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Ysgol Gyfun
PORHCRAWL
Comprehensive School

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3rd March 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we start the second half of the spring term, I would like to thank all families for their on-going support and partnership; I am very proud of all that we do and achieve together.

During this term it has been a pleasure to see so many students participating in different activities, including drama productions, sporting fixtures, school council visits to the Senedd, debating events, coding clubs, STEM activities and much more! Academic success is very important, but we also recognise the value of the many character-building opportunities we offer at our school to ensure that the talents and interests of our students are developed and nurtured; thank you for supporting them and thank you to our staff for providing these wide-ranging opportunities.

Last week, students and staff from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 travelled to Voss in Norway for our annual skiing trip. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing about this residential visit! It was a wonderful experience for our students, and I am very grateful for all staff who attended and supported. A special 'thank you' is needed for Mr Stratford and Miss Barber who coordinated and planned this year's skiing trip – I look forward to hearing about next year's trip very soon!



This week, there is a 'School Community Focussed' feel to my letter.

School Site

I am pleased to announce there have been several improvements / updates / works completed to the school site and our facilities. In addition, there is other improvement work planned.

As follows:

- New carpets and signs have been installed in the main school reception area; we look forward to 'full' completion over the next few weeks;
- Corridors and walkways in P Block have been redecorated;
- Our Forest Schools outdoor classroom is nearing completion and we look forward to school and community use;
- New seating / furniture will be installed in the school reception area;
- Over the next month the swimming pool changing rooms will receive a full refurbishment and we are in the process of finishing the scheduled works; and
- New furniture, study spaces and seating are in the process of being installed in the sixth form common room.

Lessons from Auschwitz

Before the half term break, four sixth form students embarked on a journey of deep reflection and learning, one that was both challenging and transformative – a visit to Auschwitz. This overseas visit was provided by the ‘Lessons from Auschwitz Project’ under the guidance of the Holocaust Education Trust. This project was coordinated by Mr Short. It has encouraged empathy, critical thinking, and a commitment to justice whilst also reflecting on the values that underpin our society today, values that remain as important now as ever. This year was especially significant, marking the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Eight decades on, the memories of those who endured unspeakable horrors remain a stark reminder of the consequences of intolerance and hatred. Those students who engaged in this project represented our school and community so very well.

School Assemblies

This half term, our assembly themes will continue to be based on ‘The Porthcawl Pupil’. There will be a continued focus on the beliefs, values, and characteristics we want our students to develop, to ensure they thrive in the adult world.

School Uniform

As part of our commitment to creating a purposeful atmosphere where students are “Ready to Learn” I would like to highlight school uniform. It is important to note that almost all students wear the correct uniform each day and any concerns in relation to uniform apply to very few students in our school of 1200. For all students, it is essential to uphold the requirements and expectations of our school uniform policy. This ensures an environment where all members of our community adhere to our uniform standards, and it promotes a sense of pride and identity. ‘Belonging’ and ‘Community’ is something we pride ourselves on at PCS. Hoodies (including sports PCS hoodies) are not part of our school uniform (we encourage students to wear a plain coat to school if they are cold) in addition, leggings and white socks are not part of our school uniform.

We kindly request your support in ensuring that your child’s school uniform meets our uniform policy and expectations. Your co-operation in helping us to address these matters will ensure effective partnership working and help to maintain a positive atmosphere within the school where staff, through our “Ready to Learn” approaches will not need to challenge students about their appearance and failure to comply with expectations.

Mobile Phones

I would like to start the second half of the spring term by highlighting mobile phone use on the school premises and to ask for your support in ensuring your child clearly understands the rules and expectations with regards to mobile phone use at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

As outlined in our “Ready to Learn” procedures and our School Code of Conduct, mobile phones used during school time will be confiscated. This includes break, lunchtime and when using the outside recreational areas of our school site. Mobile Phones may be brought to school, but they must remain in each student’s bag. For several reasons, a student might be granted permission to use their phone however, when this is required, they will be given clear instructions by a member of staff.

There are several reasons why we do not wish students to use their phones during the school day:

- Phones are distracting when in lessons;
- We want students to focus on their learning;
- We wish to ensure robust safeguarding of students and staff;

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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Porthcawl Comprehensive School

- Social media is the cause of many friendship and self-esteem problems;
- The internet has adult content which can be used inappropriately; and
- We encourage students to talk and socialise with their friends at break and lunchtime.

I ask that you remind your child for the period of time they are on the school site; their phone should be switched off and remain in their bag. Confiscated phones can be collected at the end of the day from the reception area.

Repeated confiscation will require parents/carers to collect their child's phone from school. Please also note that the same applies to earpods/headphones that are connected to electronic devices. Inappropriate use of mobile phones, social media and the recording and distribution of videos can result in fixed-term exclusion from school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Finally, I would like to thank all families who continue to support our work and who work closely with us to ensure that the young people at Porthcawl Comprehensive School achieve their very best.

I thank you for your continued support.

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards,

M. Stephens

Headteacher/Pennaeth