

Dear parents/carers

Re: Headteacher Update May 2024

Summer Uniform

All students are now welcome to wear summer uniform, which consists of a light blue polo shirt, or a school shirt worn with no tie. Students do not need to bring their jumper or blazer to school if they do not wish to. The details of our summer uniform can be found in our uniform policy on our website. Summer uniform will be worn up until the end of the school year. We will wait to see what the weather forecast is like in September to make the decision as to whether to continue with summer uniform or revert to our usual uniform then.

Exams

Public examinations have started very positively, and we are very proud of the students, who in the main have behaved immaculately. There are very strict regulations around examinations, and we do inform all students of how serious it is if any of these are broken. Please continue to support your child, particularly if they are in Year 10 and these are their first public examinations, to continue to take these exams seriously and perform to the absolute best of their ability. We try to remind students that doing their best is what matters to us, and we cannot ask any more of them than this. It is important for all students sitting exams to take regular breaks and to remember that, though exams are important, their health and wellbeing is of the utmost importance and comes above everything else.

Culture Day

One of the highlights of our school calendar is our culture day on the 10th July. This day is all about students celebrating their Cynefin; their Welsh identity, and for many of our students, the interweaving of other cultures and countries into their sense of Welsh identity. It is a wonderful day where students can wear whatever they like that they feel celebrates their own Cynefin. We have a range of fantastic things going on in the day, such as our fashion show and special food in the canteen. We are asking for an optional donation on this day to go to Velindre and this can be paid in the usual way via our app.

60th Birthday Celebrations for Caerleon Comprehensive

We are in the middle of planning a special day for the 19th July as this will be our celebration of Caerleon Comprehensive School turning 60. If any of our families have any ideas of things we can do on this day or for this day to make it special, we would be very keen to hear your ideas. Please email us at the usual address Caerleon.Comprehensive@Newportschools.wales if you have any suggestions. On this day students will be invited to wear whatever they like, and we will be asking for a

voluntary donation towards the PTA, FOCCS. All money is ploughed straight back into the school, and we are very grateful to FOCCS for all the fundraising they have done this year. It has enabled us to buy much needed resources for the school at a time of very challenging budgets for schools in Wales.

As you know, we plan our non-uniform days throughout the school year and they are put on the calendar in advance. This year there have been 7 due to the 60th celebrations; but normally we plan for 6 (we have not asked for donations for every one of these non-uniform days). Please be aware that donations are requested on a purely voluntary basis. We know times are tight for many families and we do not wish anyone to donate who cannot afford to. Please only donate if you feel you can. All donations are very gratefully received.

Class Moves KS3

As you will be aware, once students have completed Year 7, there are class moves in Year 8 and then again in Year 9. Students remain in the same form group from Y7-Y11, but we think it is important for students to have the opportunity to experience lessons within different groups, rather than staying in the same teaching group with the same students for 3 years. Students are permitted to choose between 1 and 3 other friends they would like to remain with in their teaching group and heads of year do their best to accommodate this. All students will be with at least 1 friend of their choosing (likely more). Once students reach Year 10, they are ability set in core subjects and then due to the options subjects they pick, it is unlikely they are with friends in lessons. It is useful therefore for students to have some experience of working with others in Year 8 and Year 9 and to widen their friendship group earlier on in their school career. Please be aware that we followed this process at the end of last year with huge success. Nearly all students settled well into their new groups and made new friends and teachers have been very pleased with the groupings. If there are ever any issues with teaching groups, parents/carers are very welcome to contact their child's head of year to discuss.

Equipment

Please continue to support the school by ensuring that your child has the right equipment every day, including a pencil case, their books, a water bottle, PE kit (on PE days) and so on.

I would like to wish all our families an enjoyable half term and I will write to you again with further updates in June.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Purcell

Headteacher.