsh students on the special charter flight from Cardiff to Poland and filmed the lessons and interviews which took place at the two Concentration Camps.

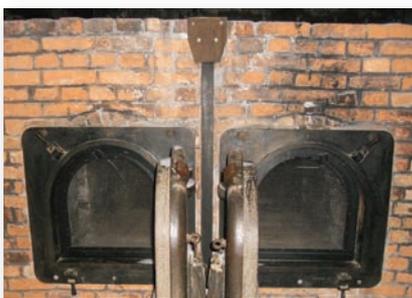


Under the cover of the Second World War, for the sake of their 'New Order,' the Nazis sought to destroy all the Jews of Europe. For the first time in history, industrial methods were used for the mass extermination of a whole people. Six million were murdered, including 1,500,000 children. This event is called the Holocaust. The Nazis enslaved and murdered millions of others as well. Gypsies, people with physical and mental disabilities, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, trade unionists, political opponents, homosexuals and others were killed in vast numbers.



Jonathan and I attended a number of Orientation Seminars at The Angel Hotel in Cardiff on a weekend and evening during the winter, where the 'Aims of The Lessons from Auschwitz' project were explained:

- to learn about the history of the Holocaust.
- to remember that all of those involved were individual human beings no different to you or me.
- to increase our understanding of the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust and to pass this on to others.



Jonathan and I both feel that the aims of the Project have been attained. As expected, the visit to the concentration camps provided the most persuasive experience to fuel our commitment, as Lessons from Auschwitz ambassadors to pass this knowledge on to others.

Our personal reflections are as follows: Upon hearing that Auschwitz is now the number one tourist attraction

in Poland it troubled us that the camps would be like history 'Theme Parks' and that the truly appalling nature of what happened there would be lost. We couldn't have been more wrong. Auschwitz I was frighteningly neat and organised. Immediately we had the 'gut wrenching' realisation that the Nazis had to be that organised to murder so many in such a short time. Auschwitz II was flat, vast and horribly silent, each of us students respectfully reflective of what would have gone through the minds of the victims as they entered through the infamous archways.

For us the most moving moment of the visit and one we were so totally unprepared for, was the long walk towards the huge pile of shoes of the victims, someone's Mum's shoes, Dad's shoes, brother's shoes, sister's shoes even the 'callipers' taken so carefully from the physically disabled, before they murdered them! A stark and tearful reminder that they were individual human beings, just like us, not just a meaningless number or symbol.

Both Jonathan and I know and now more fully understand how important it is for our generation to bear witness on the Holocaust Visit, to honour the 6 million who died, to try to educate others and attempt to break down barriers of prejudice. It can't happen, even in a limited way again can it? It has and is! When you have some spare time, just do some research. Since WWII, for example: 1.Ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, 2. The Darfur atrocities, 3.Cambodia's civil war, 4. Murder of Marsh Arabs on Iraq, 5.The assassination of Christians in Iran and Somalia to name but a few.

Upon our return Jonathan and I have made presentations and shared our experiences with a number of classes at school and made presentations in the wider community as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project.

Our message always ends with this question. Each of us should personally try and answer this simple question. How many races are there?

Let's try and remember and be committed to keep remembering,

Answer: ONE RACE, THE HUMAN RACE!

**Adam Mounce** and **Jonathan Berry** Year 12.



AUSCHWITZ WAS THE LARGEST NAZI GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMP AND DEATH CAMP. IN THE YEARS 1940-1945, THE NAZIS DEPORTED AT LEAST 1,300,000 PEOPLE TO AUSCHWITZ:

- 1,100,000 JEWS,
- 140,000 - 150,000 POLES,
- 23,000 ROMA (GYPSIES),
- 15,000 SOVIET PRISONERS OF WAR,
- 25,000 PRISONERS FROM OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS.

1,100,000 OF THESE PEOPLE DIED IN AUSCHWITZ. APPROXIMATELY 90% OF THE VICTIMS WERE JEWS. THE SS MURDERED THE MAJORITY OF THEM IN THE GAS CHAMBERS.



# F1 in Schools Challenge 2012

## Porthcawl Shockwave



The 'F1 in schools' project is run as part of the C.A.D (computer aided design) course in the Design and Technology department in school. It is a chance for young people like myself to design a small F1 car and see it race down a track. This task is given to year 11 pupils taking the BTEC- C.A.D Engineering option as one of their G.C.S.E.

Before going to the venue of the race we needed to prepare the team. This year we called ourselves 'Porthcawl Shockwave'. We worked for a number of weeks completing the design tasks and attracting sponsorships. First the design of the car was very important; we had to make sure the car was built to the correct specifications. We had many designs but decided on the one you can see in the picture.

To test the different cars we sent them away and had them tested in a virtual wind tunnel at Fords training centre in Bridgend. They sent us the results back and we then decided on Matthew Williams' design, the most aerodynamic and efficient design.

The day consisted of showing our stand to the judges, racing the cars at timed events against other schools and explaining our approach to the judges during a presentation.

On behalf of the whole team we would like to thank our sponsors for making the day possible

The Hi Tide, Riverside Industries and Welshbikers  
Written by **Alex Griffiths** and **Matthew Williams**  
year 11.



*I found the task very enjoyable and extremely rewarding*

Alex Griffiths year 11



## PIANO MASTER CLASS

This term, Music students had a fantastic opportunity to a piano Master Class from renowned concert pianist Richard Merrick.

Year 12 and 13 pupils sat in awe as Mr Merrick performed three piano pieces from his repertoire. He discussed with them techniques to use and develop when practising and also gave them help with overcoming nerves for actual performances. He shared many of his own personal experiences and pupils had a great insight into the life of a concert pianist.

Two A-Level students were brave enough to perform their Practical examination pieces for Richard Merrick. He listened intently to their work and then critiqued afterwards. Sophie Howe said, 'I thought the experience was invaluable and learned so many new techniques in such a short space of time. I will definitely take into account his advice for future performances and examinations'.

Richard Merrick gave pupils hints and tips of how to achieve grade 8 distinction in their piano exams. Chris Hointoir felt 'I found the Master Class fascinating and I really want a distinction in Grade 8 so I listened in depth to everything he said!'

Mrs Atherton

# Humanities Club



## Italian Restaurant Evening



On Wednesday 29th February, the technology department held an Italian restaurant evening open to parents and teachers.

There were 14 volunteers from Year 9 who took part. Over the period of 4 weeks pupils made different dishes. The meal consisted of 3 courses in total, Tomato and mozzarella salad to start, beef or spinach and ricotta cannelloni and tiramisu for dessert. Focaccia was served to accompany the starter and tea and coffee with mints to finish.

We learnt to cook a number of new dishes from a different country and how to cook for large numbers, it was really good fun to cook and serve the guests in the restaurant.

The restaurant could only be described as a success, or so we were told by the feedback sheets. On the night of the restaurant evening, both family members and staff turned up to try the food. Even Mr Dykes turned up! It's easy to say that everyone enjoyed themselves that night.

**Helen Anderson** 9UE



Porthcawl Comprehensive School maintains very close links with the community through its 'Humanities Club' which meets once a week on a Thursday lunchtime. The Humanities Club consists of four main departments within the school; History, Geography, Religious Studies and Business Studies. These four departments work closely with the community exploring local history with the aim of learning more about our local area and the history behind Porthcawl. There are, on average, twenty to thirty members of the Club ranging in age from 11-15 years.

Each year the Humanities Club enters the 'National Heritage Awards' and has been successful in winning prizes from £100 to £1,000. The first year, for example, we entered with the project 'Porthcawl's Titanic' when we invited various members of the community to school in order to find out what happened to the Santampa which sank off the coast of Porthcawl shortly after World War II. Since that first project a local historian John David has been helping out with the projects and regularly visits the school to give us first hand accounts.

John David also recorded his memories about World War II on the internet through the Aberystwyth library project.

Last year we looked at the 'Pavilion' and researched the famous people who have passed through. Our 2012 project is focused around Trecco Bay and includes a letter by Florence Nightingale to the planners of Rest Bay!

Our Humanities Club members have thoroughly enjoyed the trips to local churches, the Pavilion, the graveyard (for grave rubbings), Sker point, libraries (including Glamorgan, Bridgend and Porthcawl) and our local museum (run by John David). Over the years local speakers have come in to school; we have visited the houses of local pensioners and interviewed people on John Street, all of which have served to further develop the close links between school and the local community.

Pupils at Porthcawl clearly appreciate the previous generations and are inquisitive about past events.

**G Hammerton**



# Trip to Paris: *Voyage à Paris*

On Thursday, 29/03/12, we all met at midnight at Portway Surgery, (44 pupils & 5 teachers), ready for our journey to Paris, via Eurotunnel. We arrived in Paris on Friday at about 1 p.m. After dropping our bags at the Adveniat Youth Hostel (just off the Champs Élysées), we walked to the Eiffel Tower in the sunshine. Some of us went right up to the top - very high, with great views. We then went back to the hostel to settle in and to get ready for the meal in the Monte Carlo restaurant (near the Arc de Triomphe).

Saturday morning, after a 7 a.m. breakfast, we went on a sightseeing tour in our coach, presented by Mr. Murdoch. We saw the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre and lots more. After the tour and some shopping, we walked down to the River Seine for our boat trip and then, back to the hostel to get ready for our evening meal. We went to McDonalds, next door to the restaurant, for lovely 'Mcflurrys', before going underneath the road to the Arc de Triomphe where we saw the Eternal Flame - it was good because of all the history.

Sunday was our last day and it was sad to leave the beautiful city of Paris. In the morning, we went downstairs for breakfast and to sing Happy Birthday to Mrs. Bishop. After cleaning our bedrooms and packing our bags, we left - but the good thing was - we were going to Disneyland, Paris!! Everyone was very excited when we arrived. We went on lots of rides while the teachers were having a nice time in the café!!! (We went on some rides too! - note from teachers)

We had to leave Disney at about 7 p.m. to go home. It was sad to leave because it was really fun, but it was nice to go home to our own comfy beds!

**Ffion Jefferies**, Year 8



Nous sommes allés à Paris, du 30 mars au 2 avril. Je suis partie de Portway Surgery en bus à 00h30. J'ai voyagé dans le Kent en bus, puis j'ai pris l'Eurotunnel (le train) en France, et j'ai continué à Paris en bus. Les WC étaient mauvais dans le train!

À 13h, nous sommes arrivés à Paris et nous avons marché à la Tour Eiffel - il faisait chaud! C'était fantastique!

Le lendemain, nous sommes allés visiter les monuments en bus - c'était intéressant. Puis, nous avons fait les magasins dans le grand centre commercial de la Défense - c'était chouette!

Le soir, nous avons mangé au restaurant Monte Carlo, près de l'Arc de Triomphe - c'était dégoûtant!

Le dernier jour, nous sommes allés en bus à Disneyland. Nous avons rencontré Mickey Mouse et je suis allée sur les manèges. Nous sommes revenus à Porthcawl à 7h le 2 avril.

Nous nous sommes bien amusés!

**Jenna Abuleil**, Year 9

A big thank you to Miss Brown for organizing the trip.





Easter 2012

# Skiing Trip to Zell Am See



This Easter, with great anticipation, the year eights were bussed out to Austria, for our long awaited skiing trip. The journey was very long and tiresome, but once we had arrived at our resort, there was plenty to see. The scenery in Zell Am See was spectacular, with snow-capped mountains everywhere! You could even see the glacier of Kaprun nearby. At the bottom of the mountain there was a very pretty lake with a town surrounding it, and, they even had a McDonald's restaurant!

After 26 hours on the road, we were all glad to arrive at the hotel where we found the owners very forthcoming and helpful. Our rooms and the food were lovely and we soon settled in. The skiing throughout the week was great fun and everyone fell at least once, although some were more spectacular than others! We had many disasters, always resulting in the whole group falling over like dominos, or the occasional person losing a pole off the chair lift! Other than that it was an amazing experience and I'm sure that everyone would recommend it to a friend. Every night, after dinner, we were invited to tell stories of the misfortunes of others. We then voted to award the moose hat, which had to be worn on the slopes throughout the next day, to the person responsible for the funniest story. The pupils who were chosen were: Euan Manley; Ben Asprea; Sarah Abuleil, Bradley Griffiths and Thomas Ellison.

After an exhausting but fun day on the slopes, we also had the evening activities to look forward to. These included bowling, swimming, shopping, a quiz, a walk around the lake followed by a visit to McDonald's, as well as trying out some Austrian culture when the Austrian dancers came to the hotel. We all had a laugh when we tried playing the alpine horn and taking part in the different dances!

Everyone had a superb week and I'm sure we would all love to thank the people who made this week as good as it was. The hotel owners, our ski instructors who had to put up with us all week, the bus drivers, Joe and Ray, and everyone else who made our week so special will get our praise.

However, Mr John, Mr Owens, Miss Lambert, Miss Owens and Miss Painter deserve the biggest thanks, because they gave up a week of their holiday to make ours more enjoyable!

Overall we had a fantastic week that we won't ever regret booking!

Slalom results:

**Beginners A**

1. Leon Evans
2. Cerian Jones
3. Tia Robbins

**Beginners B**

1. Ben Asprea
2. Corey Dyer
3. Naomi Furness

**Beginners C**

1. James Thomas
2. Oliver Woodall
3. Trystan W-Davies

**Advanced**

1. Cameron Best
2. Will Lampard
3. Matthew Edwards

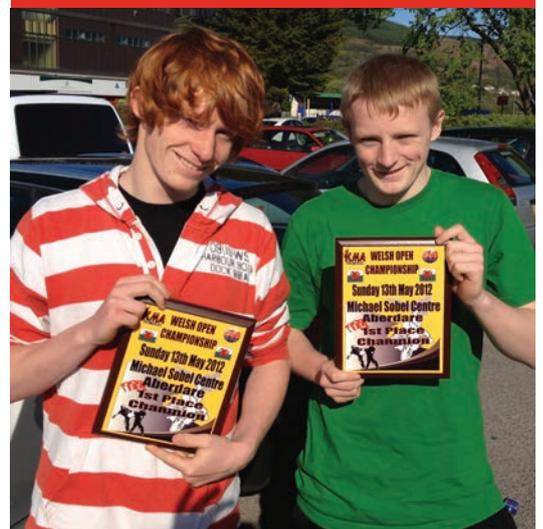
**Lauren Pugh and Isobel Overton**

## Kickboxing

Just thought I'd let you know that Jordan and Scott competed in the Welsh Open Kickboxing championship yesterday. They both won their individual events. Jordan won the '+160cm points novice' category and Scott won the '+160cm continuous novice' category. A close win for Jordan and a very convincing win for Scott.

I am very proud of them both as they both showed great skill and courage.

Kind Regards  
**Mark Williams** - Kickboxing Association



Year 10 & 11 History Trip to

# New York and Atlantic City



Getting up at 3 am would normally be near impossible, but we knew that we were headed to Atlantic City and New York so for once it was pretty easy!

After a long flight (7 hours!) we finally landed at JFK airport in New York. Then we had a 3 hour bus journey to Atlantic City. On the journey we crossed the Brooklyn Bridge and had a brilliant view of the New York skyline. It was really exciting, and made us look forward to 3 days' time when we would be back in the Big Apple.

When we arrived at the Trump Plaza Hotel in Atlantic City we were really impressed as it was fit for royalty! The next morning we visited Philadelphia where we saw the Liberty Bell and raced each other up the Rocky Steps. Then we went to the Eastern State Penitentiary where we saw Al Capone's cell and the shocking conditions that the inmates would have lived in. It's certainly not a place we'd like to have found ourselves in for any length of time!

After a long and exhausting day we made our way back to the hotel for our final night's sleep before New York. The next morning we



went to Ripley's 'Believe it or Not' museum in Atlantic City. This has to be one of the weirdest and most wonderful museums we have ever visited, with things like the world's smallest car and a roulette table made of jellybeans. After a quick shop along the Boardwalk we boarded the buses for New York.

On our first night in New York we went up the Empire State Building and got a Birdseye view of the city, an exact replica of any picture you would see of New York. The following day we did a mass of site seeing. We saw Ground Zero, the Rockefeller Centre, the John Lennon memorial in Central Park and loads more. One of the best moments was the church at Ground Zero where people from around the world have left tributes to the victims of 9/11.

It was amazing to think that this was the only building undamaged during that attack. That night we went ice skating at the Wolman Rink, which has been the scene of many blockbuster films, and luckily we all made it off the ice in one piece - just!

The following morning we visited Liberty and Ellis Islands by ferry. We got to see the Statue of Liberty and had our photos taken by it. We also saw where immigrants into America were taken before they were allowed to enter the country officially.

In the afternoon we went shopping in Times Square - there was so much to see, it was hard to concentrate on the shopping! That night we went to the famous Madison Square Garden to watch an ice hockey match - New York Rangers v. Chicago Blackhawks. Although New York lost 4-2 it was a great experience and we had fantastic seats!

The next day was our last in New York. We did some shopping on Fifth Avenue and then headed to the airport. As we drove we took one last look at the skyline and said our goodbyes to an amazing place.

By **Sophie Williams, Jack Power, Ollie Hopkins, Catrin Hopkins and Alex Robertson**, Year 10.



## Vlth form exchange visit to Saint Sébastien sur Loire

On 29/3/12, I went with 3 other Vlth formers, Angharad Marke, Bethan Perry and Shannon Short, to stay with 4 French families in Porthcawl's twin town. The trip had been organized by the twinning association and was intended to improve our French speaking skills and to further our understanding of French culture. We stayed there for 6 days, leaving Bridgend on 29/03, and arriving at Nantes airport after a short flight from Gatwick Airport. We were greeted there by the two gentlemen who were driving us to Saint-Sébastien-sur-Loire. During the journey, I tried out my French conversation skills – our driver understood me, and told me all about the town as we drove, pointing out various buildings, such as 'le lycée' (school), where we would be going later in the week.



After stopping at a 'boulangerie' and asking us to buy him some bread, he drove us to the house of the Lamberts, where I was going to stay. I had spoken to Alex, my correspondent, by e-mail the week before, but had had no previous contact. When I first met him, I found it quite difficult to understand him and had to ask him to repeat himself many times, but over time, I began to find everyone easier to understand. I was shown to my room, which was to get messier and messier, as I had little time to tidy it, owing to late nights and early mornings. I had never felt so far away from home – and yet, in reality, I was no further away than Edinburgh!

The next day, I met the other correspondents, Clémence, Léa and Suzon, and we all went to a traditional 'crêperie'. On Sunday, the Lamberts took me to Saint Nazaire to look at the old submarine yards. Showing some mercy, Alex's father, Patrick, allowed me to use the English version of the audio guide!

Then, on Monday, the real work began, when we went to a French school! School started at 8 a.m. and finished at 6 p.m., so we rose early and went to bed late. We were the English teacher's star pupils!! She asked us to read English sentences from the board, and everyone kept asking us to slow down!! Weeknights, we watched films including 'Moulin Rouge' with helpful subtitles.

On Tuesday, I had the brain-scrambling treat of attending a German lesson in French - since I don't know any German, Angharad had to translate for me. The weather was beautiful until the very end of the final day when it clouded

over, reflecting our mood as we were leaving our friends. That evening, we went to a restaurant called 'French Pub' and were joined by some of Clémence's friends. One of them asked me if I spoke French, and when I said I did, asked me what I thought of Scottish independence! I was a little taken aback by this, being used to simpler questions such as 'What's your name?' or 'What are you studying at school?', but proceeded to tell him my thoughts on the subject. We talked for 10 minutes - it occurred to me afterwards that I'd

managed to have a political debate in a foreign language!

That Wednesday evening, I went to Nantes airport with everyone else for the return journey to Wales, struggling to walk with 3 bags in hand, one containing various gifts from my family, the Lamberts. Waving goodbye to our new French friends, we boarded the plane, richer for the experience, and with our French much improved.

**Jamie Lees**, Year 12

Once again, the French Department would like to take the opportunity to thank the twinning association of Porthcawl, Valérie Sourisseau of the SSsL association, and the families who hosted our pupils so generously. We hope a return visit can be arranged.



# Pupil Achievements

Many congratulations go to the following:-

**Laura Ashley**

Welsh Team Swimming - Olympic Games

**Stephanie Harper**

Cheer Leading Dance Award

**Charlotte Mundy**

Selected for Under 18's Ospreys Team

Welsh Trials

Selection for U18's Wales 7

**Robyn Wilkins**

Captaincy of Women's Ospreys Team

U18's Wales 7

Glamorgan Valleys County U18's

Cardiff High Performance HUB

**Sinead Walters**

Received a Special Award in recognition of 'Effort'

**Cameron Morris**

Selection for County Golf U14 Squad

**Lucy Peckham**

Chosen to fly with St Athan No1 AEF Squadron

**Jamie-Lee Clarke**

Chosen to fly with St Athan No1 AEF Squadron

**Owen Leary**

Competed in Seraing Swimming Grand Prix

**Allie Young**

Selected for Wales Women's U17

UEFA Tournament

**Sian O'Roche**

10th Place in British Championship Team Latin

Dance

**Jordanne Cummings**

Member of Ystra Fawr dance team which

took 1st, 2 x 2nd and 6th place in British Dance

Championships

**Amy Osbourne**

Chosen to take part in filming of new children's

series 'Wizards v Aliens'

**Jack Bridges**

Received Sergeant Stripes, Bronze Award for

Navigational Skills

Orienteering and Grand Prior Award with

St John's Ambulance.

**Kira Buckland**

Danced in Royal Albert Hall in celebration 2012

Olympics

**Isabel Humphries**

Tang Soo Do - Black Belt Girls U15's

Gold - Traditional Forms

Silver - Weapons Forms

Silver - Chil Sung Forms

**Caitlin Toy**

Tang Soo Do - Red Belt Girls U13's

Silver - Traditional Forms

Silver - Weapons Forms

**Adam Jenkins**

Tang Soo Do - Green Belt Boys 14-15yrs

Bronze - Sparring

**Hannah Jenkins**

Tang Soo Do - Green Belt Girls 11-13yrs

Silver - Traditional

**Scott Pedersen**

Kickboxing + 160cm continuous novice

**Jordan Williams**

Kickboxing + 160cm on points novice

**Joe Wiltshire Smith**

Selected to join the National Youth Theatre of Great

Britain (Only 50 places awarded out of a possible

5000 applicants)

**Kieran Bluck**

Represented Welsh Team in sport of IRB racing

## ABRSM MUSIC EXAM ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/12

**Charlotte Levery**

Violin Grade 2

**Sarah Spencer**

Violin Grade 4

**Jodie Sinclair**

Violin Grade 2 (Distinction)

**Felicity W Saril**

Violin Grade 4

**Claudia M-Wyatt**

Violin Grade 4

**Yuri Roberts**

Theory Grade 5 (Distinction)

**Tom Rees**

Theory Grade 5 (Merit)

**Laurence Hunt**

Ed Sax Grade 5 (Merit)

**Lowri Howell**

Flute Grade 5 (Merit)

**Lauren Pugh**

Clarinet Grade 6

**Alex Hunt**

Clarinet Grade 6 (Distinction)

**Dan Pugh-Bevan**

Bassoon Grade 7 (Merit)

**Lucy Millership**

Bassoon Grade 8 (Distinction)

**Tom Hunt**

French Horn Grade 5 (Merit)

**Peter Greenwood**

Tuba Grade 8 (Distinction)

**Imogen Kent**

Percussion Grade 4 (Merit)

**Harriet Maine**

Percussion Grade 4

**Rhiannon Keirl**

Violin Grade 8

**Ffion Jeffries**

Cello Grade 4

**Tom Rees**

Double Bass Grade 3 (Merit)

**Jack Bridge**

Double Bass Grade 2 (Merit)

**Michael Thomas**

Guitar Grade 1 (Distinction)

**Lillian Chung**

Guitar Grade 1 (Merit)

### 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 : HahhaGraphics 01558 822433



**Porthcawl**  
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