



Headteacher | Pennaeth **Mrs L Purcell, MA, NPQH**

Re: Headteacher Update May 2026

Good luck with exams – reminders to families

Our Y10, 11, 12 and 13 students are about to undertake their GCSE/AS and A level exams. A reminder please that a separate communication has been sent out to parents/carers of Y11-13 about study leave and so on. Y10 are expected in school as normal and will sit any exams they have as part of the normal school day.

All students must sit exams in full uniform and adhere to the strict rules of examinations. These are explained to students before every exam by the invigilation team and are highly visible on the doors of all rooms being used for examinations. We must report any incidences of these rules being flouted – we do not have a choice in this; as an Exam Centre it is our obligation. Please talk to your child about remaining focused in exams and ensuring they follow the rules sensibly.

It is vital that your child brings the correct equipment to all exams (especially subjects requiring specialist equipment such as mathematics). If you need support with equipment, please contact your child's head of year.

Thank you to all our families who have been working hard to get their young people revising and looking after themselves during this important time. A good night's sleep the night before the exam and a healthy breakfast/lunch the day of the exam make all the difference. Staying hydrated is also vital. It also helps to think about travel plans for AM exams as it can be very stressful for a young person arriving late for an exam. If they usually catch a bus, you might want to set up a carpool with other local families just for morning exams for example, and leave a little earlier than usual. If a student does arrive late, we support them to remain calm and enter the exam hall, so please don't panic, but it is of course far better that all students are seated calmly for a 9am start.

If your child receives free school meals they will still get their full entitlement every day during the examination period.

I have included the JCQ poster for all parents/carers. You may wish to print this off and pop it somewhere visible for you/your young person.

Sporting success

It was a fantastic week in the final week of April as so many of our teams, both boys and girls, made the Newport finals in rugby and football and we took home the trophy at nearly every match! I am hugely grateful to our committed PE team for all their hard work in lessons and after school and to the parents/carers who support

our school fixtures and allow their child to stay for training after school. We continue to excel within Newport in the sporting arena, and I am immensely proud of the students and staff involved.

Safeguarding update

This month's focus is around screentime and how much is too much. It is a difficult balance for parents/carers to know how to manage screentime limits and there are some helpful resources via this link:

Attendance Matters

A big thank you to our families working so hard to ensure their child attends school every day, unless they are too unwell to do so. When a student misses a day of school, that is five lessons of catching up to do, so if it can be avoided this is better for everyone concerned.

School calendar

Please do check the online school calendar as the summer term is a very busy one, with Cynefin days, sports days, year group trips, several other trips and plenty of transition work for students moving into Y7, Y10 and Y12.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy May and I look forward to writing to you in June with my usual update.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Purcell
Headteacher