

# Porthcawl POST

Porthcawl Comprehensive School Newsletter | Cylchlythyr Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl

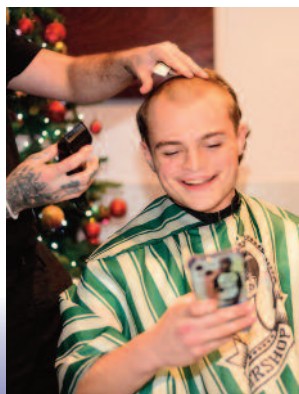


## #AstonsArmy



Upon hearing the news about our friend's diagnosis with Leukaemia we decided we would show our support for Aston by organising a 'Brave The Shave' night at our local rugby club, Porthcawl RFC. There was an amazing turn out, friends, family, local hairdressers, and teammates from multiple age groups came to shave their hair, in order to raise as much money as possible. There is also a **'GoFundMe'** page which has been shared across social media by everyone involved. Furthermore, we are trying to raise awareness for the need for people to register as a stem cell donor. The Welsh Blood Service have visited Porthcawl Rugby Club to take swabs from those aged between 16 and 30, and to help inform those aged up to 50 that they can order swab kits at home. Aston's friends and teammates will also be helping out at an evening charity event coming up in March at the Hi-Tide.

Ben Foscett ~ Year 11





# Spring Newsletter

## Introduction

As we start the Spring term 2025, I would like to thank everyone across the PCS community for their continued support. At the time of writing this piece, pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 are busy preparing for their Summer GCSE, AS and A Level examinations. As I said last year, by the time this edition of the Porthcawl Post is published the 'exam count down' will be in weeks and days. To all pupils in KS4 & 5, I wish you all the very best for the Summer 2025 examination series – to date, your achievements have been excellent, keep up the hard work and effort. I am one very proud Headteacher!

As mentioned in a letter I sent to parents in January, Year 11 sat their Mathematics GCSE in November and I am delighted to inform you that pupils performed very well. Nearly three quarters of the year group secured a grade at A\*- C and approximately one third of the year group achieved an A\*- A grade. Our 'Numeracy Points Score' for the cohort is good and overall achievement across the whole year group was positive – an excellent achievement! A small number of pupils also sat GCSE English Language and again, overall achievement was very positive – well done everyone! Well done to Year 11 and of course, the Mathematics and English Faculties. Year 11 have performed very well in their early GCSE English Literature and Science examinations, and these recent results provide for a solid foundation in the future. I would like to personally congratulate all our pupils on their outstanding achievements – I am looking forward to the Summer success!

In January 2025, 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 in similar schools, the Local Authority and Wales.

The table below illustrates our KS4 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 based on every student's best 9 GCSEs, including English Language and Mathematics and/or Numeracy. Our published score of 400.6 points is positive and continues to be a strong performance when compared to similar schools. These points scores are calculated by Welsh Government.

To help you understand the data presented in the table below, and our 'overall achievement' I provide a short explanation.

## 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, that is 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.

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 Porthcawl Comprehensive School. 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! These 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%

Currently we are preparing for three very important school events, the Eisteddfod, our Presentation Awards Evening and our Annual School Show. As I am sure you will agree, each event brings our wonderful community together to showcase talent, share success and celebrate achievement – I look forward to all. More information about our Annual School Show will be released very soon. As the Grand Pavilion is out of action, we are planning to do things differently this year and we aim to run our school show on site. This has and continues to take a lot of logistical planning! We are hopeful that we can once again, deliver another special performance – the standards of excellence continue at PCS!

This term Year 7 have attended a residential trip to Llangrannog and during February half term, KS3 & 4 pupils enjoyed a skiing trip to Voss in Norway. It has been lovely to hear about these two residential visits; lots of fun for the pupils and the staff! I have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about Year 9's First Give social action projects in support of their chosen charities – some excellent research, social action and presentations. There has been a lot taking place across PCS this term and this is very evident in this Spring Term Edition of the Porthcawl Post.

Year 11 have completed their A Level options and it is pleasing to learn that we are expecting a high number of students to join Year 12 in September 2025 – excellent news! It is likely that our Sixth Form will have approximately 250-270 students on roll in September 2025. Choosing subjects and progression routes is such an important time in school and I have thoroughly enjoyed speaking to many pupils about their subjects, plans and intended next steps. Year 9 have also completed their options choices as they plan for the start of their GCSEs – lots of important decisions being made!

To end, in the Autumn term I had the opportunity to speak to parents and pupils at our Year 6 Open Evening and it was lovely to see so many families in attendance. I have enjoyed speaking with Year 6 during their recent transition visits and I look forward to meeting more pupils during the future transition events planned. We welcome pupils from our four main feeder primary schools of Newton, Nottage, Porthcawl and West Park and pupils from several different primary schools across Bridgend. I wish you all the very best and I look forward to sharing more success in Summer 2025.

Kind regards,  
M Stephens – Headteacher



# Round up from the **Head Team Faculty Leaders**



My name is Ava and I am the head of science. My project that will be launching in the next few weeks is the school's first science fair. Any year in the school can participate in creating a project on the science topic of your choice in groups or as an individual. The science fair will allow anyone to visit and vote for their winner with prizes on offer for the ones that are outstanding. Be creative and think outside the box!

**Ava Davies**



My names Saoirse, and I'm the Sixth Form leader for languages at Porthcawl Comprehensive. My plan for this academic year is to generally raise the profile of languages in the school, by running smaller events and projects. The aim of this is to induce enthusiasm and excitement in learning languages with the lower school, with the hope of producing more individuals with foreign language skills!

**Saoirse Moulton**



As the student leaders for the performing arts we are extremely proud of our department and what we have already accomplished this year, led by myself we staged a sold out Year 7 Drama Club production of the 'Secret Garden' linking in with Music GCSE students we were able to put together a small live orchestra for the production. As well as that we have been able to give time to support and help the

current Year 11s through their devised exams while also beginning to plan a concert 'Musicals through the ages' which will be staged over the coming weeks! We have also linked up with the English student leaders and are beginning to set up an upcoming open mic event.

**Wil Morgans**



I recently gave presentations at the Sixth Form Open Evening regarding further Maths at A-Level as part of my project. I believe this was successful as the response I had from those who attended was very positive.

**Alfie Smallman**



## UPDATE FOR YEAR 9 ENRICHMENT

Pupils have been busy pitching tents, team building and carrying out tasks with water filtration. Congratulations to our winning team who were the most effective at filtering the water - Jude Jenkins and Harry Denney were the overall winners for the challenge. Pupils have also been testing out emergency group shelters and preparing conkers ready for battle!

Mr Pucella



## 13AP Wellbeing

As part of our class wellbeing, we have been involved in a 'Connect 4 Championship'. Congratulations to Zane who won the form class tournament. He now awaits to play another form's class champion. Who will become the champion of champions?







# Children in need

What a successful year for Porthcawl Comprehensive Schools' 'Children in Need'! With Sixth Formers and teachers dressing to impress as their favourite films and Hollywood stars, we raised a whopping £1900 for the charity. This year, the Head Team decided to theme the day as "Films", encouraging faculties and other Sixth Form students to bring some glamour and fun by dressing up as their favourite film characters. New student leaders and their faculty members gave their best impressions of iconic films from Starwars to the Addams Family. But it wasn't just them who enjoyed the fundraising, with KS3 and 4 students wearing their own clothes and enjoying the school-wide activities provided by the Head Team including quizzes, karaoke bake sales, and red-carpet photo opportunities.

The day was a massive success and yet again a brilliant opportunity to raise awareness of those who are struggling more than ourselves, and a chance for us to help. Thank you for everyone's support and brilliant enthusiasm for this great cause!!

The Head Team



# Foodbank Donation



Staff and pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School have embraced the spirit of giving this Christmas by raising an impressive £214.30 for the Bridgend and Porthcawl Foodbank appeal. As the festive season can be particularly difficult for struggling families, the school community came together to ensure that those in need receive extra support during this time of goodwill.

John Hornsby from the Porthcawl branch of the foodbank visited the school to collect the donation and expressed his heartfelt gratitude. He highlighted how contributions like this help provide essential food and supplies to local families, making Christmas a little brighter for those facing hardship.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who took part in the appeal, proving that the true spirit of Christmas lies in kindness and generosity.

Mr Short



## Thank You Alex!

A big shout out to Alex Sadlon from Year 12 who completely off her own bat collected together 23 sacks of toys and goodies for families in need in the lead up to Christmas.

Alex even contacted Peacocks and they donated hats, scarves and gloves! There was also a £100 donation which she used to buy sweets to add to the bags. Alex also made an Amazon wish list and made the sacks personal to individuals as she just knew ages and interests of the eventual recipients. Alex managed to do this completely under the radar and all at school would like her to know how incredibly proud we all are of her and her kindness and public spirit.





# A bit of Christmas Spirit

The Wellbeing Ambassadors recently organised a community event aimed at reducing loneliness and bringing a festive spirit to Porthcawl. With the overarching goal of creating stronger connections within the community, the event specifically focused on including elderly individuals from local care homes. By coordinating with care homes in the area, the team ensured that guests could join us at the school for a day filled with joy, music, and celebration. The event featured musical showcases from students, creating a festive atmosphere and providing an opportunity for the elderly residents to enjoy lively performances and sing along. Through this effort the Wellbeing Ambassadors brought both holiday cheer and meaningful companionship to those who need it most.

A group of dedicated students from our school reached out to local businesses in the community to make the event special. They visited shops, and other local establishments, sharing the vision of creating a festive celebration for elderly residents in nearby care homes. They received an overwhelming generosity as many businesses eagerly offered support. Some donated exciting prizes for a raffle, while others provided a variety of delicious food items for the event. Shops such as the Coop donated over 100 mince pies to our school whilst others such as AJ Guttridge donated flower baskets. Thanks to the kindness and support of our local businesses, the event was filled with gifts and treats that brought extra joy to the elderly guests, making the day even more special. The donated gifts were used as raffle prizes which made the event more exciting for the

guests. The music department also organised a musical showcase presenting musical pieces from all different ages.

In conclusion, the community event organised was a huge success, bringing together students, local businesses, and elderly residents in a shared celebration of connection and joy. The generosity of local businesses combined with the musical talent of our students helped create a festive atmosphere that not only lifted spirits but also reduced loneliness among elderly community members. Through thoughtful coordination with local care homes, the event offered meaningful companionship and a sense of belonging for those who often face isolation. This initiative highlights the power of community, kindness, and the importance of fostering relationships across generations, making it a memorable and impactful experience for everyone involved.

Aleena Joshy  
Year 12 Wellbeing Ambassador







## 9R First Give Project

Recently the pupils of 9R have come together and chosen to raise money for a charity called Calan DVS. Calan DVS is a charity that supports and gives refuge to victims of domestic abuse. Some of the class decided to do a bake sale, which raised nearly £110. The class also organised successful clothes donations and a food bank collection. Many students and teachers donated their clothes to give to the victims of domestic violence. 2.3 million people aged 16 years and over (1.6 million women and 712,000 men) experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2024. A total of 242 domestic abuse related deaths were recorded between April 2022 to March 2023.

## Interact Group



Congratulations to Josh Howells (Year 7) who won the "Guess how many sweets in the jar". There were 579 sweets. Also, many congratulations to Mrs Harris who won the raffle!

## Odd Socks



Tuesday 12th November was the date when pairs of socks were left in the drawers at home! Pupils and staff wore odd socks to represent anti-bullying week. In school, we saw multi-coloured socks, fluffy socks, plain socks in different colours and in different patterns. Odd socks represented that we are all unique and different and by wearing odd socks we are accepting all people. The motto for the anti-bullying campaign this year was "choose respect". All Students were very respectful and showed an excellent understanding of respecting the anti-bullying topic. Well done Porthcawl Comprehensive School for your respect, tolerance and kindness towards everyone's individuality!





# Animal Encounters

On December 18th, 119 Year 7 and Year 8 pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive School had a visit from A&S Animal Encounters. In recent times, A&S Animal Encounters visit us every year presenting some of the animals that make up the rainforest. The pupils were all able to handle the animals and hear about each animal's behaviour, adaptations and as to whether they were endangered. The workshop was excellent in raising awareness in terms of what can be done to improve the preservation of the habitats of these different animals. The pupils were all engaged and had a lovely time.







# Book Fair

In November 2024, we ran a Scholastic Book Fair over 3 days in the Jubilee Theatre. It was great. Scholastic offers an excellent range of books and quality literature accessible to all ages. It was great to get children enthusiastic about books and it's a fantastic way to promote Reading for Pleasure. We hope to run another one soon.

Mrs Gaudion  
Librarian - Keeper of Books



## Visit from the Royal Navy

The Royal Navy came again during the Autumn term, this time to visit Year 8. They delivered an assembly on careers and job roles, and then undertook rocket building sessions with the pupils. Pupils had an opportunity to launch their own rockets. Thank you to our friends from the Royal Navy for sharing your precious time with us again.







# Future Chef

Menna Watts, Ava Thomas and Emily Jordan competed in the Bridgend heats of the Future Chef competition. They were challenged to make a dish for 2 costing no more than £5.

Emily and Menna were the winners and went on to compete in the Welsh heats at the end of January. They had a chef to mentor them and help them develop a 2-course menu consisting of a main course and a dessert.

All the contestants were fantastic, so professional and all dishes were delicious.

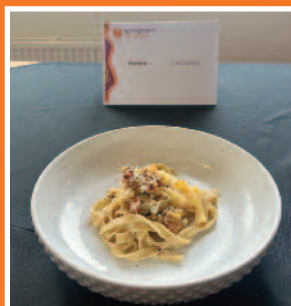
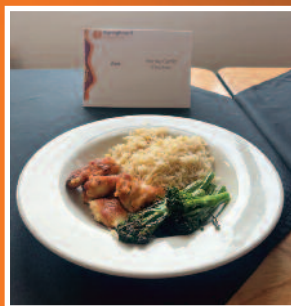
Well done!

Mrs Thelwell-Davies

## Welsh Finals

Future Chef was such an amazing experience. In the Welsh finals we were challenged to make a two-course meal (main + dessert) in an hour and a half for two people for only £10. We had a professional mentor to help us develop our dishes in the weeks leading to the competition. My chef who helped me was Nathan Philpott from Clever Chefs, he really did inspire me to want to be in the cooking industry. He made me feel confident with my dish, especially with the tips and techniques he gave me to improve my meal. He really helped with my confidence in my cooking ability. Although I didn't get to go to London in March, I still had such a wonderful experience. This has definitely improved my cooking ability and my confidence in the kitchen as I was up against some fantastic competition. I would 100% recommend this competition if you're interested in cooking. This was such a worthwhile opportunity. If you enter next year, good luck.

Emily Jordan – Year 10







# Cyber Security Pathways Event

Digital Technology and Computer Science pupils from Years 11-13 took part in a career's cyber security pathway event at Newport University on 11th December. Pupils were split into groups and attended many lectures and practical workshops on a wide variety of topics such as artificial intelligence, cyber security and privacy. Core topics that were addressed included the importance of early detection and automated responses to cyber-attacks, investigating goal-orientated risk, process and impact modelling, human factors, detecting digital and physical indicators of compromise, mitigating attacks and the computer misuse act. The day ended by students attending a careers fair where many Cyber companies shared their goals and what they could offer our pupils in the future. Pupils really enjoyed the day and found it a worthwhile experience.

“

*"We really enjoyed the hands-on workshops on offer; we had an insight into white hat hacking by completing a capture the flag challenge. Another session focussed on coding websites, where we made an offline copy to fix issues in a webpage. The lecture on the computer misuse law offered several scenarios which will be very helpful for any legal and ethical questions we might encounter in our GCSE exams this summer."*

**Oscar James & Ioan Matthews (Year 11)**

*"We had a good insight into many aspects of cyber technology such as ethical and legal uses of using a computer; we entered a capture the flag hacking competition, learnt about security measures that dated back to World War 2 and many more. We also had the opportunity to speak to other organisations about cyber of which some of them were offering apprenticeships and explaining what you would learn if you decided to go with them. I found the day worthwhile and would recommend it to others"*

**Joseph Jones (Year 12)**

## CyberFirst Girls Challenge

In October all Year 8 girls had an experience of Cyber Challenges and the importance of Cyber within society. This involved solving different puzzles in different ways to encourage them to take part in the UK CyberFirst Girls competition later on in the month.

A fantastic 32 girls signed up and we entered our highest ever number of teams with 8! The girls had a week window to solve as many puzzles as possible in their team. They spent lunchtimes and their own time aiming to get as many points as possible. Working as a team was imperative and all teams used different skills amongst themselves to ensure they competed to the best of their ability.

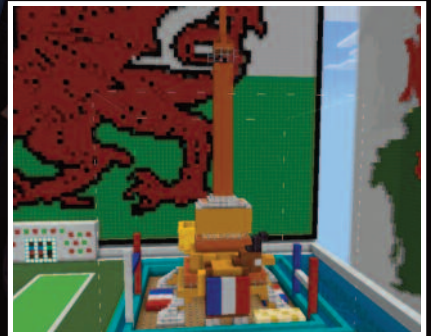
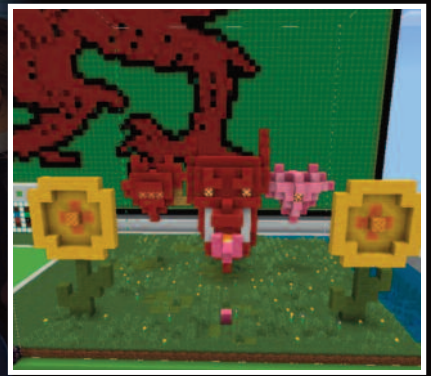
A special mention to Brianna Hemming who was our highest individual scorer with 2348 and our highest scoring team which was the Decyber girls of Lottie Dickinson, Liana Sainsbury, Esme Owen and Eva-Marie Morgan who had a score of 4962. They narrowly missed being in the Top 10 in Wales.

"The cyber competition for girls was an exciting event and challenging one to do. I also found it really funny like how some of the questions didn't make any sense which made me laugh. The skills I learnt from the cyber competition were working as a team, working on different questions, helping each other for the team-that was the main thing that we did which made us get a lot of points. Another skill I learnt was using different software because you're not going to know it all so by using different software it gave me a better understanding of the question I was given. I really enjoyed doing the Cyber Girls competition even though my team didn't win it was still a lot of fun to do!" - Ruby Evans

We have recently launched our Cyber Explorers Cup competition and have 30 pupils taking part. They will be given an hour window to work together as a team and solve as many puzzles as possible. There are lots of fantastic prizes on offer so Poblwc to them.







# Esports Minecraft Competition

Year 8 students in 2025 got the chance to take part in the Esports Minecraft Competition, where teams of six builders worked together to create a build based on a given theme. It wasn't just about building something cool - we also had to present it to the judges, explain how it linked to the theme, and point out any special details like famous landmarks or tricky mechanics. The hardest part? We only had 30 minutes to finish. That meant we had to work fast, stay organized, and make sure our build looked good while still matching the competition guidelines.

The competition wasn't just about Minecraft as it helped us build useful skills too. Teamwork and communication were super important because we had to split up jobs and make sure everyone knew what they were doing. With everyone helping, we turned simple ideas into unique designs, while problem-solving was important when things didn't go to plan. Managers also had to be good leaders, keeping track of progress, helping with ideas, and talking to the judges about the design and progress.

The different themes made things even more fun. One week, we had to build something inspired by France, and another week, we worked on an Italian theme. Every challenge pushed us to try new designs and ideas while sticking to the time limit. The 30-minute deadline added more excitement to the challenge and improved our teamwork, creativity, and decision-making under pressure skills.

## Comments

*"The competition was incredibly fun because it allowed us to be creative and express our ideas freely, as long as they matched with the theme. For example, one week, we designed something inspired by Italy, and the next, we focused on a Valentine's Day theme. This competition provided valuable opportunities to enhance our skills, particularly in communication and teamwork, since we had to collaborate effectively to complete our designs on time for the judges. As part of the challenge, we had to transform our chosen design into a full build within just 30 minutes, using materials and effects to add as much detail as possible. Attention to detail was crucial, as it could make or break our final presentation. Additionally, we had to ensure our creation had a 4D aspect, which made the process even more complex. Our team consisted of six builders and two managers, and I had the exciting role of being one of the managers. I really enjoyed leading the team by contributing design ideas, supporting the builders, and communicating with the judges throughout the competition."* **Matthew Attard**

*"This competition was a great experience to be creative and spend time with people you don't spend time with otherwise. We had to collectively decide on an idea that we all liked! Also, the competition required small details that sometimes would just be the thing between a win or a loss! I was also able to become a manager in a couple of weeks throughout this competition and it was fun trying to make sure everyone was on track and knew what they were doing. Sometimes*




*we made mistakes but every week we kept on getting better after getting inspiration from the other team's designs. We also used planning effectively by creating shared documents online so everyone could put their ideas on it and to communicate well we also had a google classroom to share announcements and ideas. Overall, I really enjoyed this competition and I helped my improve numerous skills and qualities."* **Sam Protheroe**

*"We have done 3 competitions so far and we may have lost them but we had a lot of fun. I was one of the builders who worked with red stone, making the build 4D using flashing lights and fireworks. Each week we would plan out our build then transform it into a masterpiece with the help of our two managers, Sam and Matthew. The competitions were a great time to be creative and explore new things and ideas. We got better each time and got new ideas and improved skills and qualities. I have so far really enjoyed doing these competitions and working along with my friends to try to win the next competition."* **Acacia Thomas**  
Year 8 Minecraft




### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

**Anna Marie Jones** is Year 7's Pupil of the Week. For excellent effort and positive attitude in History & RE. Always smiling, ready to help and always willing to learn. A pleasure to teach.




**Joe Thomas** is Year 8's Pupil of the Week. He has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in his subjects. He has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in his subjects.




### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

**Phoebe Lewis** is Year 11's Pupil of the Week. Phoebe has worked incredibly hard and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



**Anna O'Keefe** is Year 10's Pupil of the Week. Anna has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



### Hot Chocolate Friday



### Gwener Sioedol Poeth



### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

**Year 7's Pupil of the Week** is **Zak Jaynes**. He is so enthusiastic in both Welsh, French and German and always works well.



**Year 8's Pupil of the Week** is **Sonny Williams**. Sonny has been chosen for the U14s Welsh squad.



### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl


**Year 9's Pupil of the Week** is **Emily Davies**. Emily is always happy and supportive to others and always plays and is enthusiastic in lessons. A delight to teach!




**Year 10's Pupil of the Week** is **Harley Roberts**. Harley is always enthusiastic, hard-working and goes the extra mile in French. Pleasure to teach.



### Hot Chocolate Friday




### Gwener Sioedol Poeth




### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

**Alfie Harding** is Year 7's Pupil of the Week. Alfie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in his subjects. He has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in his subjects.




**Year 8's Pupil of the Week** is **Charlotte Cole**. Charlotte has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.




### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

**Year 9's Pupil of the Week** is **Samuel Sallang**. Samuel has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in his subjects. He has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in his subjects.



**Year 10's Pupil of the Week** is **Oliver Davies**. Oliver has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in his subjects. He has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in his subjects.



### Hot Chocolate Friday



### Gwener Sioedol Poeth



### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

**Year 7's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



**Year 8's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl


**Year 9's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



**Year 10's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



### Hot Chocolate Friday



### Gwener Sioedol Poeth



### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

**Year 7's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



**Year 8's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

**Year 9's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



**Year 10's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



### Hot Chocolate Friday



### Gwener Sioedol Poeth



### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

**Year 7's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



**Year 8's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

**Year 9's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



**Year 10's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



### Hot Chocolate Friday



### Gwener Sioedol Poeth



### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

**Year 7's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



**Year 8's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

**Year 9's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



**Year 10's Pupil of the Week** is **Ellie Cawley**. Ellie has been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects. She has also been a pleasure to teach and has shown a real interest in her subjects.



### Hot Chocolate Friday



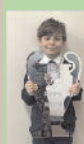
### Gwener Sioedol Poeth





### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

**Year 7's Pupil of the Week is Harrison Walsh.** Harrison Walsh, for outstanding commitment to charity work. Harrison works but not with his family providing extra experiences for the local community and raising money for charity.



**Year 10's Pupil of the Week are Xanthia Spearling and Emma Wade.** Xanthia is a huge asset to the team. Xanthia is thoughtful and generous with regards to the Foodbank appeal, carrying her heavy bags full of tinned food to school, to help those less fortunate at Christmas.



### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

**Year 10's Pupil of the Week is Joseph Sandford-Taylor.** Joseph has gone above and beyond in his support of the Drama Department as part of his Wales flag project. He is taking charge and supporting pupils to learn. He has also volunteered for the Drama Department and has been awarded a trophy for his efforts.



### Hot Chocolate Friday

### Gwener Siocled Poeth



**Last week, Year 10's Pupil of the Week was David Owen.** David has been monitoring a year 10 pupil's progress to help him, she did it last year for a year 11 pupil as part of Welsh Bacc and the pupil went from a 4.0 grade to a 5.0 grade! This time she has spent 3 hours this week and the same next week to help this pupil with exam technique - completely selfish.

### Hot Chocolate Friday

### Gwener Siocled Poeth



### Hot Chocolate Friday

### Gwener Siocled Poeth



### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

**Year 7's Pupil of the Week are Lily David and Noah Jones.** Lily is one of the most enthusiastic pupils. She has been on assist to the History lesson this week and outperforms the Porthcawl pupil.



**Year 8's Pupil of the Week is Will Jenkins.** Will has completed lots of amazing art work, always works really hard with lots of enthusiasm. Will is also exceptional in Music and History! Always polite, kind and helpful and ensures that all tasks are completed to a high standard. A pleasure to teach! Do team, Will!



### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

**Year 10's Pupil of the Week is Sam Lane.** Sam consistently gives 100% effort in Biology and Chemistry. He takes a lot of care with his work and contributes very enthusiastically in lessons. Sam treats staff and other pupils with the utmost respect. He is a pleasure to teach!



### Hot Chocolate Friday

### Gwener Siocled Poeth



Special recognition this week to Year 9 and the compilation of the First Give Project! Pupils in Year 9 have bought into the project, planned and delivered excellent events, raising awareness as well as a large sum of money for their chosen charities!

### Hot Chocolate Friday

### Gwener Siocled Poeth



### Hot Chocolate Friday

### Gwener Siocled Poeth



Special recognition this week to Menna Watts and Emily Jordan in Year 10 who took part in the Welsh heats of the Future Chef Competition. They produced delicious food and made PCS proud.



### Hot Chocolate Friday

### Gwener Siocled Poeth



### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

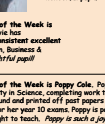
**Year 7's Pupil of the Week is Rosie Dummer.** Rosie always gives 100% of herself in History, Welsh & German. Rosie shows resilience in her learning lesson after lesson. Lovely workbooks and confidence has grown over the last month - answers questions in class frequently and with enthusiasm.



**Year 9's Pupil of the Week is Liam Salesbury.** Liam took the game of a fantastic presentation with her group - very articulate and enthusiastic. Written work also fantastic - very polite and deserving pupil. Excellent work in CS.



**Year 11's Pupil of the Week is Eve Knowles.** Eve has demonstrated consistent excellent effort in German, Business & History. A delightful pupil!

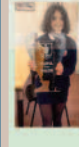


**Year 10's Pupil of the Week is Poppy Cole.** Poppy always works to the best of her ability in Science, completing work to a very high standard. She has even found and printed off 'past papers' and is working on them in preparation for her year 10 exams. Poppy is polite, kind, resilient and an absolute delight to teach. Poppy is such a joy!

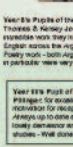
### Porthcawl Pupils of the Week

### Disgybl yr Wythnos ym Mhorthcawl

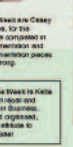
**Year 7's Pupil of the Week is Sam Lane.** Sam consistently gives 100% effort in Biology and Chemistry. He takes a lot of care with his work and contributes very enthusiastically in lessons. Sam treats staff and other pupils with the utmost respect. He is a pleasure to teach!



**Year 8's Pupil of the Week is Lily David.** Lily is one of the most enthusiastic pupils. She has been on assist to the History lesson this week and outperforms the Porthcawl pupil.



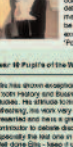
**Year 9's Pupil of the Week is Will Jenkins.** Will has completed lots of amazing art work, always works really hard with lots of enthusiasm. Will is also exceptional in Music and History! Always polite, kind and helpful and ensures that all tasks are completed to a high standard. A pleasure to teach! Do team, Will!



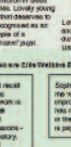
**Year 10's Pupil of the Week is Joseph Sandford-Taylor.** Joseph has gone above and beyond in his support of the Drama Department as part of his Wales flag project. He is taking charge and supporting pupils to learn. He has also volunteered for the Drama Department and has been awarded a trophy for his efforts.



**Year 11's Pupil of the Week is Eve Knowles.** Eve has demonstrated consistent excellent effort in German, Business & History. A delightful pupil!



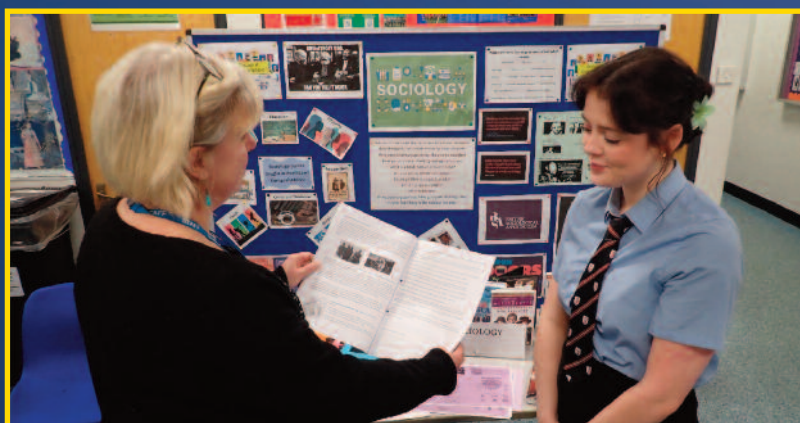
**Year 12's Pupil of the Week is Poppy Cole.** Poppy always works to the best of her ability in Science, completing work to a very high standard. She has even found and printed off 'past papers' and is working on them in preparation for her year 12 exams. Poppy is polite, kind, resilient and an absolute delight to teach. Poppy is such a joy!







# Sixth Form Open Evening: A Night of Discovery and Opportunity



The recent Sixth Form Open Evening was a resounding success, with a fantastic turnout from current students, prospective students from across Bridgend, and their families. The event provided an invaluable opportunity for students to explore the wide range of subjects available for study, including exciting new additions such as Sociology and Government and Politics. We were very proud to be able to showcase our commitment to providing diverse and enriching academic pathways.



The evening commenced with a warm and informative meeting led by Headteacher Mr. Stephens and Deputy Head Mr. Beard who outlined the values and vision of the Sixth Form. Following this, students, parents, and carers had the opportunity to visit various subject areas, where they engaged in insightful discussions with department heads as well as the Sixth Form team. These conversations helped students gather essential information to make well-informed decisions about their future studies.



Parents and carers were particularly impressed by the welcoming atmosphere and the depth of information provided throughout the evening. Many commented on the supportive environment created by staff and the clear dedication to student success.

As the options process draws to a close, the Sixth Form team would like to wish all Year 11 students the very best as they prepare for their upcoming exams. We are looking forward to supporting you on your A Level journey and welcoming you into the Sixth Form this September. Please remember that Ms. Crook and Mrs. Bennion will be available on results day to assist with any queries you may have.

The Open Evening was not just an introduction to subjects but a testament to the school's ongoing commitment to academic excellence and student development. Here's to a bright future for all involved!



# Duke of Edinburgh Award



Congratulations to the following pupils who have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze qualification in full.

Toby	ABRAHAM
Carys	ATYEO
Brody	BURNS
Ioan	CROSS
Gethin	DAVIES
Gracie	DAVIES
Finley	DENLEY-ANSEN
Joel	GRIFFITHS
Carys	GRIFFITHS-COLE
Rhodri	HOWELL
Eve	LINEHAN
Saoirse	MOULTON
Matt	NEESON
Kate	O'LEARY
Ellie	PARRY
Samuel	RICHARDS
Gruff	ROBERTS
Reuben	STROUD

They have all completed four sections, (Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition). Each pupil has been involved in volunteering by helping the community/environment, becoming

fitter and healthier, developing new skills, and planning, training for and completing a 2-day expedition. Matthew Neeson summed up his experience well by saying,

"I am so glad I have achieved the Award, it is not about a competition or about being first. It's all about the journey, setting your own goals and pushing personal boundaries, and for anyone thinking about starting it, I would thoroughly recommend it."

Through a D of E programme, young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications.

As a school we have changed the delivery of the award by offering it to Year 10 this year at Bronze level so they can then go on and achieve the Silver level during the Sixth Form. Pupils will then be able to choose whether they continue with the Gold Award when the start college or university.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award - Year 10

Pupils are in the process of completing their training for the expedition section. They have been practising using the Trangia stoves and learning pacing as part of their navigation training.

Mr Pucella



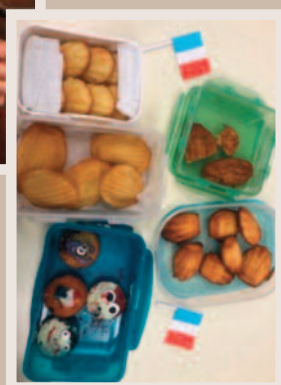


# Year 12 French Pancake Day



Year 12 had a great opportunity to come out of the classroom and head for the Food and Technology Department for some cooking practice!

They had great fun making and eating crêpes as part of Enrichment and French culture!



## BAKE OFF October 2024

Recipe: French Madeleines  
First Place: Isla Dafydd (7H)  
Second Place: Jessica Brown (8W) and Elinor Norton (8H)  
Third Place: Lowenna Thomas, Esme Hazell,  
Hali Davies-Edwards (7W)

Well done everyone! The madeleines were scrumptious!!



## BAKE OFF January 2025

Recipe: "La galette des rois", French traditional marzipan cake  
First Place: Finn Connelly and George Aston (8P)  
Second Place: Jacob Stretch (7C)  
Third Place: Lucie Clewer (7T)

Well done all! All cakes were amazing and delicious!



## SEREN LANGUAGE WORKSHOP AT PCS

Porthcawl Comprehensive successfully held a Seren Language workshop for the second year in a row for our Year 9 Seren group and Year 10 GCSE language pupils on Thursday 23rd of January 2025.

Several guest speakers from Cardiff University and one PCS former language student, Saoirse Davies, came to talk to us about the importance of learning languages and the potential for great jobs and careers. We also had the privilege to welcome large groups of pupils and teachers from Brynteg, Maesteg and Langynwyd Comprehensive schools who immersed themselves into languages and enjoyed the activities on the day, from employability session to Chinese and Japanese sessions, not forgetting the pain au chocolat for break! Thank you to everybody who took part and hopefully see you again next year!

Madame Morgan



## Christmas trip to Lille



Last December, we went on a trip to Lille, a pleasant and captivating city in Northern France. We departed early on a Friday morning by coach, stopping for lunch at a service station along the way. Later, that afternoon, we boarded a ferry and arrived in France making our way to the hostel. After a quick meal, we settled in, unpacked our belongings and enjoyed some games.

The following day, we rose early, had breakfast, and set off for a morning of laser tag. Divided into teams, we engaged in a few exciting rounds. Afterwards, we walked into Lille Christmas market where we saw a giant

Christmas tree and a Ferris wheel. Venturing into a nearby shopping centre, we did some shopping, ate some food and had delicious warm crêpes.

Later, we gathered under the Christmas tree and headed to the bowling alley for an evening of fun. There, we enjoyed a delicious dinner, I opted for margarita pizza, followed by ice-cream. We then returned to the hostel to unwind with some games, relax and begin packing for our departure.

On Sunday morning, we woke up, had breakfast and finished packing. On our way back to the UK, we stopped in Auchan supermarket to pick up a few more bits and snacks! Overall, it was an unforgettable trip filled with joy and precious memories!

Written by  
pupils in  
Year 10





# Culhwch ac Olwen

Ar ddydd Llun, Rhagfyr 2il aeth Blwyddyn 7 i wyllo pantomeim Culhwch ac Olwen yng Nghastell-nedd. Roedd pawb wedi mwynhau'n fawr iawn. Roedd llawer o ganu, chwerthin (laughing) a gweiddi (shouting) ac roedd e'n llawer o hwyl! Bwyton ni hufen iâ hanner amser – blasus iawn!

Hoffech chi ddysgu mwy am stori Culhwch ac Olwen?

Would you like to learn more about the story of Culhwch ac Olwen?

The story is believed to be the earliest Arthurian Romance and is found in Llyfr Coch Hergest (The Red Book of Hergest) which is in Coleg Iesu, Rhydychen (Jesus College, Oxford).

Culhwch was a young man born into a noble family. When he was a child, his llys-fam (stepmother) cast a spell on him, causing him to fall deeply in cariad (love) with a beautiful maiden named Olwen, the daughter of a cawr (giant) o'r enw Ysbaddaden Bencawr.

Culhwch asked Ysbaddaden for Olwen's hand in marriage but roedd Ysbaddaden yn greulon (cruel) a pheryglus (dangerous), and he did not want his daughter to marry just anyone. He set Culhwch a series of tasgau amhosib (impossible tasks) to complete before he would allow the marriage.



Culhwch set off on his journey, determined to prove himself worthy. He was aided by a great group of warriors and heroes, including Brenin Arthur (King Arthur) and his knights, Cei, Bedwyr, and Gwalchmai.

The tasks that Culhwch had to accomplish were tough, ond gyda help Arthur and his knights, they managed to achieve them one by one. The tasks included:

- **Catching the Twrch Trwyth, a magical boar that had escaped from King Arthur's lands.**
- **Obtaining a comb, razor and shears from the boar.**

Despite the difficulty of these tasks, Culhwch and his companions succeeded. Finally, Culhwch was able to return to tad Olwen and fulfil all the conditions. Impressed by his dewrder (bravery) and dyfalbarhad (determination), Ysbaddaden reluctantly agreed to let Culhwch marry Olwen.

But just as the priodas (marriage) was about to take place, her father fell victim to the very curse he had tried to avoid. He was killed by the power of the tasks Culhwch had completed, and the couple were allowed to priodi (marry).

Culhwch and Olwen lived happily ever after, and their story became a legend in Welsh mythology, celebrated for its adventure, bravery, and the triumph of love over adversity.







# Llangrannog 2025

On dydd Gwener 7fed Chwefror, Blwyddyn 7 a Blwyddyn 8 set off around midday to Llangrannog. After an exciting (and loud) bus journey, we finally arrived at our home for the weekend. Some free time for exploring the gwersyll (camp) was enjoyed by all before the gweithgareddau nos (night activities) began. This included a twmpath (welsh dancing), chwaraeon potes (a mix of sporting activities including pêl droed cranc (crab football)), cwis a siop. The teachers thoroughly enjoyed the twmpath and Mr Stratford was thrilled to be back yn gweithio ar y til yn y siop! A very long day of activities and travelling resulted in an early night - well it was meant to be!

Bright and early the next morning, after brecwast bendigedig, activities began! Sgïo, ceirt modur (go carts), saethyddiaeth (archery), beiciau cwad (quad bikes), bag neidio (jump bag) a gwibgartio (tobogganing) - you name it, we did it! The sun was shining ond roedd hi'n oer iawn - we were glad we'd taken our gloves! After a fun-filled day, pupils had a choice of amser rhydd (free time) neu pwll nŵio before heading off to the disgo in the sports hall.

Nos Sadwrn was amser disgo and we all had a chance to throw some shapes on the dance floor. DJ Holt excelled himself with his 90s classics but the highlight of the evening was dawn's Llangrannog - heb os nac oni bai (without a shadow of a doubt)! Roedd pawb wedi blino by now and a quiet night was had by all.

Bore dydd Sul again started with brecwast bendigedig and there were some tired faces in the dining hall. We continued with our list of activities which included y rhaffau uchel ac isel (the high and low ropes) and everyone enjoyed. We enjoyed a delicious cinio rhost before boarding the buses for our trip adref (home). The return journey was a lot quieter, with a number of pupils - and teachers - having a little snooze to catch up on some sleep!

It really was an enjoyable weekend for all. Behaviour was superb and it was a delight to hear so many of our pupils using their Cymraeg with staff and each other. We're looking forward to future trips to the Urdd camps and a huge diolch yn fawr to staff for giving pupils this wonderful opportunity. Watch this space for Llangrannog 2026.

As a Blwyddyn 13 pupil (and my third year going), I think I enjoyed more than the children!  
**Lois Bratcher Blwyddyn 13**

Dilynwch ni ar Instagram @cymraeg.porthcawl

"I had a blast at Llangrannog with all its activities. My favourite activity was zooming down the toboggan run." **Josh Burnett 7P**

"I really enjoyed the go-karting and tobogganing and on the whole, I loved Llangrannog. It's a memory that will stick with me for a long time to come." **Mya Morgan 7H**





## Mr Phormula yn bîtbocsio gyda **Blwyddyn 8**

Dydd Mercher Chwefror 5, Blwyddyn 8 students enjoyed an inspiring visit by Mr. Phormula, artist talentog known for blending cerddoriaeth a thechnoleg (music and technology). During his visit, Mr. Phormula shared his unique artistic process with the students, showcasing how he incorporates music and technology into his work.

A key aspect of the day was Mr. Phormula's personal connection to yr iaith Gymraeg (the Welsh language), which has deeply influenced his career. He shared how siarad Cymraeg shaped his artistic perspective and

encouraged students to explore how their own language and diwylliant (culture) could inspire creativity.

Mr. Phormula's performance was not just about music, it was about embracing self-expression and understanding the power of cultural roots. Students left feeling inspired, with a renewed appreciation for how language and creativity can intertwine.

The performance was an unforgettable experience for Blwyddyn 8, motivating them to explore their own creative and cultural identities.



Yn Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl students were filled with joy and excitement as they celebrated Dydd Santes Dwynwen, the Welsh holiday dedicated to love, friendship, and kindness. This special day, held on January 25th, brought our KS3 community together in a heartwarming display of affection and kindness.

Santes Dwynwen, known as the Welsh patron saint of lovers, is celebrated in Wales as a day to honour love in all its forms – not just romantic love, but also the love between friends and family. The day offered a perfect opportunity for pupils to reflect on the value of friendship and the importance of spreading kindness to those around them.

To mark the occasion, our Blwyddyn 7 organised a creative card-making activity where students participated, creating their own cards to send out to the lucky recipients, pupils worked together to design beautiful, personalised cards. The cards were then shared throughout the school, carrying heartfelt messages of friendship and appreciation. Diolch yn fawr iawn i 7P am helpu ensure the cards were delivered on time to the correct recipient. The kindness and thoughtfulness displayed by our students on Dydd Santes Dwynwen provides the perfect reminder that a little kindness can go a long way in making our school community stronger and happier.

## Shwmae Day



On Tuesday October 15th we celebrated diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae yn Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl. The purpose of Shwmae day is to celebrate Yr Iaith Gymraeg and pupils and staff were encouraged to start conversations using Shwmae - Hi how are you?

Both pupils and staff wore Welsh colours with everyone wearing something red or green to show their support. Pupils also had the opportunity to pose in our Welsh Photo booth dressing up with funny hats and accessories. Diolch yn fawr to all those who popped in to have their photo taken gyda ffrindiau and it was a pleasure to see lots of pupils celebrating the day and having fun dressing up and sharing their favourite Welsh word. We also enjoyed the Welsh cakes- blasus iawn!







## Year 8 Students Create Unique Welsh-Themed T-Shirts

This term, as part of their unit of work entitled 'Fy Ffasiwn, Fy Steil' (My Fashion, My Style) Blwyddyn 8 students took part in an exciting creative project: designing and making their very own crysau T gyda thema Gymreig (Welsh-themed T-shirts). The task challenged them to blend their artistic skills with their love for diwylliant Cymreig (Welsh culture), resulting in a range of eye-catching and meaningful designs.

Each student was encouraged to come up with a slogan inspired by etifeddiaeth Gymreig (Welsh heritage), whether it was a nod to our country's rich history, famous landmarks, or language. From Cymru Am Byth (Wales Forever) to playful phrases in Welsh like, "Lej", "Blodyn" and "Perfffaith", the students worked hard to bring their ideas to life using a mix of colours, fonts, and imagery.

Not only did the project showcase their artistic flair, but it also helped them to develop their Welsh vocabulary. The final result? A collection of custom-made T-shirts that proudly celebrate Welsh identity, creativity, and community spirit!



## Year 7 Drama Club brings The Secret Garden to Life

In December 2024, the Year 7 Drama Club captivated family and friends with a vibrant and imaginative production of The Secret Garden, performed in the Drama Studio. The play, set in the early 1900s, follows a young girl who, after moving to her estranged uncle's home, uncovers a hidden garden and breathes new life into both the house and its inhabitants.

The production was expertly directed by Year 13 Drama students, Wil Morgans, Ella Verderame, Ruby Richards, and Joshua Jones, who guided the cast of approximately 25 Year 7 pupils. Their dedication and hard work resulted in a high-quality performance that left the audience thoroughly impressed.

Adding to the magic of the evening, PCS musicians provided live music throughout the show. A special thank you goes to former PCS pupil Poppy Shingler, who led the musical arrangements and generously gave her time to ensure the highest standard of musical accompaniment.

Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing this enchanting production to life!







## Young Playwrights' Festival 2024: **A Celebration of Creativity and Talent**



The Young Playwrights' Festival is always a highlight of the Drama Department's calendar, offering Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students a unique opportunity to develop a wide range of dramatic skills, including writing, directing, and performing.

Since its introduction in 2010, the festival has traditionally taken place in the summer term. However, with the school's annual production now moving to that slot due to the temporary closure of the Pavilion, we adapted by finding a new time for this much-loved event.

The creative journey began in May 2024, when Key Stage 3 students explored potential storylines in their Drama lessons. They brainstormed ideas that were then developed through storyboards, scene summaries, and short scripts. After careful selection, over 40 students took part in a writing workshop led by professional playwright Davina from The Sherman Theatre, Cardiff, helping them refine and shape their ideas into compelling pieces of theatre.

The festival culminated in an exciting performance evening, where five winning plays were brought to life on stage. Each production was the result of weeks of dedication, with Year 10 GCSE Drama students stepping up as directors to guide their peers from script to performance. The talent, creativity, and passion displayed by all involved were truly inspiring.

At its heart, this festival has always been about giving students a platform to express themselves, develop their dramatic abilities, and deepen their appreciation for the arts. This year was no exception, and the evening was a resounding success, with the audience thoroughly enjoying every piece performed.

We look forward to seeing how this festival continues to grow and inspire young playwrights in the years to come!

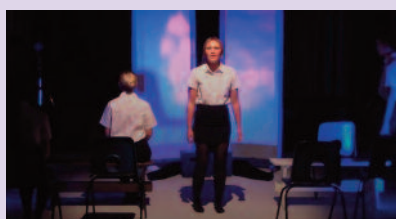
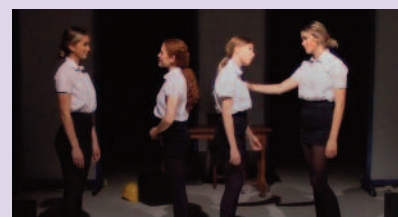


## Year 11 GCSE Drama Devised Practical Exams October 2024

In October 2024, Year 11 Drama students undertook their Devised Practical Exams, a key component worth 40% of their GCSE. This challenging and creative project pushed students to refine both their performance and theatrical skills.

Students devised powerful pieces based on the Aberfan tragedy, presenting their work in the style of 'Theatre in Education.' Most were assessed on their acting, focusing on their ability to engage an audience and structure their performances effectively within this style. Additionally, five students were examined on their lighting design, demonstrating how they used lighting to create atmosphere and enhance the overall impact of the performances.

The Drama Department was incredibly proud of the students' dedication and the high standard of work produced. Their commitment and creativity truly brought this project to life.





# Christmas Carol Service 2024



We were delighted once again to hold our annual Christmas Carol Service in the beautiful setting of All Saints Church on Thursday 12th December, 2024. It was lovely to see the church packed full of audience members and the high number of pupils taking part in this prestigious event. We were warmly welcomed by Father Wayne David, as he entertained the audience to open his very first Carol Service for Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

The performances were of an exceptional standard yet again this year. We were so proud of each and every pupil, from the performers and musicians, to the readers, dancers, and technical/stage management support. The entire evening displayed the versatility and depth of pupils here at PCS, and the sheer number of extra-curricular groups that we are so lucky to have here in school. We had even more musical items that we could have showcased, but we would have been there until midnight!

Pupils performed the carol service for a second time on Friday 13th December for Years 7 and 8. Again, it was so lovely to be able to provide all pupils with the opportunity to experience a Christmas Carol Service held in the traditional setting of a church right on our doorstep. The service featured a new Welsh Christmas song called 'Mae Santa Clos yn Dod'. The pupils sang

brilliantly, and it is safe to say that this is going to become a regular Christmas song here at PCS within singing assemblies!

Thanks go to the English, Drama, Music, RE, Technology and Welsh departments once again for all their contributions that made the carol service such a triumph! I must extend this thanks to Miss. Owens; Assistant Headteacher, and also to our valued team of instrumental peripatetic teaching staff for their dedication to extra-curricular ensembles and producing high quality teaching for our pupils. We were thrilled to welcome Mr. Edwards this year, our new brass teacher, and it was such a pleasure to see the showcasing of our excellent brass players with the brass group's rendition of 'Stop the Cavalry'.

It is with great pride that we say a huge 'thank you' to all the pupils for their dedication and commitment to the wider life of the school through their participation within extra-curricular opportunities. Congratulations to all the readers, performers, instrumentalists, and vocalists for their confident and engaging performances, and to the Performing Arts stagehands and Head Team - the evening ran so smoothly due to your hard work and dedication! You are all a credit to the school.

Mrs. Giles





# Remembrance Day 2024

Each year, we are so fortunate to have talented pupils to play the Last Post, a traditional bugle call that is played on Remembrance Day within a moment of reflection where we remember those who have fallen. Although 'The Last Post' is now associated with remembrance, the musical call was originally a signal sounding that the final sentry post had been inspected in a military camp inspection, and the area was secure for the night.

Rhys Stacey (Year 10) gave a stunning rendition of the Last Post which was followed by a minute's silence across the school. Rhys has been asked to be part of the Porthcawl Royal British Legion as their regular trumpeter and has already collaborated in partnership with them at prestigious events. We wish him the best of luck with this fantastic opportunity!

Thank you to Rhys for marking this very important moment and enabling the entire school to witness the playing of the Last Post on the yard.

Da iawn, Rhys!



## Poppy Shingler – Past Pupil National Youth Orchestra of Wales Success!



This year I auditioned and was accepted into the National Youth Orchestra of Wales on viola. This will involve sectional rehearsals in Spring and a two-week residential including expert tuition, culminating in a tour around Wales. I first heard about this opportunity through friends who had previously played or were currently in the orchestra, and after watching one of their concerts over the Summer, I was inspired to try the audition

process myself. To audition I had to prepare two contrasting pieces, scales and arpeggios on two note centres, and an orchestral excerpt for which I chose an extract from Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra.

I expected the whole experience to be very intimidating, but instead I walked through the door and was greeted with friendly and supportive chaperones who had been through this process themselves and understood how I felt. There was someone there to explain every step of my audition and to guide me around the building. I was allowed a few minutes to warm up and practice in one of the practice rooms before being taken into the audition room in my own time.

The audition panellists were also extremely friendly. They suggested ways in which I could develop my sound and allowed me to play parts of my pieces again to experiment with different techniques. After this, I felt very relaxed about any future auditions I may have to do. I would definitely recommend auditioning to anyone considering it! It was great to meet like-minded musicians on the day. I learned a lot and I can't wait to learn even more and be a part of such a big team.

<https://www.nyaw.org.uk/national-youth-orchestra-of-wales>

By Poppy Shingler

## Dilwyn Evans Music Award



We are very fortunate to have a great partnership with the Porthcawl Male Voice Choir. Every year the choir award a Music prize to one of our Year 13 A Level Music students, to support them as they embark on a future career in the Arts. This year, the prize was awarded to Poppy Shingler. Poppy is a high achieving musician, with a passion for performing and composing. She is a superb pianist and viola player and has always been one of our most dedicated performers throughout her time at PCS. Poppy has featured heavily in the school productions both on stage and in the band, and several concerts by participating in String Group, Orchestra and Choir. Poppy gave a wonderful performance alongside the Porthcawl Male Voice Choir in their Annual Concert on 7th September 2024 and was commended by local politician Sarah Murphy.

The Performing Arts Department wishes Poppy the very best for her future career in Music and the arts. We know that she will be highly successful in whatever pathway she chooses!

Mrs Giles  
Music Department





Year 12



# Media Studies

Our **Year 12** students created a series of Horror posters...



Our Media Studies students analyse how media products like TV programmes and music videos use images, sounds, language, and representations to create meaning. They learn about the media industry and how the industry affects how media products are made. They investigate media audiences, exploring who are the people who watch, read and consume the products, and consider how people might be affected by media products differently, and why. All this knowledge helps them learn how to create their own media products. Once again, we find ourselves beaming with pride at the fantastic quality of the Non-Examination Assessment completed by our Media Studies students in the last academic year. Our students in Year 12 must create a series of Horror posters, whereas our Year 13 pupils must create a magazine front cover, contents page and double page spread. This work is worth 40% of their overall examination and led to our students once again achieving fantastic results. Such high standards of work take a huge amount of time and effort and we can't help but be blown away by the authenticity of their work! Well done! Next Year we offer GCSE and A Level Media Studies, exciting times for our PCS Media Studies team!



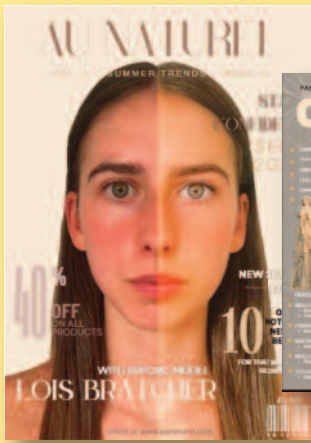
Year 13



... whereas our **Year 13** students created magazine covers, contents pages and double page spreads.







# Sainsbury Girls' Success



Congratulations to the Catrin and Liana Sainsbury who represented Welsh Schools in the central zone of the Schools Trampoline Competition. Catrin came 10th overall in the Elite Girls Years 10-14 and Liana came 5th in the Advanced Girls Years 7-9. Catrin has been selected for the Trampoline Welsh Development Squad this year.

# Seren Salberg takes Bronze in Portugal

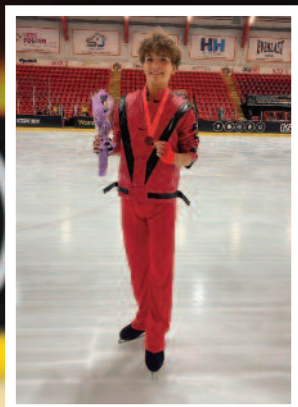


Early in November, Seren returned from the World Championship Kickboxing competition in Portugal, where she achieved an impressive Bronze medal in her category. Seren had to fight her way through America, Mexico, Canada, Scotland and England to achieve her place!

This accomplishment reflects her dedication, hard work, and resilience, and we couldn't be prouder of her at PCS. Well done Seren and the best of luck in your next event.



# Connor Furness reaches for the stars on international ice-skating stage



Hi, my name is Connor Furness and my passion is ice-dance. I am in Year 12 and studying PE, Performing Arts and Welsh Baccalaureate.

I have been ice-skating for about five years or since I was 12 years old. My sport, like a lot of sports requires lots of training, focus and dedication. I currently train five times a week in either Cardiff or Bristol ice rinks. My training sessions are in the morning, before coming to school; some sessions are just an hour but prior to a competition, I can train for up to three hours a day.

Over the last three months I've competed in two international competitions, one in Blackburn and one in Poland. The level of competition in both was of a very high standard, many of the competitors being National Championship winners. In the Blackburn competition I took the Bronze medal. I was delighted with this result.

In the last week of January, this year, I traveled to Poland. This was the first time I have competed abroad. Poland was a much larger competition with skaters coming from countries all over the world, including USA, France, Estonia and many more. It was a fantastic experience skating at such a high-profile event. I competed in the advance novice category and came 9th out of 24 skaters. This was a massive personal best for me, competing with some of the world's best skaters.

These results will propel me to my next international competition, at the end of March in Amsterdam and then the British Championships to follow, in April.

I love my sport and my dream is to become a professional ice-dancer.



## Dewi Wins Gold!

Judo was invented for male and female participants by a teacher Dr Jigaro Kano as a means of personal development. Its values of Courage, Respect, Modesty, Friendship, Honour, Honesty, Self-control and Courtesy and they are sincerely ascribed to by all the participants right around the world.

On Saturday 23rd November 2024, the Welsh Championships were held at The Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff and Dewi Thomas of Year 9 won Gold in the Under 14 (pre cadet) competition, making him the under 55kg Champion.

Dewi has studied Judo for 10 years and is being supported by Mr Michael Horley, Welsh Coach and Dr. Georgina Bevan, an elite Judo coach and senior teacher, as part of the national squad training programme. He will continue to represent Wales in the coming year at International Competitions. Dewi also teaches Judo at Maesteg and Judokwai on Monday and Thursday classes as part of AYPD, with pupils ranging from 4 - 10 years.

During 2025 he will advance to Cadet level and will train in adult techniques. He is very committed and his attainment at an Olympic sport is at UK regional representative level. He will be developing in the hope of UK National success and GB squad membership. To succeed in this aim is a major challenge, but Dewi will be focusing on this and trying as hard as he can to be successful.

Good luck Dewi!





# Science Transition



What an absolute pleasure it was to welcome both our local and out of catchment Year 6 pupils to Porthcawl Comprehensive School back in October. On the agenda – Save Mr Stephens!

Unfortunately, Mr Stephens was not there to greet the pupils at the beginning of the day due to his kidnapping, but the Science teachers were called into action to guide the pupils through the crime scene investigation. Year 6 pupils took part in a series of exciting experiments using Bunsen Burners, chemicals, indicators, chromatography, microscopy and much, much more. Like true scientists, they were able to predict, justify and analyse information to thankfully solve the mystery and identify the guilty suspect! Mr Stephens is happily back in the comfort of his office and therefore, we do still have a school for you to attend in September! Phew!

The behaviour, manners and enthusiasm displayed by every pupil that attended our Science transition was exceptional. We really do have a lovely, inquisitive bunch of pupils ready to join us in September! We really hope that you all enjoyed and feel excited about your new adventure with us – we cannot wait to see you all again!

Miss Redmond (The guilty one!)



# Technology Transition

The Design and Technology Department welcomed pupils from our feeder primary schools for a fun packed morning of activities delivered by staff. The department opened the doors to West Park, Newton and Porthcawl Primary Schools who attended the transition activities along with pupils from out of catchment schools in the area and well over 100 pupils attended all together. The department provided opportunities for pupils to learn and develop practical skills by making a laser cut bag tag with an engraved Porthcawl Comprehensive School logo and personalised with graphics added using a heat press and transfer paper. They also had the opportunity to make pitta bread pizzas and learn about food hygiene. The pupils also designed a pizza box using their graphics skills.

All of pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities and had products to take home to show their parents. They also enjoyed biscuits and squash and got to know the staff in the department making the transition from primary school to secondary a smoother experience.





## News from the PRIMARIES

.....

### Porthcawl Primary School

This year is flying by and as always we are super busy at PPS! The Great Porthcawl Bakeoff has been and gone and all our brownies have been baked and eaten. All of the creations were very different and this year we even managed to add all the correct ingredients!

In Welsh we had our first Siarthar Iaith assessment. Not only did the school earn the bronze award but the external assessors were really impressed with the Criw Cymraeg's knowledge and enthusiasm for the Welsh language. Here is the final comment from the report:

"Llongyfarchiadau mawr i chi Porthcawl Primary! Staff and pupils have worked extremely hard in order to win this bronze award and have truly impressed us. The use of pupil voice and independence here is wonderful to see. Your approach towards the Welsh language is a truly positive and inspiring one. Diolch am eich holl waith caled!"

Mrs Loveluck and the Criw Cymraeg will attend the awards ceremony in March and they have already started working towards the silver award. We were also part of an Estyn Thematic report for International



languages. The work Year 6 have done in their lessons with the Porthcawl Comprehensive staff has really paid off. Estyn were impressed at how confident our pupils were when speaking different languages. They even sung Baby Shark in French and German!

### West Park Primary School Spring has Sprung at West Park!

Autumn at West Park was an opportunity for new relationships and spreading kindness. We focussed on happiness; supporting one another and reaching out to the local community and the wider world. You may have spotted the friendship pumpkins that we placed around the village or enjoyed a visit to the Salt Lake containers where our Eco Green Leaf entrepreneurs spent the morning talking to the public about zero waste shopping and how to develop more sustainable shopping habits to support the planet. We were also pleased to donate to the Food Bank, Hope charity and Operation Christmas Child and delighted to strengthen our links with the Sandville by joining them for a morning of carol singing and meeting the wonderful

Sandy Hoppington named by one of our very own pupils! We are so proud of our pupils as they grow into positive citizens within society and the compassion and empathy that they show for others. Autumn term culminated in an Eco Green Leaf Christmas sale and of course our notorious Christmas Concerts and Nativities!

As we step into Spring, we are celebrating Welsh heritage and culture with visits to Rhondda Heritage Park, Castell Henllys and Cardiff Castle. We are looking forward to celebrating St David's Day with a whole school Eisteddfod showcasing Welsh talent and to an afternoon of Welsh music for Dydd Miwsig Cymru. Year 6 would like to thank Porthcawl Comprehensive for the



fantastic transition sessions that have taken place so far providing a taste of what's to come in September!

Finally, if anyone would like to know more about our Community Garden and free allotment spaces please to get in touch [admin@westparkps.bridgend.cymru](mailto:admin@westparkps.bridgend.cymru)



# Newton Primary School

What a fantastic term we've had at Newton Primary! Our pupils have been immersed in exciting learning experiences that have truly sparked their imaginations.

In Dosbarth Pink Bay, our youngest learners have been exploring 'Puddles and Rainbows', delving into all things weather-related. They've been captivated by 'The Weather Monster' story and even created weather-inspired musical compositions. Their creativity in cheering up the Weather Monster seems to have worked wonders – we've had no rain since!

Our Progression Step 3 pupils have been enchanted by their 'Once Upon a Time' topic. From concocting potions to designing scavenger hunts, they've embraced the magical world of fairy tales while broadening their cultural understanding.

Language lessons have been brimming with inspiration, resulting in a wonderful collection of diary entries, stories, and poems that showcase our pupils' growing literary skills.

We've also focused on Children's Mental Health Week, with the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. It was heartwarming to see our pupils in their expressive outfits, sharing what matters most to them. From invigorating beach trips to creating healthy smoothies, we've embraced the importance of nurturing our minds.



# Nottage Primary School

## Croeso i Gwanwyn 2025!

As we embark on our Spring topic, Defending the Dragon (Amddiffyn y Ddraig) we are celebrating Courage as our core value. Council Cavaliers started the theme with a whole-school assembly, inspiring us all to embrace bravery in everything we do.



Explorers showed bravery during an exciting visit from A&S Animal Encounters where they met a mongoose, an armadillo and a Speke's hinge back tortoise and a real-life dragon!

Experimenter pupils have been training as fearless medieval knights ready to slay dragons and Muay Thai themed PE lessons inspired the Spring topic further in a physical way, understanding the origin of ancient ways of other cultures requiring courage and bravery.

Entrepreneurs in Year 4 and 5 have been crafting and writing about their dragons, exploring personification and its impact on the reader while Year 6 pupils have designed and

performed their own shadow puppet theatres, presenting alternative endings to classic fairytales. Their creativity and willingness to take risks left a lasting impression on the entire school seeing firsthand how courage can lead to extraordinary outcomes.

Our school rugby team showed courage and perseverance when they won the annual Ian Thomas Memorial 7s tournament. They were unbeaten, and our vice-captain Reuben won player of the tournament for the second time in consecutive years.

At Nottage, we believe in fostering courage at every step of learning and growth.





# College Transition visit Tŷ Enfys

A number of Year 11 students recently attended Bridgend and Pencoed College as part of the transition process. Pupils had a tour of several departments at Bridgend College such as, art and photography, health and social care, childcare and hair and beauty before visiting the canteen and student support centre.

Moving onto the Pencoed Campus, pupils explored the impressive Steam Academy, where a number of engineering and

mechanical courses take place. Pupils were also impressed by the animal and equestrian facilities, home to a number of exciting courses. A tour of the sports department followed and pupils were allowed to observe what goes on in a lesson. Pupils were keen to get signed up and some found courses that they had not even considered before.

Pupils found the day informative and helpful and it definitely helped them to make some important decisions about their future.

Thanks to Chantal Pearce our college link for inviting us in for the second year running and for taking the time to get to know our students at PCS. The plan for the future is to open this wonderful visit to students before they get into Year 11 so that they can feel empowered in their transition planning for the future!



## Pupil Achievements Spring 2025

Many congratulations go to the following:-

### Seren Salberg Year 11

Bronze Medal in the World Kickboxing Championships Portugal November

### Martha Davies & Chloe Dunster Years 7 & 8

Qualified for National Gymspire Finals 2024 representing South Central Wales in November

### Isabella Daly Year 9

Competed in Swim Wales National Championships in Swansea in December

### Dewi Thomas Year 9

Gold Medal in the U14 Welsh Judo Championships

### Elise Payne Year 10

Competed in the British Schools' Championships at Shooting

### Megan Francis Year 12

Competed in the Scottish Open at Karate in February

### Dewi Powis & Finlay Mantegna Year 12

Placed highly in the KS5 Oxford School Regional Debating Competition, qualifying for the Finals Day in Oxford University in March

### Catrin & Liana Sainsbury Years 11 & 8

Represented Welsh Schools in the central zone of the Schools' Trampoline Competition

## Instrument Exams

Congratulations to all musicians that have sat grade exams over the past term! Well done for showing excellent dedication to practising and preparing for these examinations on top of your normal lessons.

Please can ALL pupils that have sat any external music or musical theatre exams, bring in your certificates to reception to be scanned. They will be kept on as a school record and count towards future UCAS points.

Remember to update your music teacher on any success that you achieve or see Mrs. Giles so that she can update her records and publish your achievement in the next Porthcawl Post!

Diolch, Mrs. Giles

Name	Instrument	Grade
Grace David Year 7	Piano	Grade 1 Merit
Katelyn Bebb Year 9	Violin	Grade 1 Merit
Rhys Bismire Year 13	Flute	Grade 8 Distinction
Tamsin Jenkins Year 11	Saxophone	Grade 6 Distinction
Ellis Leonard-Davies Year 8	Piano	Grade 2 Distinction
Charlie Horton Year 13	Piano	Grade 8 Merit
Larissa Clee Year 12	Flute	Grade 8 Distinction
Olivia Evans-Jones Year 10	Violin	Grade 5 Distinction
Danny Richards Year 7	LAMDA Acting Solo	Grade 5 Distinction

## PARENTS/CARERS

We rely on you for our information!  
Has your child achieved success or recognition relating to an extra-curricular activity? If so, please email

[pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk](mailto:pressbox@porthcawlschool.co.uk)