



## Re: Headteacher Update June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

### Attendance

Please keep encouraging your child to attend school every day. The summer term is an important one with plenty of topic assessments and lots of social opportunities as well.

### Safeguarding

This month my safeguarding update focuses on the results of our SHRN survey which you can find below. You will notice that many of the areas identified through our SHRN survey are linked to safeguarding resources I have shared throughout the year. If you are personally concerned about your child in relation to any of the areas, please get in touch with your child's head of year who can signpost you to relevant support.

### School Health Research Network (SHRN) Student Health and Well-being Survey

Our school takes part in this national survey every other year, and we use the data retrieved to help us plan our RSE and health and wellbeing lessons in the future. This year, the school continued to score above average in many areas, signaling that many of our students are healthy and happy individuals; for example, 84% of our students report being satisfied with their life. As well as highlighting positives about our students' health and wellbeing, the survey results also signal areas we need to focus on to support learners further. Areas of focus for us for the next two years include:

1. Emotional wellbeing and help-seeking
2. Bullying, cyberbullying and peer culture
3. Sleep, screen time and digital wellbeing
4. Vaping, alcohol and substance education
5. Healthy relationships, consent and image-sharing
6. Learner voice and school connectedness
7. Healthy routines: breakfast, physical activity, hydration and sleep

### Assistant Head of Year roles

I am delighted to tell you that we have been able to appoint an assistant head of year for each year group on a temporary basis for one year, starting in September. If the school budget allows, we hope to make these roles permanent in the future. The assistant HoYs will be added to our website so that you can access their email addresses, etc. Their primary role will be to support HoYs with the wellbeing of their year group.

- Y7: Head of Year - Mrs Tracy Morgan | Assistant Head of Year - Miss Katie Paul
- Y8: Head of Year - Mr Jake Dyer | Assistant Head of Year - Miss Megan Lear
- Y9: Head of Year - Mrs Gemma Kearney | Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Rachel Stanford
- Y10: Head of Year - Miss Natalie Gibbs | Assistant Head of Year - Miss Sharon Fletcher
- Y11: Head of Year - Mrs Rachel Tiupanca | Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Jemma Paull
- Y12/13 continues to be led by Mr Ross Hunter and Mrs Cath Moses.

### FSM applications and uniform grants

Free school meals are available to pupils who attend school full time and meet the eligibility criteria. Even if your child is currently in primary school and receives universal free school meals, it is important to complete an application if your household income is low. This may entitle you to additional support, and it also allows the school to receive extra funding to support your child.

The School Essentials Grant, funded by the Welsh Government, provides financial support for families on low incomes to help cover the cost of school items and equipment.

The grant can help with:

- School uniform, including coats and shoes
- School sports kit
- Uniform for activities such as Scouts, Guides, Cadets, sports or performing arts

- School equipment, including bags and stationery
- Laptops or tablets
- Equipment for out-of-school activities, such as waterproofs for outdoor learning

For more information or to apply, please visit the educational grants

webpage: <https://www.newport.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/educational-grants>

## **Equipment**

Please can I take this opportunity to ask families to ensure their child comes to school with the right equipment each day. We regularly have students arrive at school without basics such as a pen, and this takes away from teaching time. If you need any support with purchasing equipment, please contact your child's Head of Year.

## **Feedback parents' evenings**

You may remember that I asked for feedback on Y10/11 parents' evening, which we held in person this year as a trial.

The advantages were cited as:

- Great to speak to staff in person – feels more personable and approachable
- Less rushed than an online meeting
- Good to be able to come up to the school
- Nice to be able to have incidental conversations with other staff/parents

The disadvantages were cited as following from parents/carers:

- Harder to fit in than an online appointment as this can be done from anywhere
- Noisy in the hall
- People not sticking to their appointment time

Overall, the preference from parents/carers was for online parents' evenings going forward. In addition, I sought feedback from staff and they also felt that online parents' evenings were more effective overall. We will therefore be running all parents' evenings next year online.

Thank you for your feedback regarding this matter. You will appreciate that we cannot please everyone when making this decision, but that the majority of comments signaled that online parents' evenings are more suitable and effective for our community.

## **Inset reminder**

The school will be closed to students on Friday 26th June, 2026 due to a scheduled Inset day. You can find further details of our term dates via the website.

I look forward to writing to you in July with my final headteacher update of the year.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs L Purcell**  
Headteacher