Dear Parent/Carer

Headteachers Update: October 2026

Thank you for your support

A big thanks for your support of our summer showcase event, which was very successful in September, and also a big thanks to all our parents/carers for your support of our sporting extra curricular programme. Every evening there are large numbers of students on site playing a variety of sports and we have also had a lot of fixtures this year so far. A big thank you to our PE team for all their hard work in this area, particularly with such limited facilities at the moment.

Student council

This year our aim is for the student council to play a more active part in school life. Parents/carers will soon be receiving a questionnaire, designed by the council (which is led by our head student team) to ask you about proposed changes to our uniform that could be made in the future. Please look out for this questionnaire and provide us with your feedback if possible. The student council have three priorities this year:

1. Improving communication for students – has everyone got the message?
2. Providing careers and options support for Y11 particularly
3. Uniform – what can we change and what can we improve?

Safeguarding update

Please find a link to some useful information about online safety. These articles provide information for parents who would like to talk to their child about online safety.
https://hwb.gov.wales/news/articles/dca16bfd-58aa-4b7d-82bd-d19c790a43d2

Attendance update

As always, please encourage your child to attend school every day and on time, unless they are too unwell. Were you aware that if your child arrives to school after 9:30am they receive an absent mark for the whole morning session? This not only impacts on their attendance figure but it also means they are missing out on a significant amount of learning during period one sessions. Please encourage your child to be on site and ready to learn by 8:45am every day. This is the time registrations starts. Students are welcome on site much earlier than this and the canteen is open every morning for students to sit in the warm and purchase some breakfast if they wish to. Please support us by ensuring your child has the highest attendance to school possible.

New build/refurbishment update

The work is progressing in line with schedule and our communications officer is currently working on an update to our website to include photos and updates from the build as it progresses. We are also working with Wilmott Dixon to revamp the quadrant area in F block, to create an outdoor science-themed garden. We recently received a very kind donation from a supporter of the school, which has allowed us to put a new carpet in one of the support areas of the school, accessed by our most vulnerable learners.

Cynefin Day

Our first Cynefin day of the year, where we celebrate our Welsh culture and heritage and the fact that every one of our students belongs here, is taking place on Friday 16th October. Students may wear non uniform on the day, and we'd be delighted to see Welsh colours if possible. Please note that Y7 need to wear their PE kit on this day as normal. We ask for donations via parent pay for this event, and this year, the Criw Cymraeg have chosen The Urdd as the charity where we will send 50% of the donations raised. The other 50% raised will go to our PTFA, FOCCS. We have relied on the funds raised by our PTFA for many essentials needed by our students. For example, they have just supported us with the purchase of cameras for our new GCSE in photography, that we started running in September. These donations, alongside two other cameras kindly donated by another supporter of the school, have made all the difference to our learners. Please support our fundraising activity on

Friday 16th if you can.

Classcharts reminder

Please can we ask all parents/carers to ensure their notifications are turned on and that they check regularly their child's attendance, achievement points and behaviour points and discuss anything relevant with their child at home. If you are experiencing any issues with Classcharts, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

ALN contact

Please be aware that Mrs Ceri Middleton is currently Acting Step Centre Manager, so please contact her as a first port of call for all issues relating to additional learning needs - middletonC28@newportschools.wales.

PE kit reminder

A polite reminder please that all students should be wearing school PE kit on PE days. No other kit is permitted.

Parents evenings/events

You will find all of these on our calendar on the website, but here is an overview for you as well. All parents' evenings are online and run 3:30-6:30pm.

- Y13 - Wednesday 9th December
- Y12 – Thursday 28th January
- Y11 – Thursday 12th November
- Y10 – Tuesday 1st December
- Y9 – Wednesday 20th January
- Y8 – Thursday 18th February
- Y7 – Tuesday 23rd February
- We are running the Y7 tutor catch up day (which is an in-person event) on: Wednesday 18th November, 9am-1:20pm.
- We are running the Y11 into Y12 pathways evening on (which is an in-person event in the school hall) on: Thursday 19th November, 5-7pm.
- We are running the Y9 options evening (which is an in-person event in the school hall) on: Tuesday 12th January 2027 (time to be confirmed)
- There are also the parent forums in the spring term and summer terms on: Thursday 25th February and Thursday 29th April. The spring term forum focuses on supporting your child with revision and is aimed at parents/carers with children in Y10-13, and the summer term forum has a wellbeing focus. More information about these forums will be circulated nearer the time.

Please do check our online calendar for events and activities as well. I look forward to writing to you again in November.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Purcell
Headteacher.

