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

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27th January 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

School Results – Summer 2024

Today, the Welsh Government published the final 'secondary school performance data' from the summer 2024 examination series. Once again, we are very pleased with our performance in all key indicators, which is considerably higher than the average of similar schools, the Local Authority and Wales.

The table in this letter illustrates our published Key Stage 4 performance in the key indicators of Literacy, Numeracy, Science, the Skills Challenge Certificate and the Capped 9. The Capped 9 is a point score average generated for schools based on each student's best 9 GCSEs including English Language and Mathematics and/or Numeracy and Science.

Our published Capped 9 score of 400.6 points is positive and continues to be strong when compared to similar schools. To help you understand the data presented in the table below, and our 'overall achievement' I provide a short explanation below.

Literacy, Numeracy, Science & Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) Points Scores

For literacy, numeracy, science and the skills challenge certificate a point score is allocated to each indicator. The point score represents a grade average. E.g. the average grade for all pupils who sat the examination. The points score system ranges from 16 to 58 points, and this represents grades G to A*. There are 6 points between each grade. To provide a few examples, a D grade is 34 points, a C grade is 40 points, a B grade is 46 points and an A* grade is 58 points.

Our whole school literacy points score is 46.2pts, this means that the average grade across all pupils who sat the examination was a B grade. The literacy national average was 38.5pts, therefore the average score in our school was 7.7pts higher than Wales, and our pupils have scored, on average, one grade and a third higher per pupil in this subject.

Capped 9

This is a point score calculated using a pupil's best 9 GCSE grades including English, mathematics and science. Each grade is allocated a score between 16 and 58 (as explained above) and they are totalled. For example, a pupil with their best 9 GCSEs as x2 A grades, x2 B grades and x4 C grades would have a Capped 9 score of 356pts. This is calculated as $2 \times 52(A) = 104$, $2 \times 46(B) = 92$, $4 \times 40(C) = 160$ to give a total of 356. This process is completed for each pupil in Year 11 and an average is calculated. Our whole school average in 2024 was 400.6pts and in 2023 it was 411.2pts.

Anyway, no more maths from the Headteacher!

Please see the table below which presents our 2024 performance. The 'Family of Schools' refers to schools that the Welsh Government identify as being similar to PCS. We are very proud of our on-going achievements; this is testament to the hard work and effort of our pupils and the unity and drive of our staff! Our outcomes demonstrate our commitment to maximise the achievement for all pupils so that every pupil achieves their very best whatever their starting point.

	Literacy Points Score	Numeracy Points Score	Science Points Score	SCC Points Score	Capped 9	5 or more A*-A grades
Porthcawl Av.	46.2	42.5	43.9	41.2	400.6	33%
Family of Schools Av.	42	40.5	41.2	39	379.1	26.2%
Local Authority Av.	38.6	36.1	37.3	33.9	357.4	18%
Wales Av.	38.5	35.9	36	30.2	352.1	18.1%

I am very proud of the achievements of all pupils, I am very grateful for all that our staff provide and I am very pleased that we have started the new year with recognised success!

Sixth Form Options (Yr11)

On the 15th of January, it was great to welcome lots of parents/carers and pupils to our Sixth Form Open Evening. The sixth form options process is nearing completion at PCS and I provide important resources below.

- Our Post 16 Prospectus can be accessed via: [Sixth-Form-Prospectus-2025.pdf](#)
- Our dedicated Sixth Form Options webpage can be accessed via: [PCS 6th Form Option Choices](#)
- The option form can be accessed via: [Yr 11 into 6th Form Options Form](#)

It is pleasing to see that once again a high number of students will be joining PCS in September 2025. If you missed this evening and would like to know more information about the sixth form at PCS, please contact Mr Beard via info@porthcawlschool.co.uk.

GCSE Options (Yr9)

The Year 9 'Options Fortnight' starts the w/b 27th January 2025. During the Options Fortnight, all pupils will receive a series of assemblies about the subjects available and the process we follow as we prepare for GCSEs in September 2025. During week 2 of the 'Options Fortnight' we will hold our Year 9 Progress Evening. This will take place on Wednesday 5th February. It is an exciting time at PCS with lots of important decisions being made!

As ever, I thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards,

M. Stephens

Headteacher/Pennaeth

Important Dates – January / February 2025

- 27th January - Year 9 Options Fortnight Starts
- 5th February - Year 9 Progress Evening
- 17th February INSET day (school closed to pupils)
- 19th February – Year 12 Progress Evening