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

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18th October 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we near the half-way point of the autumn term (one week left) I would like to thank you for your on-going support. It has been an excellent half term filled with success and achievement, and as I reflect on the first half term of 2024-2025 I do so with immense pride. The strong relationships that exist at Porthcawl Comprehensive School amongst staff, families and students enable us to achieve all that we do. I am proud of our school community for the way we work together, and I look forward to continued partnership working throughout the academic year ahead.

Some of the highlights this half-term:

- Achieving the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools – Gold Status
- Achieving the ‘Cyber First Gold Award’
- Celebrating excellent GCSE and A Level results
- Year 7 and Year 12 Information Evenings
- Weekly ‘Porthcawl Pupil of the Week’ celebrations
- A wide range of extra-curricular sporting fixtures – *there will be updates in the Autumn Term 2024 Edition of the Porthcawl Post.*
- U13 South Wales Tennis Championships
- Seren Visit (STEM focus) – Swansea University
- Year 9 Porthcawl War Memorial Visit (arranged by the History Department)
- Year 12 Geography Fieldwork
- Innovation Awards Exhibition (A Level DT Students)
- School Song UK Final (Newton Primary trip, involving nine Year 7 pupils)
- ‘Wellbeing Wednesday’ & ‘Welsh Wednesday’ activities
- Debating Competitions
- First Give Launch Assembly
- The ‘Curriculum for Porthcawl’ running for all students in Key Stage 3
- The launch of ‘Enrichment’
- Year 11 Progress Evening it was lovely to see so many parents/carers in attendance

We look forward to more events and activities over the next few weeks and months, these include:

- Young Playwright's Festival
- Year 9 First Give Project
- Year 9 & Year 10 Lille Christmas Market Trip
- SEREN Workshops
- Future Chef Event

- Year 7 Welsh Theatre Trip
- PCS Annual Carol Service
- Community Christmas Celebration (for members of the local community)

Year 6 Open Evening

Next week, Wednesday 23rd October we are holding our **Year 6 Open Evening** (5:30pm – 7:30pm). More information can be found here: [PowerPoint Presentation \(porthcawlschool.co.uk\)](https://porthcawlschool.co.uk).

Recognition and Reward

This week, we have featured in several local press releases with regards to our achievement of the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Gold Award. More information can be found here: [Porthcawl Comprehensive School celebrated for prioritising pupils' mental health - Swansea Bay News](#)

GCSE Examinations

For our Yr11 students the start date for the GCSE Mathematics Examination can now be counted in weeks and the need for continued focus, commitment and hard work is never more important. I would like to praise all students for their effort and maturity as they continue to prepare for their first GCSE examination of this academic year – keep it up! A thank you is also needed to our Mathematics Faculty. A team effort – well done everyone!

The dates for the forthcoming GCSE Mathematics Examinations are as follows:

- GCSE Mathematics Paper 1 – Monday 11th November 2024
- GCSE Mathematics Paper 2 – Wednesday 13th November 2024

In addition, a small number of Yr11 students are also sitting GCSE English Language in November. These students have been working hard and their efforts should also be praised. The English Faculty have been busy supporting and preparing students – thank you. Once again, a team effort – well done everyone!

The dates for the forthcoming GCSE English Language Examinations are as follows:

- GCSE English Language Paper 1 – Monday 4th November 2024
- GCSE English Language Paper 2 – Wednesday 6th November 2024

Please note, each student has a personalised examination timetable. It is very important that each student is fully aware of their examination timetables for the November examination series.

Below are some of the key events coming up next half term:

- Year 13 Progress Evening – Wednesday 20th November 2024
- Year 7 Progress Evening – Wednesday 4th December 2024

Advanced Notice: Friday 29th November is an INSET day at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

I am pleased to report that our whole school attendance is much improved when compared to the same period last year. However, I would like to take this opportunity to raise the importance of regular attendance at school. We encourage all students to attend school on time, every day, and aim for 100% attendance. I therefore ask for your continued consideration when booking appointments and holidays during school time.

Have a lovely half term.

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards,

M. Stephens

Headteacher/Pennaeth