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Ysgol Gyfun
PORTHCAWL
Comprehensive School

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)

13th September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Today, marks the end of week 2 of the autumn term. It's been a busy two weeks – *welcome assemblies, achievement celebrations, new timetables, sporting activities and new learning.*

Last week, students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 Year 10 and Year 12 started the year with their annual school photographs. An occasion that marks an important point in time - there was certainly lots of smiling faces! Please note, photographs for Year 11 and Year 13 will take place later in the academic year.

Along with our Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools – Gold Status. We also start this academic year with further 'congratulations' as we celebrate achieving the **Cyber First Gold Award** for recognition to delivering excellence in cyber security education. We are one of a few schools and colleges in Wales to receive this award which is led by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) – part of GCHQ.

The award recognises our whole school commitment and dedication to delivering excellence in cyber education.

Through workshops, lessons, extra-curricular activities

and a range of digital partnerships our students can experience digital excellence. We hold this award for three years and we will continue to develop the skills and knowledge of our students and staff. We have an excellent computing, IT and cyber provision and curriculum at PCS. I am proud to say we are able to offer a specialist experiences to our students, whilst also demonstrating our commitment to developing student confidence and skills. I pass on my sincere thanks to Helen Christopher, Head of Computer Science & IT for her leadership, preparation and submission of our successful application. It is a culmination of several years of hard work – well done!

I have been very impressed with all Year 12 students, who are now up and running with their new AS Level courses. All students have shown such maturity as they move from GCSE to A level learning – well done! We are very proud of our Sixth Form, there is a real sense of 'belonging' and 'community' at PCS; evident this year as we welcome back a large cohort of students into Year 12, and already the enjoyment in learning is evident to see.

This week, I have thoroughly enjoyed delivering assemblies and visiting lessons. My message: *'Ready to Learn'* – ensuring strong values, focussed learning and upholding our expectations, and this week, as I've walked our school site it has been very pleasing to see so much 'learning' on show in lessons. Well done to all students and of course our dedicated staff.



The PE department have released our extra-curricular sports plan for the autumn term and there is a wide range of sports clubs and activities available each week. There are activities running during lunchtime and after school and there are multiple clubs and activities available each day. If your son/daughter is unsure of the timing for any of our after-school activities, they can ask their Form Tutor or teachers from the PE department. Our "What's On 2024-2025" booklet will be released very soon, and this will provide a full programme of the clubs and activities at PCS.

In addition, this week, our sixth form DofE students were awarded a "Social Values Certificate" celebrating our DofE group's volunteering and impact in the local community. Our students completed 260 hours of volunteering between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024. We are very proud of the dedication, effort and achievement our students make within the local community – well done! I also look forward to increased participation with DofE in 2024-2025.

As we start the academic year, school uniform standards are overall excellent. However, please can I remind parents/carers that nose piercings are not part of our school uniform policy. Please can I ask that parents/carers ensure that their child does not wear a nose stud whilst attending Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

In a few weeks' time we will be holding a Year 7 Information Evening and a Year 12 Information Evening for parents/carers. These events will take place on Wednesday 25th September 2024. Deputy Headteachers, Miss Painter and Mr Beard will share more information about these forthcoming evenings soon and I look forward to seeing you there.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens
Headteacher