



**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2025**

**Re: Headteacher's Update, July 2025**

Welcome to my final update of the year! It has been a successful year at Caerleon Comprehensive School and I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you some highlights from our Inspection Report, as well as some other important information. The Estyn inspection is a very thorough process, with hundreds of students spoken to, many lessons watched and inspectors observing all facets of school life. They look at paperwork, processes and outcomes in detail, and every parent/carer is invited to give their views via a questionnaire as well as attending an in-person meeting. The inspection team commented on the questionnaires filled in by parents and students as being very positive in the main.

### **Some highlights for you from our recent inspection:**

"The school's motto 'Maximising Potential' is underpinned by largely effective teaching and a curriculum that allows pupils of all abilities to follow their chosen pathway."

"The school has developed a strong culture of safeguarding."

"Most pupils thrive in the welcoming, supportive environment where strong purposeful relationships with teachers help them engage well with their learning and develop as courteous, respectful individuals."

"Governors are a particular strength of the school and since her appointment, the headteacher has overseen notable improvements in important aspects including the quality of teaching. Her sensitive and well-considered leadership has re-energised staff and boosted morale."

"Mutual respect between pupils and staff helps to create positive, purposeful working relationships."

"The curriculum at Caerleon Comprehensive School is broad, balanced and inclusive and reflects the school's motto of 'Maximising Potential'."

"The school provides an engaging programme of creative, sporting and cultural extracurricular opportunities for pupils during and after school hours."

"There is a well-considered choice of residential visits to enrich the curriculum both locally and further afield."

"Most pupils demonstrate courtesy and respect for others."

"Caerleon is a welcoming school where staff encourage pupils and support their needs successfully"

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"The dedication and commitment of staff contributes notably to most pupils at the school feeling safe, valued and supported to fulfil their potential."

"The school responds to any concerns diligently. Pastoral teams react and deal with reported incidents of bullying swiftly, providing support for individuals involved."

"The ALN Team provides a friendly and supportive environment for the pupils in their care... This contributes to pupils with ALN making strong progress".

"The school provides pupils with extensive and valuable guidance to help them select their options in Year 9 and Year 11. Pupils are supported well when transitioning to the next phase of their learning. The school's careers fair and careers interviews are particular strengths of the process."

"The headteacher provides clear, strategic and compassionate leadership."

"Governors are strong supporters of the school. They provide clear and effective challenge to leaders at all levels and have been instrumental in the school's continued improvement."

"There are robust processes for managing the school's finances"

I am very proud to be the headteacher of our school and of the inspection report we received. Please do share the report and the highlights here with other people in your community.

### **Safeguarding Update**

I have decided to include a focus on safeguarding in my monthly update. This month you will find information in the link below about helping to keep your child safe online.

<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/bd009b61-6502-4a16-98cb-5e461c33fa88>

### **Secure and Shelter Drill**

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> we will be practising a secure and shelter drill (lockdown). This is nothing to be alarmed about; all schools are obliged to practise this type of drill regularly alongside practising for evacuations. Students have received assemblies about this drill this week.

### **A school for everyone: no outsiders**

Recently we have worked with our cluster schools to create a cluster logo and a poem about what it means to be educated in Caerleon. The students chose the theme of 'no outsiders', because we want everyone who attends our schools to feel a sense of belonging. Whether your child walks to us from a local spot, or whether they catch two buses to be here, they are all welcome and they all belong. I am

very proud to be the headteacher of a diverse community and to celebrate the differences we have. Cultural Cynefin day on the 18<sup>th</sup> July (please note this is a change of date due to a large proportion of Y10 being on the DofE expedition on the original planned date) is a huge celebration for us and a chance for us to celebrate the richness of our school community. We look forward to students wearing something to symbolise their heritage and culture and to sharing this with us on the day.

### **Social Media Campaign – 'It's not your story to tell'**

We have been asked to share this NHS campaign with you about the responsible use of phones and social media when there is a police/ambulance incident. If you follow us on Instagram or Bluesky, please have a look at the 'It's not your story to tell' posts and discuss them with your child.

Thank you for your support this year. I hope it has been a successful and happy year for your child. As always, if there are any issues we ask you to contact us so that we can work together and resolve them swiftly.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Purcell  
Headteacher.