



School returns on
7th September 2017

October Half Term
30th Oct – 3rd November

Christmas
23rd December – 9th
January
Inset Day 8th January

Headteacher Introduction

Dear Parent/Carer,
I am absolutely delighted to present the final school newsletter for 2016 – 2017. As you will see, it is packed full of the opportunities and experiences that staff at Porth County endeavour to provide pupils with, wherever possible. We have had an incredible year yet again. The redevelopment of the site ahead of the new through-school opening September 2018 is in full swing. Pupils returning this September will be able to enjoy brand new facilities in the form of new Science labs, DT workshops and a multi gym for PE lessons. The school website and app is being regularly updated to keep everyone informed as each new phase of the development begins. Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils have worked extremely hard all

year. We celebrated their efforts with the first ever Year 11 Prom and, sadly, the last ever Year 13 Sixth Form Summer Ball in July. These were both great evenings. The Year 11 Prom will now become a firm date within the school calendar. Pictures of both evenings can be found on our Twitter feed and Facebook page. I would like to thank the incredible hard work of teaching and support staff which has helped to guide and encourage pupils through their exams. I wish everyone all the very best for your results in August. As the year comes to a close, I would also like to thank parents, carers and the local community for their support. This has made a difference for many pupils throughout the year, and I look forward to this continuing once



again from September. Best wishes for a restful summer break.

Mr Jenkins

Under construction

The last year has seen some of the biggest changes to the landscape of Porth County Community School in over a generation. Students, staff and visitors are greeted daily with the sight of huge construction vehicles and a small army of men in hard hats and high visibility jackets as they busily complete the building work for the new Porth Middle



School. Senior Assistant Headteacher Mr Cronin, a lifelong collector of Tonka toys, has been in his element as JCBs and cranes form part of his daily backdrop.

It is safe to say these are exciting times for students at Porth. The old “Lower School” building, once the girl’s grammar school, was removed earlier in the year. This demolition work was quickly followed by the sight of the new primary school buildings beginning to take shape. Currently the skeletal steel framework gives an indication of the scale of this modern, inspirational new building.

The secondary school building is also undergoing some exciting changes with work on a new suite of science laboratories and Design and Technology workshops currently well underway. A new gym will also soon be completed and a wholesale refurbishment of the interior of the building is about to take place.

These works herald a massively important change for education in Porth and even in these early stages it is clear that they represent a huge investment in the young people of our community. As Winston Churchill said: “We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.” If this is the case then these exciting developments suggest a very positive future for students of Porth.

INFORMATION

www.porthcounty.org.uk

Follow us on:

@porthcounty



Our Wellbeing team are:

Anna Jenkins –
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Year 8 and 9

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Year 10 and 11

Also available on our new App



Taith i Amgueddfa Sain Ffagan / Trip to St Fagan's Museum

On April 5th, many students from Year 7 had the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills in a visit to St Fagans Museum with Mrs Morse and Mr Hicks. Throughout the various activities, students were able to hear Welsh being spoken through a bilingual shopping workshop and various interactions with museum staff during the

day. It was fantastic to see so many students communicating so confidently in Welsh. The competition winners for outstanding use of Welsh during the visit were Lucie Elgin (7AI), Corey Evans (7AI) and Ben Bryer (7JM). Da iawn chi! Please follow the Welsh Department's Twitter feed @PCCSCymraeg

Hay Literary Festival—making hay while the sun shines

Porth County students visit 'the town of books'



Designed to inspire and enthuse all learners, the Schools Programme events are part of Hay Festival's commitment to children and young people. The Programme is funded by the Welsh Government and Hay Festival Educational Trust.

On Friday 26th May, fifty four students from Years 7 – 10 had the chance to meet amazing writers, performers and poets. Inspirational authors brought their books to life through dynamic live performance and pupils had the opportunity to explore with them a range of topics including humour, history, football and conservation, as well as loneli-

ness, empathy and tolerance. This year, the 30th anniversary of the first Hay Festival event, pupils also had the chance to discover what it takes to create a storybook world and become a writer. All authors attending had their books on sale and were on hand after their events giving everyone in the audience a wonderful opportunity to get a book signed and ask further questions.

The weather couldn't have been any better; it was almost as if Mrs Knibbs had specifically ordered the sunshine! Setting off from Porth with Mrs Knibbs, Miss Regan, Miss Stephens and Mr Hicks, the students were eager to see what Hay had to offer. Upon arriving at Hay, we were immediately impressed by the level of security after the sad events in Manchester that week, and were made to feel extremely safe upon entering the festival site. After splitting into groups, the students were able to explore what the site had to offer before meeting back up for the first workshop.

The first of these was at 11.30 with Daniel Morden and Teri Terry. Daniel Morden is one of the UK's foremost storytellers, travelling the world telling stories to adults and children in arts centres, theatres, libraries, museums and festivals. Magic runs through his gruesome, fantastical and hypnotic tales, turning even the most sceptical into believers. In this session Morden brought to life his Dark

Continued on next page

Hay festival

Tales from the Woods, combining the roles of troubadour, actor, bard, and stand-up comedian in an engaging, interactive performance. Gales of laughter were heard echoing all around the grounds!

Teri Terry is a YA writer of dystopian and psychological thrillers that cover themes of conspiracies, family secrets, lies, authority, power, love and friendship. Focusing on her most recent book *Contagion*, the first in a new series that looks at survival and transformation, love and power, Terry discussed how she turns ideas into stories. She included practical advice for all those who want to write.

The students were then able to get a taste of the multitude of Welsh cuisine on offer in the festival's food court (delicious!) and were able to spend a little more time exploring the many book stalls and side tents before heading for their second workshop of the day with Phil Earle, Pete Kalu or the strangely entitled SUPER INTELLIGENT HIGH TECH ROBOT SHOW!

Phil Earle is a writer who says "Don't wear your headphones on the bus and you'll see that there is great drama in the everyday, waiting for you to write down." Earle's latest title, *Mind the Gap*, grew out of his constant search for possible stories. He offered a high-energy, interactive session that enthused the most reluctant of readers, and prove that we are all storytellers. As a child, Phil Earle wanted to be a professional footballer or a singer. He didn't like reading fiction but he did like comics and he learnt to love books when he worked in a children's bookshop.

Pete Kalu is a poet, novelist and playwright who has had eight books, two film scripts and three theatre plays produced to date. For many years he ran a Hulme-based carnival band called Moko Jumbi (*Ghosts of the Gods*), which took to the streets at Manchester Caribbean Carnival every

July on three-foot-high stilts. Students were able to watch Kalu pull off the tricks of his writing trade – he can tightrope walk, unicycle and juggle – and learnt how he weaves these

tricks into his novels, where they are metaphors for frustration, adventure and daring. The author has also spent time dressed up as a zombie and acting in a film as a corpse. Students could learn how to be a corpse and enter his zombie competition. All the content relates back to his three YA novels *the Silent Striker*, *Being Me* and *Zombie XI*.

The Super Intelligent High Tech Robot Show did not disappoint! Ever wondered how robots work, what they do and why we even have them? Students were able to join the Science Museum as they took them on an amazing interactive journey

into the world of robots. Students were able to discover how we program them, how they're engineered and which is best – robot technology or human biology. This exciting and engaging science show featured incredible live robot demonstrations and experiments. After a very hot final workshop session, students headed for the book shops where they were able to purchase books from their favourite authors and some were even lucky enough to get their books signed before heading off home – tired and hot but thoroughly entertained!



Samba Transition Project

Over two days in February a group of learners from year seven were involved in a transition project all about samba drumming. The learners were joined by pupils from years five and six from our feeder primary schools for practical workshops using authentic samba drums. The workshops were led by a specialist percussion teacher who had spent time teaching pupils in each of the primary schools prior to the workshops at our school. Our year seven pupils took no time at all to catch up and were soon making a fantastic samba sound alongside the pupils from the primary schools.



Spring concert, hits the right note

On Thursday 25th May the Music department hosted a Spring Concert in the school hall. The concert featured around sixty members of the Junior and Senior choirs, and a number of soloists from all year groups. Highlights from the concert included 'How Far I'll Go' and 'Stiches' by Junior Choir and 'Broken Strings' and 'The Scientist' by the Senior Choir. The soloists that

evening were Chloe Shire, Jolie Hill, Cersha Quigley, Abbie Evans, Lucy Clifford-Young, Caitlin Henderson, Ella Roberts and Jasmin Coles. The concert was enjoyed by families and friends of the performers as well as staff.

Congratulations to all pupils involved, you should all feel very proud of such an excellent performance.



School Parliament visits Houses of Parliament



On Wednesday 8th March, school parliament were given the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London. The students were treated to a tour of Parliament and they had a meeting with Chris Bryant (Labour MP for RCT) in one of the cabinet rooms.

The students were blown away by the interactive tour of the history of Parliament, as were the teachers. The walls came alive with history. They learned about how parliament started, the revolt against the monarchy and lots of interesting history. The students said afterwards that they found it very informative; they enjoyed learning about the history of the building they were sitting in.

The students then had a meeting with Chris Bryant, where Chris explained what inspired him to become an MP; students were then able to quizz him about his beliefs and what he believes should be done to help the valleys in the future.

As a bonus, the students were also treated to a show on the West End - The Lion King. The students were wowed by the production, singing along to the music and just having a wonderful time. A thoroughly good time was had by all.

Fashion show— lead creative school



After receiving funding from The Arts Council of Wales, a group of Year 9 Maths students planned and produced a very successful fashion show working with the production company "Its My Shout". The show celebrated a century of fashion trends and very enthusiastic staff and students strutted down the catwalk accompanied by music from the era. Our two compares, Lucy Clifford Young and Sophie Pearce, did an amazing job of supplying the audience with interesting facts from each decade. The show really brought our school community together with visitors from Ty Porth care home who reminisced about the 'good old days'. A fantastic night which will be remembered for the next century!

And now... the news report

At the beginning of March two teams of Year 8 pupils pitched ideas for a news item based on their study of ethical issues in RE to producers from BBC's Wales Today. The producers were hugely impressed with the professionalism, confidence and hard work shown by the pupils.

They decided to run with the idea presented by Isabel Jones, Molly Pearce, Halle Howells and Holly Ahearne. The idea the girls decided to focus on was the impact that the use of social media is having on the mental health of young people as this was something that was concerning them and others in their year group.

The girls researched the entire piece themselves and when the BBC arrived at the school to film the piece they were amazed at the amount of preparation that they had done. We had an exciting day filming at the school with pupils and staff being interviewed about the issue.

On 16th March we went to Cardiff to the BBC studios. The children's commissioner, Sally Holland, was so interested in this topic that she agreed to be interviewed by the girls, she was extremely complimentary about the way the girls conducted the interview and how articulate and interested they were.

The piece was researched, scripted, edited and produced by our Year 8 girls and the final piece was amazing. It made every news bulletin throughout the day and was shown on the flagship 6:30 BBC Wales Today.



Off to the synagogue!

In March, Year 10 RE GCSE took a trip to the Cardiff Reform Synagogue as part of their study of Judaism. The pupils were welcomed into the synagogue by members of the Jewish community and had their questions answered about beliefs and practices of the Jewish faith. They were also given the chance to look at the Torah scrolls in detail and all aspects of Jewish life in Wales explained to them. It was an invaluable opportunity that has enhanced their knowledge and understanding of the religion.



Seven Skills Transition Project

The department of Seven Skills has been in regular contact with the feeder schools to help set the scene for life at Porth County Community School in September 2017. It has liaised with Year 6 teachers to ensure they are prepared to meet the needs of all individual students joining the school in September. The purpose of the transition project is to ensure Year 7 have an enjoyable and positive experience. It will also help prepare them for the years ahead and to achieve more. Our transition project has involved a range of experiences and effective liaison with feeder schools and the write-up below is one of them:

During the first week of June, Porth County Community School took Year 6 from cluster schools on a trip to Llandaf Cathedral and to the Hindu Temple. The focus of the visit was to introduce the pupils to the religions of Christianity and Hinduism. Prior to the visit two teachers visited from Porth County Community School to deliver an introductory lesson on Hinduism. This resulted in pupils designing their own God and entering a competition in the school.

On the day of the visit pupils were collected from their primary schools and taken to The Hindu Temple in Cardiff. At the temple, pupils were introduced to the beliefs and philosophy of the religion. This involved them taken part in various activities such as meditation, yoga and playing musical instruments.

The children couldn't believe the god had more outfits than they had (75 in total! more clothes than Mrs Knibbs!)

All the children had to respect the religion of the temple and had to make sure they were appropriately clothed and had to wear scarves, which covered their hair. No food was allowed in the temple either. Mr Bromage, from Porth Juniors, loved wearing his pink flowered scarf.

The children took turns at playing different musical instruments. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed making their own music including the teachers.

The children also took part in a bit of yoga and learnt different relaxation techniques. "I think the teachers could learn a lot from this too."

During the visit the children saw lots of different symbols and part of the project was to learn about what they represent and link them to their key questions. The children asked many questions and the temple representatives were extremely impressed with their behaviour.

The children learnt about the Hindu greetings and how to pronounce them. They were very interested in how the worshippers in the Temple perform their morning duties.

The second part of the visit was to Llandaf Cathedral in the afternoon; here students carried out more activities, which included a treasure hunt of religious symbols, designed their own stained glass window, and sketched different architecture.

The cluster schools joined together outside the Cathedral for a group photo.

The children loved exploring the cathedral and looking at different symbols for inspiration for their project and comparing them with the Hindu Temple.

The children then went on to design their own stained glass window and to create their own temple.

As you can see a lot of hard work went into their designing.

After the hard work the pupils were rewarded with an ice cream and time to play in the park with friends and bond with new ones



English and RE 'RAISE' the bar in Rome

Earlier this year we, as year 10 students and members of RAISE group, alongside Year 11 RE students, embarked on a memorable journey to the historical and unique city of Rome.

As a small, but perfectly formed group, we had the initial excitement of travelling to Rome by plane rather than the normal coach. For some of us it was the first time we had ever been on a plane; for some it was the first time they had ever had a passport! This, in itself, began what was to be an amazing trip. We arrived in Rome to be greeted by our tour guide who many

thought was Billy Connolly in disguise; he accompanied us on our trip to our hotel before we headed out for food in a typical Italian restaurant. Mrs Knibbs had completely banned us from having anything other than true Italian cuisine – no KFC or Mac-cy Ds allowed! After a picturesque walk back to the hotel, we quickly settled down for the night, ready for our adventures the next day.

Day 2:

We rose early and set out to visit the grand Coliseum of Rome. Upon arrival we were astonished by the magnificence of its architecture and were eager to gaze upon its inside beauty. As we studied the stands in the amphitheatre, we could see the history unfolding before our eyes, gladiators battling wild animals and many gruesome deaths meant to entertain. Later that day, we set out to the Roman Forum, the heart of the Roman Empire. It was here that Rome began and from here grew into the strong and powerful empire it's known as today. We then visited the Trevi Fountain which was absolutely beautiful. We threw coins into the fountain and wished to one day return to Rome while we watched the water slowly cascade down the statues. After a short break in a nearby Café, we walked to the Pantheon. There were so many rules we had to obey, for example we weren't allowed to stand too near the statues or linger for too long next to them and no sound was permitted, the place was absolutely silent. It was very exciting and it was extremely interesting to read about the history of the Pantheon and the ceiling was a dome which seemed to go up and up forever. We later walked to the Spanish steps and ran up to the very top before eventually walking back to the hotel.



From the top: At the Coliseum, middle picture, at the Spanish Steps and at the Vatican



Day 4:

On our final day, we did our most walking yet – 14km! During the day, we saw a number of different basilicas including the very beautiful Santa Maria Maggiore and San Pietro in Vincoli (St. Peter in Chains); these were so amazingly atmospheric it was very difficult not to be touched to the core. After a late lunch, it was back to the hotel to get ready for our coach back to the airport. This was not without its excitement after someone (you know who you are!) left their passport on the coach and nearly ended up staying in Rome for an extra day with Mrs Knibbs! Eventually, a very tired but happy group arrived home in the early hours of the morning, having experienced what can only be described as a trip of a lifetime. If you have never been to Rome – DO IT!

Day 3:

On the second day, our first visit was Castel Sant'Angelo. It was once the tallest building in Rome and was a castle before becoming a museum. It was very interesting to look around and learn about the different statues and the history of the castle. We wandered around and learned

much about its defences and we could see even Saint Peter's Basilica from the top, which just so happened to be our next stop. We had a wonderful view of the Vatican as we were walking towards it but we didn't realise its beauty and immensity until we were stood, gazing up at it. The architecture of Saint Peter's Basilica was so detailed and magnificent, but nothing could prepare us for the pure artistry of the inside. Our eyes were greeted with seemingly endless corridors, all lined with statues of emperors and important people in Roman history. The ceilings were all high and patterned with different shapes, all symmetrical. It was beautiful. We carried on traipsing through the corri-

dors and we found ourselves faced with walls and ceilings plastered with golden artwork and it covered every inch of the building. We all peered up at the art, even more excited to get to the end and see the ceiling Michelangelo's hand-painted ceiling and when we saw it we were not disappointed. Everyone was dead silent and, again we were warned not to take any pictures. It was very beautiful and immaculate, patterns covered the walls and paintings shrouded the ceiling in colour.

Coming out of the Vatican, we were greeted by a beautiful sunset, which framed the amazing architecture of St. Peter's Square. Mrs Knibbs explained to us how new popes were elected and to hear this, whilst standing in the actual square where it all takes place, was truly awe-inspiring. Mrs Knibbs was seen to get a little teary at one point when we were by her 'favourite pope's' tomb – 'JP the second' all the way! We then embarked back to the hotel and awaited our penultimate meal of which we got lost on the way!

Our school uniform



Uniform Requirements

White shirt (long or short sleeve) this should be tucked in at all times.

Clip-on tie (gold and green for years 7–10 and black, gold and red for year 11–13)

Black V-neck jumper or cardigan with the Porth crest.

Black blazer with Porth crest for all year groups.

Black tailored trousers. Denim or 'skinny' trousers are not acceptable.

Belts are to be plain black with a simple buckle.

Black shoes. Trainers (i.e. canvas shoes and/or shoes with a brand logo) are not allowed.

How much does it cost?

When we originally researched the possibility of changing the school uniform, cost was always at the centre of our decision making. The costs of the uniform are as follows:

- Tie: £3.99
- White tailored shirt (long or short sleeve) – the school will leave this decision to parents in order to accommodate all family budgets (For example, Asda currently sell three shirts for £10 which compares favourably to

our previous polo shirt which are £16 each)

- Black v-neck 'sweater material' jumper/cardigan with the new Porth crest: £12.99 (up to small) and £13.99 (small to large)
- Black blazer with the new Porth crest: £25 (for all sizes)
- PE Kit – PE top £12.99, PE shorts £10.99, PE 'Skort' for girls £10.99, PE socks £4.95. Howells also provide a rugby top as an optional extra for £19.99

All pupils will be expected to wear black tailored trousers and black shoes to complete the uniform. **Parents should note that 'skinny' trousers are not acceptable, students are expected to wear tailored trousers. Shoes will also be expected with no canvas or sports trainers being allowed.**



Year 7 - 11

- White tailored shirt
- Green and gold clip-on tie
- Black v-neck jumper/cardigan
- Year 7 – 13: Black blazer

Year 11-13

As on the left, but with a black and gold clip-on tie as shown above



PE Kit

- Sport polo top
- Shorts or 'Skorts' for girls
- Socks

What our pupils are saying about their uniform...

“I really like our new school uniform, it looks so smart.”

“Our school uniform is so smart, I feel really proud wearing it .”

Am I eligible for a uniform grant?

Any pupil in receipt of Free School Meals qualifies for a uniform grant. This will entitle parents to obtain the school uniform using the voucher system when you order directly with Howells Sports. Any Year 7 pupils will also receive the additional Welsh Assembly grant. Any parents who are unsure about whether they qualify for Free School Meals should check with the Local Authority or use the following web link for advice and guidance or telephone 01443 680363 to make a telephone application: www.rctcbc.gov.uk/en/advicebenefits/benefits/freeschoolmeals/freeschoolmeals

Where can I order?

Our supplier is: Howells Sports, 42 Dunraven Street, Tonypanydy, CF40 1AL 01443 433335

Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 – Porth County breaks records!

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place every year in the UK on January 27th – the date Auschwitz was liberated in 1945 – to commemorate victims of Nazi persecution, the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust take on a different theme each year and this year's theme was 'How Can Life Go On?'

This year's event took place on Friday 27th January 2017 and in the run-up to the day our school ran a number of activities to honour HMD. The History and RE Departments held Holocaust-themed lessons with classes in Years 9-13, discussions took place during registration periods, and film viewings took place in the History Department after school.

On the Friday, Year 9 worked together in groups to create a variety of team projects which included poems, posters, fact files, and other items to commemorate the victims of genocide. The work that was produced is currently on display in some of the classrooms. To round off the day the students enjoyed some delicious Challah bread which was impressively prepared and shared out by Alice Smith in Year 13.

As a result of the number of activities that took place, Porth County were responsible for holding more activities than any other school or organisation in Wales this year! A representative of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust commented:

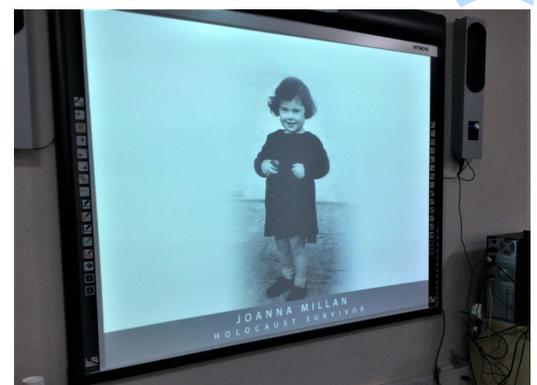
"It's fantastic to see the huge number of varied, meaningful HMD activities that Porth County held for HMD 2017. It was pleasing to see the Recipe Cards being used to create Challah! We can't wait to see what Porth does for HMD 2018."

The History and RE Departments would like to thank all pupils who were involved for their maturity and contribution to the week's events. A special thanks goes to the Sixth Form students in particular who got involved to assist in the delivery of these activities.



Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan visits Porth County

The HMD commemoration concluded with a visit to the school from Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan on February 10th 2017. Joanna was born in Berlin in 1942 and less than a year later was sent to Terezin Ghetto near Prague. Sadly, Joanna's parents both died in separate camps and she was flown to the UK with many others after the liberation of Terezin in 1945. Joanna grew up in England and was encouraged to research and unearth more about her family's experience in the 1980s. Today she shares that story in schools and institutions around Britain. During Joanna's talk at Porth our students asked a number of interesting and poignant questions and both students and staff sat in awe while listening to her incredible life story. We are truly grateful to Joanna for travelling all the way to Porth to kindly share her fascinating yet difficult story with us about her family's experiences during the Holocaust.

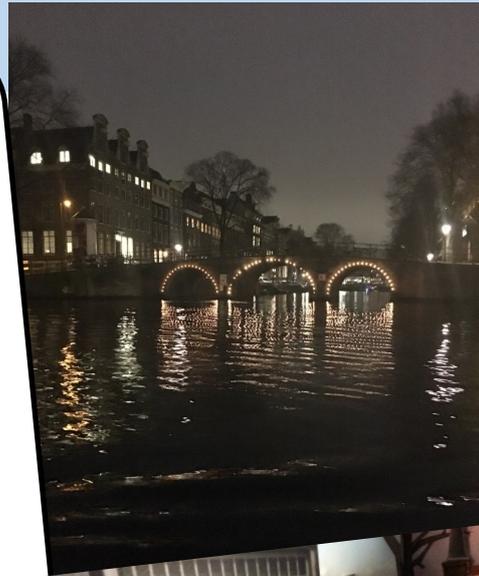


Amsterdam Adventure

During February half term Mr Hicks, Mrs Ingham, Mr Young, Mr Davies and Dr Bosanko accompanied 50 students in Years 10-13 on the History Department trip to Amsterdam to visit many of the famous historical and tourist attractions.

Day 1:

Following our overnight journey from Porth County we were taken straight to the Hollandsche Schouwburg theatre in central Amsterdam. During the Second World War, the Nazi occupying forces branded it as a 'Jewish only' theatre and by 1942 it became a forced collection point for Jewish people awaiting deportation to the camps. Today the venue serves as a memorial and museum to all of the Jews who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis during their occupation of the Netherlands. Our students took the time to follow the fascinating exhibition, walk around the commemorative garden, and observe the eternal flame set in the memorial chapel. It was here where the students began to comprehend the beginning of the awful journey that a number of Jewish people experienced under Nazi control. Later that afternoon we visited the highly engaging Nazi Resistance Museum to learn more about how people fought back against the regime. We split into our groups and walked around the interactive displays which highlighted the strikes, protests, forging of documents, escape routes, espionage and armed resistance that took place! The day was rounded off with a wonderful canal boat ride which provided a stunning backdrop to the city's beautiful bridges, merchant houses, and unique scenery. As the sun began to set the excitement was too much for some who fell asleep after a long and eventful day!



Day 2:

After a well-earned night sleep, the next day was kick-started with a visit to the famous I AMSTERDAM sign outside the Rijksmuseum. Everyone used the opportunity to take an abundance of selfies and to sample some delicious Dutch stroopwafels! From here, we walked through the cobblestone streets until we reached Anne Frank's House. This biographical museum documents the story of Anne Frank and her family who hid from Nazi persecution during the Second World War in a Secret Annex in the attic of her house and father's business. After more than two years in hiding they were discovered and deported to concentration camps where all of them died apart from Anne's father, Otto. After her death Anne became world-famous because of the diary she wrote in hiding. Her house now acts as a museum with each room gradually revealing the heart-breaking story of Anne's hiding and eventual capture. This visit, for many, was the highlight of the trip and a truly sobering experience for us all. Later in the day we travelled by bus to Camp Vught Concentration Camp which has the distinction of being the only camp that was run by the Nazi SS in Western Europe. Here the group was divided and guided around the camp by two well-informed volunteers. One guide, Hermann, had even spent time researching our school and asked a number of questions about the local area and details of our visit. He drew links between our own motto of 'Ni Wyr, Ni ddysg' with the mission statement of Camp Vught - that without knowledge, we cannot learn. The tour concluded with a fantastic commemorative poetry reading by Owen Cutler in Year 11. Following dinner at the hotel, and an emotionally-heavy day, the students had time to unwind with a game of bowling and another round of selfies before heading back to the hotel to get some sleep.



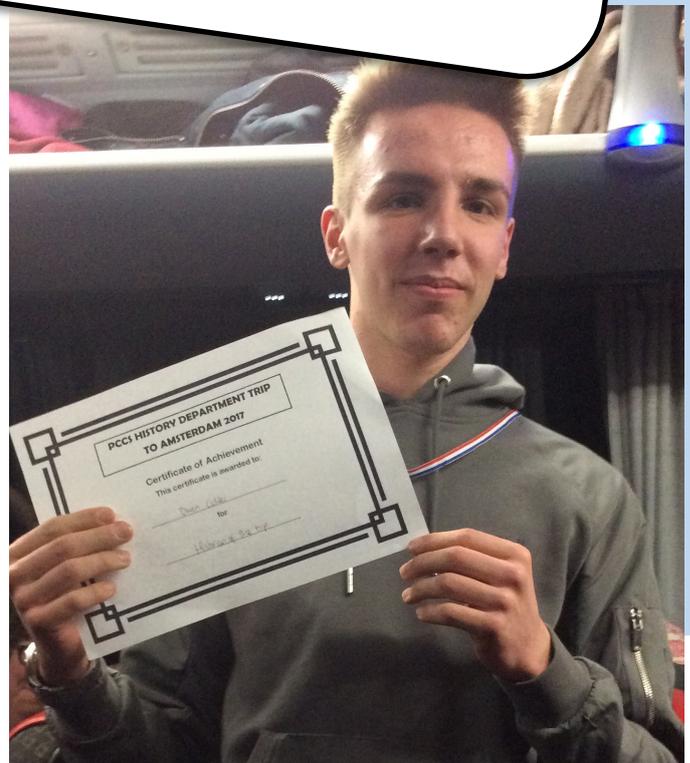
Amsterdam Adventure—continued



Day 3-4:

On the penultimate day students had chance to relax and enjoy free time at Efteling theme park – the largest theme park in the Netherlands and one of the oldest theme parks in the world. The park was delightfully bizarre with fantasy-themed rides, fairy-tale houses and odd-looking statues! Students tried out some of the amazing rollercoasters on offer and some even braved the incredibly ‘terrifying’ Haunted House. Upon arrival back in central Amsterdam in the early evening everyone had free time to wander around some of the shops and other famous attractions before heading back to the hotel for dinner. After dinner, the Sixth Form spent the evening celebrating the 18th birthday of Olivia and Rosie Jones before getting an early night for the journey home! On the final day of the trip we departed for Porth. The bus ride home was a chance for everyone to reminisce about their favourite memories of the trip and to take part, of course, in the world-famous Hicks Bus Quiz. After a quick stop-off in Belgium to spend all remaining euros on chocolates and gifts we finished the last leg of the ride with the prestigious History Trip Awards. The winners are as follows:

Historian of the Trip: Owen Cutler
The Real Organiser of the Trip Award: Emilee Davies
Style and Fragrance Award: Megan Jones
Red Cross Award: Mr. Young
Orienteer Award: Alice Smith
Best Dance Act: Conall Quigley & Ffion Hughes
Bear Grylls Award: Hannah Jones
Overcoming Obstacles Award: Joseph Weston
Codebreaker Award: Georgia Davies
Best Hoodie Name: Emanuel Williams (Robson-Manu)
Man vs Food Award: Lewis Hubbard
Winter Warrior: Abbie Evans
Jack of all trades: Sophie Pearce
Best Photo Award: Ben Romans



Mr Hicks would like to give a special thanks to Emma and the whole Edwards team for organising such a phenomenal trip, to our patient and friendly driver Matt, to all staff who gave up their time to attend, to Sarah and Paula for helping with the trip admin, to Mr Davies for his emotive nut bar speech on the bus, to Mr Young for his equally brilliant and crystal clear speech on itinerary timings, to everyone who waited for me to get ready every morning, to the Sixth Form for teaching Dr Boz a few card games, to the hostel for stocking up on Pringles, Soleros and Magnums for Ben Romans and, finally, the History Department would like to sincerely thank all the students involved for your conduct, enthusiasm and maturity and to each of you for individually helping to make this trip a truly unforgettable experience. Dank Je!

Bar 44

Year 9 Spanish pupils enjoyed a lesson with a difference in February when they visited Bar 44 in Cardiff on Valentine's Day! This was following our very successful visit earlier in the year with the GCSE class. Bar 44 is a Spanish tapas-style restaurant with authentic food and décor which comes directly from Spain.

Pupils once again took part in a number of activities such as naming key ingredients, learning the correct way to taste Spanish drinks (which can be messy!), playing bingo in Spanish and, of course, sampling the Spanish tapas on offer. They also received a talk on the use of Spanish in hospitality careers as well as information on how the ingredients are sourced. Señor Young and Señora Williams were very impressed by the pupils' willingness to try the different dishes and all pupils represented Porth County impeccably.

Those pupils continuing to study Spanish to GCSE next year can look forward to more events of this nature. ¡Hasta pronto!



Cardiff Uni Inspiration day!!

Sixteen of our Year 11 pupils spent a fascinating time on the 3rd April at Cardiff University discovering their potential career choices and life at university. Entitled 'Cardiff Uni Inspiration day', the event consisted of a series of faculty led workshops following an introductory talk about university life in the main lecture theatre.

The hour-long workshops involved activities that were focused around future career paths and were led by teaching staff and students at the university. They included tutorials on Dentistry, Business Studies, Law, Psychology, Medicine and many more...

Our pupils gained a great insight into the many opportunities that University holds and it has inspired them to aim high in the future...

Bienvenue!

PCCS welcomed 48 French pupils and their teachers to our school in June. Year 9 pupils have been corresponding with French pen pals of the same age from Collège St. Paul, in Angouleme during this academic year. It was therefore with great excitement that many of our pupils were able to meet their pen pals who were visiting Wales and spent a morning at PCCS. After a welcome briefing to get to know each other, our pupils took their pen pals to lessons with them. The French visitors enjoyed a variety of activities including baking and Zumba. The MFL department would like to thank pupils and teachers for their support with making the visit a success. Porth County pupils proved themselves excellent hosts and enjoyed chatting with their French friends.

Bravo année 9!

Reflect and Reward

As the year comes to an end it gives me great pleasure to showcase a selection of activities undertaken through our school's **PSE and Work Related Education programme**. Internal staff and external partners have once again supported the successful delivery of our PSE curriculum; further enhancing teaching and learning within the department as well as skill development amongst our learners.

The shots provide an insight into the nature of the lessons delivered; ranging from Personal Safety, Career Planning and Healthy Lifestyles. All of which would not be possible without the keen support and first class efforts of our **key partners**.

As a result, I would like to take this opportunity, as we approach the end of the academic year, to thank the many members of our **school and local community** for their positive contribution toward what has been an extremely busy yet enjoyable year within the PSE/WRE department! **Diolch yn fawr!** We now look forward to the two remaining KS4 activities; Mock Interviews (6th July) and Work Experience (17th July). Reflections relating to these events will be shared during Autumn term 2017/2018.

Mrs. N McCarthy



Year 7 "Enterprise Challenge" set by RCT EET:

Students developing their chosen business ideas.



Year 7 Enterprise:

Students impressing their peers with their creativity and innovation.

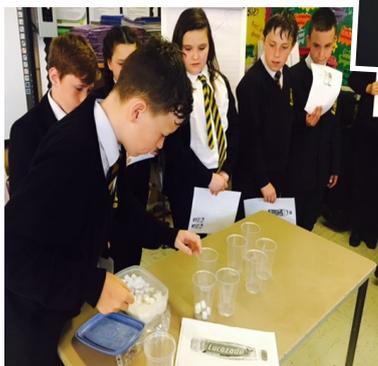


Year 8, Personal Safety:

Discussing the many dangers associated to substance misuse with PC Williams, South Wales Police, Core liaison Programme.



Mrs. Howard, Careers Wales Advisor, supporting Year 9 students with option choice prep.



Year 7 Students discussing the importance of "Water / Hydration". Here they are seen measuring sugar content in a range of soft drinks.



Students reflect on their personal effectiveness and how they might apply such skills to the Just B Smoke Free project.

Year 8 "Just B Smoke Free Ambassadors": working together to raise awareness of the risks associated to Smoking.



Year 8 students rewarded for their efforts and creativity with the PSE Poster Competition. A "celebration" of success - overall winners.



Year 9 students meeting successful entrepreneur, Jayne Brown. Proving they have the employability skills to be successful in today's workplace.

Design Technology Students Make The Wall!

Well done to our students across year's 7, 8 and 9 who have made our DT Hall Of Fame. All of the students have earned their place by showing excellent skills, flair and attitude. **Well done to you all!**

Corey Evans

Connie Llewelyn

Cari Powell

LL OF FAME

Ben Bryer

Ellie G-Jones

Evie Jones

Amelia Coles

Madison Roach

Oakleigh Watkins

Tomas Howard

Jonathan Pope

Jenny Challenger

Leoni Jones

Sabino Lenoci

Luke Jeremiah

Dewi Thomas

Holly Ahearne

Molly Pearce

Halle Howells

Isabel Jones

Zak Griffiths

Kelsey Jones

John Harding

Olivia H - Llewelyn

Cameron Forbes

Ffion Chard

Megan Williams

Elias Bridgeman

Lauren Young

Shelby Pritchard

Cailin Blamey

Carwyn Pugh

Isaac Jones

Erin Garland

Connor Fussell

Molly John

Nikita Ridley

Georgia Collins

Callum Harvey

Stanislava Makulova

Sophie Evans

Courtney Kettley

Ronan Pellow

Phoebe Harris

Tegan Simmonds

Ffion Jenkins

Jack Rogers

DT HALL OF FAME

