

Gorwel Addysg Gwybodaeth



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Ysgol Gyfun

PORHCRAWL

Comprehensive School

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Headteacher/Pennaeth: M. J. Stephens NPQH, P Dip Ed, BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher/Dirprwy Bennaeth: D.W.A Beard BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher/Dirprwy Bennaeth: C-A. Painter BA (Hons)

24th June 2024

Dear Year 6 Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Porthcawl Comprehensive School, I hope that your son / daughter has enjoyed their transition day and is looking forward to joining PCS in September. I am looking forward to getting to know your children and working with you from September 2024. There is a real sense of 'community' and 'belonging' in everything we do at PCS, and I am certain your child will settle quickly and enjoy their learning at our wonderful school.

I am very proud of our successful school. We have the highest aspirations for all our pupils, we truly value every one of them, and we aim to ensure that everyone achieves their potential. Can I start by thanking you for entrusting us with the future education and development of your son / daughter, we will provide the very best, and I look forward to building effective home to school partnerships.

From day one, your son / daughter will experience excellent care, support and guidance, whilst experiencing a wide range of innovative learning opportunities underpinned by our curriculum vision, which is:

"A curriculum that provides all pupils with the knowledge, skills, experiences and desire to thrive in the adult world".

The 'desire to thrive' is important to us, and we believe that this desire comes from within, and it governs our actions.

In September, we focus on the '**desire to thrive: the present and the future**', this underpins what we do, and each day, through our daily practice we focus on the beliefs, values and characteristics we want for all pupils across the school community. This is the '**Porthcawl Pupil**', and you will hear more about this in the new school year. It is the character we want our pupils to develop. It is:

- What we, as a school community, believe is important.
- What we, as a school community, value as important.
- What we, as a school community, characterise us as a school.

I hope the following information is useful in advance of the academic year ahead. I will write again at the start of the next term to share arrangements for parents' meetings, progress evenings, and key calendar events in 2024-2025.

Curriculum for Porthcawl

'A curriculum that provides ALL pupils with the knowledge,

HEALTHY
ETHICAL
CAPABLE
CREATIVE
CONFIDENT
AMBITIOUS
INFORMED
ENTERPRISING

skills, experiences and desire to thrive in the adult world'

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The 'Porthcawl Pupil'

Pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are developing the:

- **P**orthcawl Purposes for Learning;
- **O**rganisational skills to always be prepared;
- **R**esilience to overcome setbacks;
- **T**houghtfulness to care and support others;
- **H**appiness that comes with belonging;
- **C**ritical thinking skills to search for meaning and truth;
- **A**uthenticity to understand their self-worth and the worth of others;
- **W**ondering desire to question; and
- **L**eadership skills to direct themselves and others.

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New School Year

We plan to start the Autumn Term 2024 as follows:

- Monday 2nd September 2024 – INSET Day
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024 – INSET Day
- Wednesday 4th September 2024 – **All Students**

The first day of term for all pupils in Year 7 will therefore be Wednesday 4th September. Year 7 pupils must go to the Jubilee Theatre at the start of the school day. Please be reassured that staff will be on duty at the start of the school day to guide pupils to the relevant venues. On the first day all pupils will receive their timetables and spend time with their form tutor and some of their new teachers. **The Head of Year 7 will be Mr Card.**

School Day

For the 2024-2025 academic year we will operate a 50hr two-week timetable. Each pupil will receive 25 x1hour lessons per week. The timing of the school day is as follows:

Registration/Wellbeing/Assembly	8:45 – 9:00
Lesson 1	9:00 – 10:00
Lesson 2	10:00 – 11:00
Break	11:00 – 11:20
Lesson 3	11:20 – 12:20
Lesson 4	12:20 – 1:20
Lunch	1:20 – 2:00
Lesson 5	2:00 – 3:00
Extra-Curricular Programme	3:00

INSET Days 2024-2025

Our **INSET days** for the forthcoming Academic Year are:

<u>Autumn Term 2024</u> Monday 2 nd September 2024 Tuesday 3 rd September 2024 Friday 29 th November 2024	<u>Spring Term 2025</u> Monday 17 th February 2025 Friday 11 th April 2025	<u>Summer Term 2025</u> Monday 21 st July 2025
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Cashless Catering

As you will know from previous correspondence and sign-up letters, we operate a cashless payment system in our school canteen. **Year 7 pupils** will complete the activation / sign up during their induction programme on Wednesday 4th September 2024.

Key points / useful information:

- **Parent Pay:** All parents/carers must ensure they have activated their Parent Pay account and ensure they have loaded funds onto their child's account. If you have any questions, please contact: info@porthcawlschool.co.uk
- **Validation Unit:** There is a validation unit (think of a cash machine) installed in the school reception. This unit allows pupils to add cash onto their account. This unit is fully functioning and is helpful if parents/carers have been unable to transfer funds electronically to their child's account.
- **Daily limits:** There is a £5.00 spend limit per day. Please note the price of a full meal is approximately £2.80.
- **Pupils entitled to a free school meal:** Each day funds are allocated automatically onto your child's account to the amount of £2.80.

- **Payment at tills:** in both canteens payment is made using a biometric (thumb print) reader or a code method.
- **Vending Machines:** We operate a few vending machines in both canteens. These are cashless also. Purchases from a vending machine can only be made with the biometric method (thumb).
- **Lend:** the system has been set up to allow one meal as a 'lend' meal. This means that no pupil will go without food if their account balance is on £0.00. We allow for one meal; therefore, a pupil's account can go to a balance or -£2.80. When this happens parents/carers will receive a prompt email reminding them to top up their child's account.

I shall write again at the start of the next academic year. We are full of optimism for the prospects for our school in 2024-2025 and beyond. We have an ambitious programme for development and have the confidence and commitment to ensure the school prospers and excels.

On behalf of myself and the Governing Body, I wish you all a safe and memorable summer holiday, please take time to rest, relax and to enjoy quality moments with your families. I look forward to working with you in 2024-2025.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens
Headteacher