

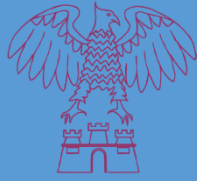


Caerleon Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun Caerllion

Maximising Potential | Sicrhewch Ragoriaeth

A Transition Booklet for parents/carers and learners joining us in September 2023





Ysgol Gyfun
Caerllion | Caerleon
Comprehensive School

A welcome message from our Headteacher to all the incoming Year 6 Learners

Dear Year Six,

It is my pleasure to welcome you as a valuable member of our school. You will spend at least five, and possibly seven years of your life here with us; during which time we hope you will be very happy.

Caerleon Comprehensive is a special school, a place where we value you as unique individuals who have much to offer the world. We hope to nurture your talents in all areas of our curriculum, and very much want you to take every opportunity offered to you at our school, whether that be playing for a school team, being part of the school show, or simply being a caring friend to another student who is having a difficult day.

You are our leaders of the future; our doctors, dentists, artists, teachers, politicians, youth workers, the list is endless. We aim to ensure you maximise your potential to ensure you can be whatever you want to be, but what is most important to us is that you leave our school as responsible, happy and healthy citizens of the world, ready to contribute positively to society.

I look forward to meeting all of you during your first weeks here and I am very excited about what each of you will bring to our school.

Wishing you every success in Year Seven,

Mrs L. Purcell,
Headteacher,
Caerleon Comprehensive School



So what is different about secondary school?

- Learners may have to travel further, including catching the bus – exciting!
- There are new rules and regulations to remember.
- Instead of having one or two teachers, learners will be taught by several (over 10!) and they'll get to know a whole range of adults in different roles within the school. Everyone is equally as important – from the Headteacher to the Caretaker!
- The site will be bigger and learners will have to find their own way around, moving from classroom to classroom between lessons and carrying their belongings with them. Don't worry about this – you'll get used to it really quickly.
- Learners will use a timetable and Student Planner and will be responsible for ensuring they have the correct books and equipment for five lessons each day.
- There will be new subjects to study!
- Teaching and learning styles will vary.
- Breaktime and lunchtime will be organised differently with learners having a lot more independence in terms of getting back to lessons on time, buying their own snacks and lunches etc.

The Timetable

One of the biggest changes learners will experience when starting at Caerleon Comprehensive is the move to a two-week timetable. A typical timetable may look like this -

You can see there is a Week 1 (the top timetable) and a Week 2 (the bottom timetable).

There are 5 lessons on each day.

Each box shows –

The subject code, e.g. Ma is maths.
Can you guess any of the others?

The teacher (these are the 3 letters).

The room, e.g. J17.

How many maths lessons are there in fortnight?

What about **chemistry**?

	1Mon	1Tue	1Wed	1Thu	1Fri
1	Ma PAP J6	Fr SLG I3	Fr CAM I1	It CWJ I16	Ar SHD J17
2	Ea SD1 B7	Ar SHD J17	Hi WBO F5	Bi DAB F9	Ma RLM J6
3	Pe JUL A24	Dt RBJ J1	Ea EEV B7	Gg DJC F11	Dt RBJ J1
4	Ph LAL F38	Pe JUL Fitness	Ma RLM J6	Ch LCG F12	Mu EMW F5
5	Dr JMP D3	Re LAO I5	Gg DJC F11	Ea JMB Library	Ea SD1 B7

	2Mon	2Tue	2Wed	2Thu	2Fri
1	We SRV I13	Pe JUL Fitness	Re LAO I5	Ph LAL F38	Mu EMW F5
2	Ma PAP J6	Fr SLG I3	Gg DJC F11	It CWJ I16	Ma RLM J6
3	Pe JUL Fitness	Dt RBJ J1	We EER I11	Ea SD1 B7	Hi LDT F2
4	Ea SD1 B7	Ma RLM J6	Ea EEV B7	Ch LCG F12	Ps LAO I5
5	Hi LDT F2	Bi DAB F9	Fr SLG I3	Ma PAP J6	We EER I11

School Uniform

Our gender-neutral school uniform is very smart and we expect all learners to wear the correct uniform at all times. If your child is unable to wear an appropriate item of uniform, please email the school or provide a dated note for their Form Tutor, explaining the situation. Learners who need to borrow uniform will be sent to the school nurse who will loan the item.

Physical Education Kit

- A logoed white/black or a plain white or plain black t-shirt.
- Black shorts, either running or cycling style (optional to purchase with or without logo) or black leggings (optional to purchase with or without logo).
- A plain black quarter zip long sleeve top or a logoed quarter zip long sleeve top.
- White sport socks (for inside).
- Trainers (for inside).
- A maroon rugby shirt for those who wish to play rugby.
- Maroon hockey/rugby socks.
- Studded boots (for outside games lessons on grass).
- Learners may wear black skins under clothes in cold weather

Approved Uniform Suppliers

Macey Sports	01633 259334	https://www.maceysports.co.uk/
Beam Sports & Schoolwear	01633 222261	https://beam-sports-schoolwear.business.site/
Pretty Miss	01633 484408	http://www.kidsschoolkits.com/

Equipment

Learners will be informed of any specialised equipment needed for specific subjects. However, a pencil case with several pens (blue or black), a few pencils, a ruler, rubber, a pencil sharpener, calculator (our maths department recommends the Casio fx-83GTX which you can order from Amazon), a compass plus a 360° protractor is a good start! Felt tipped pens are discouraged for use in exercise books but may be allowed in certain circumstances e.g. for posters. Highlighters can be handy for emphasising important parts of your work too. Learners will need inexpensive audio jack headphones for accessing the multimedia in the ICT suites.

What can I expect from my lessons?

English

Year 7 English comprises an interesting variety of activities and assignments which are carefully designed to promote enjoyment of the subject and develop learners' skills in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

During the year, learners will study a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, as well as focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar. The work will be centred on a theme to allow a project based approach to learning; examples include: 'Storytelling', 'Writers and their writing', 'Our Digital World', 'Murder Mystery', 'Spies' and 'The Island'.

We are lucky enough to be able to offer learners a library lesson once a fortnight. This lesson affords learners the opportunity to select a library book to read at home. The reading forms a part of their English homework. They will also receive training in how to use the library as a valuable resource for supporting their studies.

Year 7 learners' achievement is assessed through termly standard tasks linked to developing important skills. Self and peer assessment will also form a valuable part of your child's learning as it is imperative that learners develop their proofreading skills and understanding of assessment criteria.

Mathematics

Learners in Y7 follow a common mathematics course to deepen and enrich the concept of place value and the four primary operations in mathematics. Through a programme of study based on a spiral approach to learning mathematics learners further develop their skills in number, algebra, shape and data handling. Using and applying mathematics is integrated throughout each section and further strengthened using a concrete-pictorial-abstract model.

Throughout the year the learners are involved in a variety of activities; skill developing exercises, investigations, practical work, problem solving activities and discussion exercises. There is a good balance between tasks that develop knowledge, skills and understanding and those that develop the ability to tackle and solve problems. Many activities do both.

End of topic tests are given to complement the on-going teacher assessments. In this way learners' progress is fully monitored and discussed within the department. Greater emphasis is now being placed on numeracy, non-calculator tasks and mental calculating skills. Assessments include both non-calculator paper and calculator elements at the level at which the learner is working. The examination results, topic results and teacher assessments will be used to plan and set targets for future development of the learners.

Science

The science course at Caerleon in years 7 to 9 is designed to build on the skills, knowledge and understanding from primary school.

The learners are given the opportunity to develop their skills of "Interdependence of organisms" (biology), "The Sustainable Earth" (chemistry) and "How things work" (physics).

Students are taught to apply their scientific skills, knowledge and understanding to design strategies, solve problems and offer explanations, relating scientific ideas to the information about them, including current issues. They are given opportunities to study the work of scientists and to recognise the role of experimental data, creative thinking and values in their work and develop scientific ideas.

At Caerleon Comprehensive the learners are encouraged to manage their own learning and further develop learning and thinking skills. They are also taught to take different perspectives, value others' opinions and be responsible global citizens.

Art

'The earth without art is just... eh'

What a boring world it would be if our lives weren't enhanced by visual arts! If lockdown taught us anything surely it was that!

Art surrounds us and enhances our lives - from the clothes we wear to the buildings we live in, the films we watch to the images we create and admire. It underpins every aspect of society and sets us apart as humans. Without creativity, the world would be blank; every human being would be instinctively the same.

At Caerleon we have a vibrant, forward thinking Art department that aims to engage and enthuse all learners in the wonder and possibilities of the creative

world. Students are introduced to a wide range of artists, materials and processes as they progress over the Key Stage. Learning takes place in a creative, exciting atmosphere within three dedicated art rooms where experimentation is key to success. As a result the work pupils produce is diverse and constantly changing as we respond to current events in the world. Recent projects have included ceramic coral reefs to highlight climate change, explorations of street culture and links to African art alongside more traditional, and valuable, skills in drawing and painting.

During art lessons learners will work in a variety of media in a sketchbook which will allow them to chart their journey and develop their artistic skills. Pupils will also work in their own personal sketchbook for homework tasks and in developing their own style and ideas. Sketchbooks are a vital part of the art journey, allowing the learners to express their ideas of the world around them and how they perceive things. Pupils can purchase sketchbooks in school at the start of term and we endeavour to keep the cost as low as possible. The books become a valuable object charting progress from Year 7 – 9 and containing drawings, paintings, research on artists and sources of inspiration.

Suggested materials for Art lessons:

A selection of pencils HB, 2B, 4B (these will be available to buy in school in September), a sharpener, eraser, coloured pencils (WH Smiths and Crayola are excellent) are the essential things to pack in the learners school bag for their art lessons. This together with an awareness of some works of art and a willingness to learn will enable them to enjoy the fascinating and diverse world of art.

Design and Technology (DT)

In DT learners will be given the opportunity to experience a wide range of creative and fun projects in food, textiles, wood, metal and plastic. These projects are designed to expand their knowledge of materials, media and processes, including the latest 2D and 3D computer software and computer controlled machines and laser cutters. The learners will show their creativity through design and hands on making skills using a wide range of tools and machines.

We give all the learners the opportunity to explore real life situations in the design industry. All pupils will be encouraged to be aware of their responsibilities towards the planet and rise to the challenge of designing sustainable products in new and exciting ways. In years 7,8 and 9 pupils

complete many exciting projects, in which they experience a huge range new skills. These cover the following DT subjects - Food and Nutrition, Textiles, Graphics, Engineering and Product Design. They are also given opportunities to program robots using PYTHON and the RASPBERRY PI.

Geography

Geography gives learners many opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of people, places and environments. In addition learners will develop a wide range of skills including geographical enquiry skills, digital skills, map skills, numeracy skills , teamwork and problem solving.

Learners will develop their understanding of how geographical changes such as migration, globalisation, tourism and climate change affect peoples' lives, and attitudes and the impact this can have on the quality of life of present and future generations.

As well as classroom based learning, they will have several opportunities to participate in fieldwork experiences .

The topics studied in Year 7 are:

1. Where do I live? (Cynefin)
2. How am I connected to our world ? (Globalisation)
3. Map Skills (Going on a Journey)
4. The Middle East (Sustainability and Stewardship)

History

In Year 7, learners are given the opportunity to study a variety of topics to develop their understanding of History as well as the impact these events have had on their lives and the lives of others today. We continue to take a chronological approach to our studies and in Year 7 learners will focus on the key events of the Middle Ages. Through studying key themes such as identity and governance we aim to ensure our learners engage with the important issues that have faced humanity and are equipped to become informed and self aware citizens in the future. Topics studied in Year 7 include, Identity and Belonging (cynefin), in this unit we consider the impact various invasions had on forming a national identity, including the impact on language and culture. We also consider the issue of power throughout the timeframe and reflect on how various rulers have exerted control over the population as well as a consideration of change through rebellion. The issue of equality is also explored as we examine and compare the different lives of people during this timeframe.

Additionally, learners will develop a variety of skills to enhance their studies of History including how to evaluate a variety of sources and to identify

interpretations of the past as well as developing and enhancing important communication and literacy skills.

Information and Communication Technology

We are living in a world where technologies are continually changing and we are preparing our learners for jobs which do not yet exist. Our curriculum is skill-based, not software specific and we provide our learners with a very broad range of technology enhanced learning experiences. Students will be given the opportunity to develop skills ranging from basic programming and robotics to video and audio production. Ultimately, the aim for all of our learners is that they will develop into autonomous individuals who are well-equipped to deal with the challenge of rapid technological change.

International Languages - French & German

In year 7, all learners study French. For many children, French will be the first international language they have studied in depth and for the majority French proves to be a new and enjoyable experience. It is taught in a communicative way, including games, to teach the main structures and new vocabulary. However, we do not neglect grammar, but it is taught with an emphasis on real-life situations.

We place equal emphasis on developing skills: learning to express yourself through speaking and writing and develop understanding through listening and reading. We use literature, authentic materials and cultural experiences wherever possible to put French in context, while exploring links with other languages, including Welsh, English and home languages.

Here are some of the modules and experiences learners cover in year 7:

- Je me présente - identity and introducing yourself
- Comment décrire une photo - exploring where you live and using the work of the Welsh artist Rhiannon Roberts to develop skills and cultural awareness
- All about language - exploring tenses and language construction

During your time in Caerleon Comprehensive, the International Languages Department organise visits to France, which provide learners with the opportunity to experience the culture and put into practice the language and structures learned in the classroom and to experience the culture. In year 8 learners continue with French, but are also introduced to German as they continue to develop their linguistic skills.

Music

Programmes of study relate to the three Attainment Targets: Performing, Composing and Appraising. The activities are inter-related and always focus on the main elements of music i.e. pitch, duration, texture, timbre, pace, dynamics, structure and silence. The repertoire is a varied mix of genres, styles and cultures, including the music of Wales.

Students are required to work as a class, in small groups, in pairs and individually. Inevitably, there is a wide range of musical ability within the class and while differentiation occurs by outcome, more experienced or able musicians are given suitable challenges in practical work.

Religious Studies

The three main topics studied in year 7 are:

1. **Identity and Belonging.** Students explore who they are and the various influences on their lives. They consider the communities they belong to and how they influence them. They focus on the religion of Hinduism and learn about how Hindus show their identity and belonging.
2. **Philosophy - the big questions.** Students consider two main ultimate/fundamental questions from both religious and non-religious perspectives:
 - Is there a God?
 - Is there life after death?
3. **Our World.** Students explore both religious and non-religious views on creation and some of the main environmental issues faced today. They explore the idea of environmental ethics and how religious groups act on their beliefs.

Our aim is to assist learners in developing as individuals and as citizens in a diverse, multi-cultural society. We give learners an understanding of the influence and importance of religion on the lives of individuals, families, communities and cultures. We encourage them to develop respect, tolerance and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faith and beliefs are different from their own. We challenge learners to think for themselves and develop their skills of understanding and reasoning. Students are encouraged to maintain high standards of written skills and to discuss their ideas in class in an appropriate manner.

Physical Education

Year 7 learners develop and widen further the skills they have learnt at Key Stage 2 physical education. They do so through lessons and within a variety of extra-curricular activities.

Winter outdoor lessons are of team games. Boys take football and rugby whilst girls take football, hockey and netball. Indoor lessons are of gymnastics for both sexes, with dance for girls and basketball for boys. Both sexes undertake health related fitness, sports skills and co-ordination lessons and outdoor adventure activity plus problem solving.

In the summer, lessons include tennis, athletics, baseball, cricket and rounders.

Initially teachers undertake informal assessments of the learners' abilities as a basis for their future lessons. Lessons are then planned to develop progressively both the learners' confidence and competence. Each activity aims to help develop skills of planning, performing and evaluating. Work is both co-operative and individual, developing skills ranging from creativity to problem solving. Throughout, emphasis is placed upon the importance of health and fitness as a basis for well-being and as a route to lifelong involvement in physical activity.

Students are afforded opportunities to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Many are school based taking place at lunchtime and after school. All are 'open' clubs with access to both sexes and all abilities. There are also opportunities to represent the school at a wide variety of championships including cross country, golf, skiing, swimming and athletics. There are opportunities to attend trials for representative teams for Newport, South East Wales and beyond.

The school participates fully in all the league and cup competitions in the major sports. There are also opportunities to take part in overseas trips such as skiing to Austria or France and European Hockey, rugby and football trips.

The department places a high emphasis upon standards of kit, participation, effort and reaching potential. All learners are encouraged to make a full contribution to both lessons and to the department's extra-curricular work.

Welsh/Cymraeg

The Year 7 course begins with the poem 'Y Ffair' with lots of fun and interactive lessons learning different actions! Throughout the year, the focus is to further develop speaking, reading and writing skills through a range of topics such as media and Welsh artists.

Developing speaking skills is a major part of every lesson, however, learners are given every opportunity to practice and gain confidence in all language skills; speaking, listening, reading and writing as well as continuing to develop their digital competency skills. Pupils will also learn about the similarities Welsh has between other Celtic languages as well as some similarities with French. Pupils will also have the opportunity to learn about the Welsh speaking channel S4C and will research different programmes.

There are many opportunities for Year 7 to develop their Welsh outside of their Welsh lessons by being part of the Dreigiau (Cryw Cymraeg), being part of the weekly Clwb Cymraeg held by the Urdd, having the opportunity to go on a residential trip to Llangrannog and special guests visit during our health and wellbeing week in the summer term. We have many house competitions throughout the year and we celebrate achievements regularly with our final revealing of the overall house winner in our annual summer Eisteddfod.

During the year, learners will be encouraged to speak with correct pronunciation, ask and answer questions, make statements and express opinion effectively. When reading, learners are asked to identify key facts and phrases and use their experiences to respond personally to the texts studied. Accurate spelling combined with the correct use of phrase and sentence patterns will enable learners to communicate successfully through the written word. Students will also have the opportunity to play games such as Quizlet and Kahoot to further improve their accuracy as well as playing DuoLingo. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their digital skills by creating questionnaires and analysing their results for example.

Extra-curricular Activities

The following is a list of **some** of the extra-curricular activities that take place in school at the present time. This is not an exhaustive list and the variety of subjects on offer will vary from year to year. Some of the sessions take place during lunchtimes and others after school.

Athletics	Welsh-Urdd Club
Football (Girls & Boys)	Art Club
Gym / Dance	Wheelchair Basketball
Rugby	Clwb Cymraeg
Cricket	Chess Club
Tennis	Carnegie Book Club
Netball	String Orchestra/Wind Band/Junior Choir
Hockey	Youth Club
Indoor Rowing	Maths Olympiad
Cross Country	UK Linguistics Olympiad
Swimming	Basketball

Caerleon Comprehensive School Library

Let's explore a magical place full of excitement and adventure; home of fairies and zombies, sea monsters and ghosts...



Are you brave enough to come face to face with werewolves?

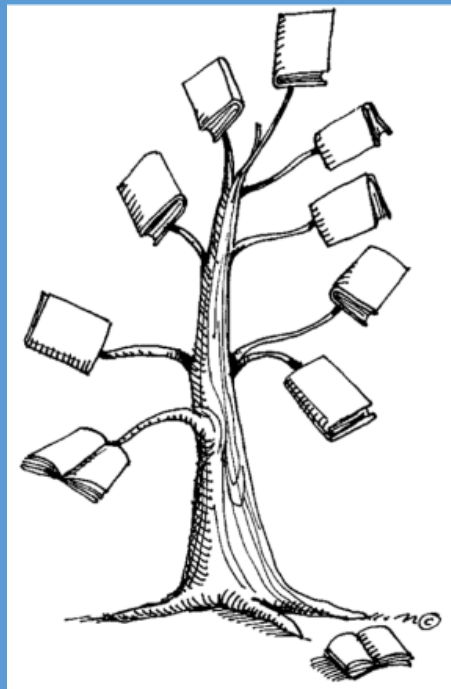
Are you smart enough to solve a mystery with Sherlock Holmes?

Whizz through some running tips with Usain Bolt, find fascinating facts about earthquakes and volcanoes, and hide for your life with Anne Frank.



You may meet Tracy Beaker or Mr Fox, fight dragons breathing fire or make friends with a dinosaur. stumble upon The Fantastic

A world where everyone is welcome, as long as they can whisper!
This is our school library, come on in.



Contacting the school

Please note you will need to make an appointment to speak with a member of staff. Your point of contact is the Head of Year 7, Miss Gibbs (gibbsn6@newportschools.wales).

All Head of Year email addresses can be found on the school website.

Telephone Number	01633 420106
e-mail address	Caerleon.comprehensive@newportschools.wales
website	www.caerleoncomprehensive.net

Social Media



The school has several social media accounts such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter but if you follow us on Twitter: @CaerleonComp to start with then you can decide which accounts you would like to follow!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CaerleonCompOfficial>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CaerleonComp>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/caerleoncomprehensiveschool/>

...and finally...

I hope this booklet gives you a small idea about how some things will look when you join us in September. There is a lot to take on board when you join a new school and we can't fit it all into one booklet! You'll be told so much more when we see you in person. However, until then, the most important thing to remember is not to worry about it. The staff at a Caerleon will help you with your transition and we are really looking forward to meeting you!

Best wishes from Mr Gardner (Assistant Headteacher), Miss Gibbs (Head of Year 7) and all the staff at Caerleon Comprehensive School.