

Islwyn High School,
Waterloo,
Oakdale,
Blackwood,
NP12 0NU.

Dear Year 7s,

Hello, I'm Niamh and I previously attended Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School. This is my experience of joining Islwyn High School.

When I first arrived, I felt quite nervous and a little bit scared, however when I was met by the happy, smiling faces of the Islwyn High School staff, I immediately felt much more relaxed and ready for this marvellous experience. Rather than having the usual 20 minutes in registration, on your first day you have 1 hour in reg, so you can get to know your form tutor and the rest of your new form class along with some familiar faces from your primary school. Also, at some point during registration you will be given a planner and a timetable. Your timetable only has week 1 and week 2 because after you have done 2 weeks worth of lessons you will go back to week 1 again, this may take a bit of getting used to, though from my own experience I picked it up in a matter of weeks.

Firstly all of your teachers are really nice. The teacher you're probably going to go to if you have any problems is your form tutor. Your form tutor is the teacher that registers you in every morning. Their job is to look after you so don't be afraid to go and speak to them.

The transition might be a bit scary for you because you are used to having just one teacher for all your lessons, but having different teachers who are so nice and welcoming is exciting. As long as you follow the rules, you won't have a problem.

One of the best things about comprehensive school is that you make lots of new friends from other primaries and there are lots of after school clubs that you can join like netball and rugby, computing and chess for example.

In primary you probably wouldn't have done a lot of science. You might have gone over the basics and done some experiments, but in comprehensive school you learn so much about science. The best part is that you can do practicals with Bunsen burners, flasks and lots of different chemicals.

Every comprehensive school learns a new language. Our school teaches us Spanish. It is a great subject as it is very useful for when you go on holiday, and the teachers are very funny. The thing I love about Spanish is learning songs to help us remember the translation and meanings of the words.

A normal school day usually consists of 2 one-hour lessons in the morning, then break, where you can purchase a range of snacks or bring your own, then another 2 one-hour lessons. You will then have a 40-minute lunch. Finally, the last lesson of the day is also 1 hour.

When the end of my first day arrived, I felt like I fitted right into Islwyn High School and couldn't wait to get back and start to learn and make so many new friends.

I hope you've learnt a bit more about school.

From Niamh