

Islwyn High School Ysgol Uwchradd Islwyn

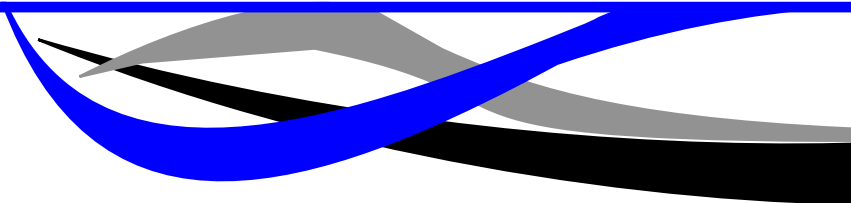


Be part of our future...



Be part of our success...

Prospectus 2021 – 2022



CONTENTS

Welcome	Page 3
Introduction	Page 4
Key Dates	Page 6
General Information	Page 7
21st Century Building	Page 8
School Organisation	Page 9
Parents' Information	Page 11
Safeguarding	Page 12
Monitoring Pupil Progress	Page 13
Additional Learning Needs	Page 15
The Curriculum	Page 16
Extra Curricular Activities	Page 19
Discipline	Page 21
School Rules	Page 22
School Uniform	Page 23
Admissions	Page 24
Attendance	Page 25
Examinations	Page 26
School Outcomes	Page 27
Home School Agreement	Page 32

ISLWYN HIGH SCHOOL

Waterloo

Oakdale

BLACKWOOD

NP12 0NU

Tel: 01495-233600

Web: www.islwynhigh.org

Headteacher: Mr J Hicks

Chair of Governors: Mr G Bryce

Type of school: English medium, mixed 11-16 comprehensive school



Welcome to

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ISLWYN HIGH SCHOOL

YSGOL UWCHRADD ISLWYN

January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Choosing the best school for your child is a vitally important decision. Parents need to be sure that, in addition to a sound education, pupils will be cared for in a happy and safe environment. In this prospectus we offer you an insight into some of the opportunities available to your children at Islwyn High School. We have a brand new 21st Century campus to help us achieve our ambitions but we fully acknowledge that a school is so much more than just a building.

We believe we can offer the opportunities and security children need to achieve their best. Everything that we do is driven by our commitment to provide your children with the highest standards of teaching and learning. In return we have very high expectations of student behaviour and their commitment to the learning process. Teachers lead by providing a mature example so that mutual respect and tolerance are the cornerstones of school life.

As a school we are very proud of the young people in our care and their excellent levels of attendance, academic and sporting successes and participation in a wide range of extra curricular activities. Staff are dedicated to helping each child achieve his or her full potential and to this end work tirelessly to promote the effective partnerships that have been forged amongst parents, teachers, children and the community we serve. Our ambition is that all our students will feel that they **belong** at our school, **believe** that they can succeed with us and will ultimately **achieve** their full potential during their time with us.

I hope that you find our prospectus interesting and informative. We are delighted to welcome visitors into our school, so if you would like to learn more about the life and work of Islwyn High School, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Jason Hicks - BA (Hons) MA Ed
Headteacher





Introduction

MISSION STATEMENT

Islwyn High School is a school where happy and healthy pupils are prepared by old fashioned standards and challenged through innovative teaching and learning experiences, creating confident independent learners who will thrive in an ever changing world.

VISION STATEMENT

Islwyn High School is one where our efforts focus solely on making pupils feel safe and ready to embrace the whole school experience. It is a school run on the principle of coupling innovative teaching with traditional standards of behaviour and commitment to achievement. We develop a range of learning and personal skills in our pupils, enabling them to think independently and enjoy learning. We also use the best of modern technology to underpin learning and create a truly learning centred ethos which strives to nurture all pupils' talents, whatever they may be.

We are at the heart of the local community and at the centre of Caerphilly's education system, helping meet the distinct needs of learners with the support of all our stakeholders, especially parents. Our school is dynamic and forward looking but will be an environment that also remembers to enjoy the experience of today. It is a school with excellent features as recognised locally and nationally.

We value good manners, respect and honesty and believe in the positive character that ALL people possess. The school's stakeholders have a shared vision of the school and are united by our school purpose, the core of which will continue to inspire learners, and equip them with the skills, confidence and qualifications required to thrive in our ever changing world.

OUR MOTTO IS:

Belong... Believe... Achieve...

Introduction

OUR KEY PURPOSE

Islwyn High School aims to provide the best possible learning experiences for children with all abilities within a safe, child-centred and happy working environment.

OUR HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS

Our pupils have only one chance to make the most of their school days and it follows therefore that everyone in the school, including governors, teachers, support staff and pupils must use the limited time that we have together to full effect. Expectations about what we can achieve must be high and underpinned by strong educational provision. This way, we can jointly seek to develop the full potential of every one of us.

OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to providing the best possible learning experiences as we firmly believe that effective learning, and the success of individual pupils, is dependent on teaching of the highest quality. This teaching must be in an atmosphere where we are constantly striving for improvement and looking to raise expectations.



Key Dates

TERM DATES 2021 / 22

Autumn Term 2021

Additional Closure Day - 2 September 2021
INSET Day 1 - Friday 3 September 2021
Term starts Monday 6 September 2021
INSET Day 2 - Friday 22 October 2021
Half term starts Monday 25 October 2021
Half term ends Friday 29 October 2021
INSET Day 3 - 3 December 2021
Term ends Friday 17 December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Term starts Tuesday 4 January 2022
Half term starts Monday 21 February 2022
Half term ends Friday 25 February 2022
Term ends Friday 8 April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Term starts Monday 25 April 2022
Half term starts Monday 30 May 2022
Half term ends Friday 3 June 2022
Term ends Friday 22 July 2022

THE SCHOOL DAY

8.30 am Form Time
8.55 am Lesson 1
9.55 am Lesson 2

10.55 am Break

11.15 am Lesson 3
12.15 pm Lesson 4

1.15 pm Lunch

1.50 pm Lesson 5
2.50 pm End of day



General Information

BACKGROUND

Islwyn High School School was formed in 2016 as a result of an amalgamation of Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive Schools.

CATCHMENT AREA

The catchment area provides a good comprehensive intake from not only Pontllanfraith and Oakdale, but also extending in the east to Trinant, to Bryn in the west and southwards to Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville.

SCHOOL ROLL

The school roll is currently 1135 pupils, including 50 pupils in the Special Resource Base. There are 66 teaching staff including the Headteacher and two deputies.

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Mr Gavin Bryce

HEADTEACHER

Mr Jason Hicks

DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS

Mr Martin Davis

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHERS

Mrs Karyn Davies

Mr Gareth Fowler

Mr Matthew Thomas

Mr Luke Probert

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs Emma Paskell

ACCOMMODATION

The school occupies an enviable site on the Oakdale Business Park. It is located on the site where the former Oakdale Colliery stood up until 1989.

The main school is three storeys high and a sports hall of a similar height is linked to a two-storey building that is the school's dining hall. It is built in a modern design and also includes a garden, outdoor classroom in the form of an amphitheatre and a pond. The school boasts a floodlit 3G sports pitch and a 200 metre athletics track, along with a multi-use sports pitch for netball and tennis.

There is also a fully equipped community classroom that can be booked by local groups for after school use.



Our 21st Century Building

We moved into our brand new building in July 2017 and the images below reflect the quality of our facilities.

Our school is the newest and most up-to-date in the county of Caerphilly. Everyone is very proud of our school and we fully utilise all of its innovative features to help us achieve our ambitions as outlined in the school's vision. These include:

- modern, climate controlled, soundproofed classrooms on three floors
- extra wide corridors that allow us to provide additional learning spaces
- a professional standard concert hall with electronic tiered seating and state-of-the-art sound system
- an outdoor classroom in the form of an amphitheatre along with a pond
- state-of-the-art 3G pitch, four court sports hall, multi use games area, fitness suite and dance studio
- industry standard wifi connectivity across the whole school coupled with a fully integrated IT network.

The building is fully Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant and has two lifts allowing full access to all areas.



School Organisation

FORM GROUPS

All incoming Year 7 pupils are visited at their primary schools in June and spend at least one full day with us prior to entry in September. After discussion with primary school teachers, pupils are placed in pastoral forms where they should remain with the same Form Tutor and Progress Manager until the end of Year 11.

After completion of the first term, teaching will increasingly be in ability sets for some subjects, and either form or mixed ability groups for others according to the educational demands most appropriate for each subject.



ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Every pupil is allocated target grades as part of the school's academic tracking programme. This grade, ranging from A to E, is based on the results of an objective intelligence assessment made early in the term along with consultation with their primary teachers and results achieved at the end of Key Stage 2.

As soon as these targets are allocated, pupils are expected, and supported, to achieve their potential in every subject from day one. Assessments are made against this target at least once every term and the results are communicated home. This allows us to celebrate success or to quickly identify any underachievement. Target grades can be changed at any time as a result of persistent under or over-achievement.

Parents will be invited into school during the first term to discuss the global target grade allocated and to initiate the ongoing, essential two-way dialogue about individuals' academic potential.



School Organisation

PASTORAL CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Progress Managers, and their deputies, lead each year group in all aspects of pupils' wellbeing and academic achievement. The Progress Manager stays with the cohort throughout their time in the school and really gets to know individual pupils. They work closely with Assistant Headteacher, Mr Matthew Thomas, who takes full responsibility for all aspects of their pastoral care .

Pupils meet with their Form Tutors at the start of the school day. Any problems, either social or academic, should be discussed at this level initially. Parents wishing to discuss their children should contact the relevant Progress Manager:

Year 7	Mr David Price
Year 8	Mr Neil Cotter
Year 9	Mr Ben Watkins
Year 10	Mr Huw Davies
Year 11	Mr Gareth Preece

In an emergency, parents may contact any member of the senior staff (Headteacher, Deputy or Assistant Headteacher's), via the main reception.



LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

All pupils are required to stay on the school premises throughout the day. Pupils will only be allowed to leave the site for lunch if they are picked up in reception by parents or carers. The school promotes the Welsh Government's "Appetite for Life" agenda which sets out the actions required to improve pupils' nutritional consumption in schools across Wales.

Our comfortable and sociable indoor eating areas have a number of outlets serving hot and cold food to save pupils queuing too long. This service is extended by an outdoor cabin serving a range of food to those pupils choosing to remain outside.



Parents' Information

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARENTAL VISITS AND INVOLVEMENT

Parents are always very welcome in the school. It is important, however, to make an appointment first to ensure that particular staff are free to see them.

Parents' evenings are arranged every year according to the year group and ALL parents are encouraged to attend to allow us to discuss individuals' progress in every subject and to address any problems or barriers to learning. We sincerely believe that parental involvement and support is an essential factor in determining a child's commitment to learning and level of self esteem.

In addition, pupils will be periodically asked to relay governance information home on issues such as parent governor elections, dates of statutory meetings and other essential matters.

Our preferred method of communicating with parents as a whole is by email and we request that we are kept up to date with current email addresses. In addition, the school's website is another essential source of information along with our Twitter account [@IslwynHigh](#)

HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT

In common with all schools we have a home school agreement which parents and carers are asked to sign. A copy of this agreement can be found at the back of this prospectus and on the school's website.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & RACIAL EQUALITY

The Equality Act 2010 requires all schools to have equality objectives in place. These objectives cover all the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, and include the Welsh language in Wales.

The Strategic Equality Plan sets out the school's commitment to promoting and ensuring equality of opportunity to all pupils in lessons. Extra-curricular provision such as use of the library and ICT facilities are available. Homework clubs, sports and music activities take place during / after the school day. Visits and residential trips are regular features in the school calendar.

COMPLAINTS

Should have reason to complain about the curriculum or any other issue, the school's complaints' procedure can be found on the school website. The process involves an initial informal contact with your child's Progress Manager initially but if you are not satisfied, you may make a formal complaint to the Headteacher. If not resolved, this then progresses through to the Chair of Governors who will undertake a formal investigation.



Safeguarding

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OR CARERS

Pupils' wellbeing and safety is our number one priority.

On 1 September 2006, Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 came into effect. This introduced a duty on Local Authorities and the Governing Bodies of maintained schools to have arrangements in place to ensure they safeguard children and that such arrangements take account of guidance issued by the Welsh Government.

Our school has adopted the Local Authority Child Protection Policy and Procedures for Schools 2012 which is governed by the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008. This policy can be viewed on the school website.

HEALTH & SAFETY AND SCHOOL SECURITY

All aspects of Health & Safety are covered in our school policy that is in line with Caerphilly County Borough Council's policies.

Everything is done to ensure the safety of staff and pupils, including the installation of CCTV cameras across the whole site and a signing-in system for visitors. Practice fire drills are held at least once a term.

All visitors to the school, including parents of sick children, are asked to report to Reception via the front entrance. In the interests of security, visitors may not walk through the building or the school site without a visitor's pass.

WHAT SUPPORT IS THERE FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS?

SNAP Cymru

Offering advice and support to families.
Helpline 0808 8010608
(Mon – Fri 09.30 – 16.30)
e-mail: helpline@snapcymru.org

Anti-Bullying Helpline

0845 22 55 787

Kidscape

02078 235430

Domes c Abuse Helpline

0808 801 0800

Parentline Plus

0808 800 2222

NSPCC

0808 800 5000

Childline

0800 1111

Mr Matthew Thomas is an Assistant Headteacher and is the school's designated Child Protection Officer. Mrs Karyn Davies is also an Assistant Headteacher and Special / Additional Education Needs Coordinator (SENCo / ALNCo) with responsibility for ensuring that ALL pupils have full access to every aspect of school life. She is also the link between the many different agencies that the school works with to achieve this.

Both are supported in their roles by Mrs Tina Crooker, our Inclusion Manager.

Mrs Davies should be contacted to discuss any additional support that is needed.

Monitoring Pupil Progress

MERIT SYSTEM

Pupils may be praised by individual subject teachers in the form of rewards using the Class Charts system.

A points system is also used and is based on factors such as attendance, behaviour and uniform. This will influence whether or not a pupil is eligible for end of term rewards.

EXAMINATIONS

Pupils' progress is monitored by continuous assessment, supplemented by either internal or external formal examinations. At Key Stage 4, mock GCSE examinations usually take place during the Autumn Term in Year 11 and at the end of the Spring Term in Year 10.

All pupils are entered for as many subjects as they are capable at GCSE. The school's aim is to support and challenge all pupils to achieve their potential and to ensure everyone, who is capable, to attain at least five GCSEs at a minimum of Grade C, including English and Mathematics.

REPORTS AND SNAPSHOTS

Parents will receive one full report at some point during the academic year that will include full progress updates and commentary from every subject teacher. In addition, two snapshot-style interim reports will be sent out throughout the year that will focus on progress updates against pupils' global target grades in all subjects. Judgments on effort and behaviour will also be included.

The anticipated date for the issue of these reports can be found on the school website.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

All parents are invited to visit the school at least once a year to discuss their child's progress. Pupils will make appointments with their teachers that are mutually convenient. It is essential that parents make every effort to attend, as this is the school's opportunity to celebrate success and to discuss any underachievement. Your child will inform you when such an event is due but the dates can also be found on the school's website.

In addition, parents are encouraged to contact us at any time if they have concerns about their child's wellbeing or academic progress.

Additional parents' evenings are arranged throughout the school year. In the first term, parents / carers of Year 7 pupils will have the opportunity to discuss their target grades allocated and how well new pupils have settled in to school. Also during this term, there are two expectation evenings for parents / carers of Year 10 and 11 pupils to discuss progress and important examination information over the current year. In the Spring Term, during the parents' evening for Year 9 pupils, there is also the opportunity to discuss GCSE subject choices.



Monitoring Pupil Progress

TERMLY TRACKING

Progress Managers review all pupils' progress in every subject at least once during every term. This involves reviewing effort levels and achievement made in line with potential as indicated by global target grades. Letters are sent home updating parents and carers on the progress and decisions are made about whether the target grade needs to be amended. Early intervention, in the form of support, for those subjects where there is underachievement identified is also arranged to ensure all pupils remain on track.



SCHOOL DIARIES / HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of the learning process. Regular and meaningful homework will help to set high expectations and standards for our pupils. Teachers will only set homework that is applicable to their classroom studies, whether this be preparation for a lesson or as an extension to the learning. It is vital therefore that it is completed on time. It is expected that homework is set once a fortnight in every subject but this may increase where required at Key Stage 4.

All pupils are issued with a school diary that must be replaced if they lose it. Parents should refer to the diary if they are in any doubt about school rules or procedures and it can also be used as a simple means of two-way communication with the Form Tutor or the Progress Manager.

All homework is recorded in the diary and parents are asked to sign it on a weekly basis. The Form Tutor will check this and write any further comments. Additional checks are made periodically by the Headteacher.

Diaries also enable pupils to keep track of their attendance.

Additional Learning Needs

MORE ABLE AND TALENTED

Pupils who are more able and talented are challenged to reach their potential through both curricular and extra curricular activities. We also link this with pupils in our partner primary schools. For example, the Mathematics Department has, for a number of years, provided Year 5 and 6 pupils with additional numerical challenges and opportunities. If ready to achieve the highest grade, early GCSE entry is a possibility.

An annual '24 Game' competition, again organised by the Mathematics Department, also takes place between our partner schools. Our senior Physical Education pupils are encouraged to become involved in Sports Leadership programmes and to assist our partner schools. There are also many opportunities for more able musicians in the area. These are just a few examples of the collaborative work that takes place.



PUPIL SUPPORT

At Islwyn High School, we pride ourselves on the range of support offered to pupils with additional learning needs.

Pupils benefit from strong transitional links with our partner primary schools. Assistant Headteacher Mrs Karyn Davies is constantly in two-way communication about vital pupil information before children transfer. Annual reviews for pupils in Years 5 and 6 are also attended to allow us to plan ahead for pupils' individual needs.

Most of these learners make good progress in mixed-ability classes although a minority benefit from being in a small group where they can be more closely monitored and supported. Other learners are given the opportunity to improve their literacy and numeracy in small groups working with specialist staff and these pupils make excellent progress.



The Curriculum

YEARS 7, 8 and 9

The school offers the following subjects for all pupils:

English *
Mathematics *
Science
Welsh
Modern Foreign Languages- Spanish
Design Technology
Geography
History
Information & Communication Technology *
Music
Art
Physical Education
Religious Education
Drama
Personal and Social Education

* English, Mathematics and ICT are known as Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence in Years 7 and 8.

YEARS 10 and 11

The Key Stage 4 courses currently being offered at either Level 1 or Level 2 are:

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Mathematics Numeracy, Sciences (Triple, or Double award), Art, Computer Science, Food & Nutrition, Construction, Drama, Electronics, Health and Social Care, Textiles, Spanish, Geography, History, ICT, Physical Education, Product Design, Religious Education, Music, Welsh Second Language, ASDAN Cope, and Sociology. All pupils also follow the Skills Challenge Certificate at either intermediate or foundation level. See more information on the right.

SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE

The primary aim of the Skills Challenge Certificate is to enable learners to develop and demonstrate an understanding of, and proficiency in, the essential and employability skills of:

- Communication
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Personal Effectiveness.

The emphasis is on applied and purposeful learning and to provide opportunities for assessment in a range of real life context through three Challenge Briefs and an Individual Project.



The Curriculum

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective acts of worship take place during assembly and form period. These are not identified with any particular religious denomination.

A “Theme for the Week” is incorporated into assemblies and form tutor periods every morning.

In line with the statutory requirements of the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts, the school provides religious education as part of the curriculum for every pupil. Once again, this is not identified with any particular religious denomination. Withdrawal from Religious Education and assemblies is possible upon written request to the Headteacher.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

The school’s Personal and Social Education is based on the knowledge, understanding and skills as defined by the non statutory *Personal and Social Education Framework for 7 to 19-year-olds in Wales*. The PSE components aim to:

- build upon the knowledge, understanding and skills already developed
- develop a range of skills necessary to make informed decisions about personal and social issues
- provide opportunities for pupils to engage with a range of experiences and activities that will promote individuals’ personal and social wellbeing, helping them to develop a sense of self-worth and to relate effectively with others.

The programme revolves around four broad themes that include positive relationships, health and emotional wellbeing, active citizenship and sustainable development / global citizenship.

CWRICWLWM CYMRAEG

Although we are an English medium school, the use of incidental Welsh is constantly encouraged and supported by a strong Welsh Department and other Welsh speakers around the school. Whenever possible and appropriate, Welsh history and culture are incorporated into the curriculum and into school life generally.

The school has bilingual signage throughout the building and, increasingly, the use of conversational Welsh is becoming embedded into the school day.

The school runs an annual Eisteddfod for pupils in Years 7 to 9. This allows pupils, representing their school houses, to take part in off stage and on stage events. The on stage events allow pupils to show off their talents in English and Welsh recitation, singing and playing instruments. The competition is usually fierce and there is always a closely fought battle between the respective houses. A very popular annual visit to the Urdd’s Llangrannog camp is also arranged for pupils in Key Stage 3.



The Curriculum

SEX EDUCATION

The sex education programme is tailored to the age and understanding of pupils. The course is delivered as part of the PSE programme and its purpose is to provide information about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the process of human reproduction enabling pupils to learn to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

It has been designed so that facts are presented in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour. Parents are encouraged to appreciate the value of stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. The importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs of others, loyalty and fidelity are continually stressed.

Parents who feel apprehensive about the content of the programme are welcome to discuss the matter with us and all concerns will be treated with sensitivity. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education provided – apart from where delivered in Science in the National Curriculum.

OPTION EVENINGS

Parents and pupils are invited to discuss option choices in Year 9 before progressing to Key Stage 4. Careers advisors, and representatives from Coleg Gwent, are present on these occasions. Pupils are required to choose a number of subjects from option menus that are adjusted annually following an extensive programme of consultation. The current options' menu can be viewed on the school's website.

CAREERS ADVICE & GUIDANCE

This aspect of the work of the school is included in the PSE programme and as part of normal teaching where appropriate. The Careers Advisor is based at the school several days a week and a considerable amount of time is spent on advice and support for students seeking places at further educational establishments, apprenticeship programmes or those seeking employment.

The school benefits from a full time Careers Advisor and one-to-one interviews are set up for Key Stage 4 pupils during the school year. Year 9 pupils are also given advice before choosing their options. In addition to this, pupils are encouraged to make their own appointments as the need arises.

You can also contact the Careers Centres directly for help and advice at:

Careers Wales (Gwent),
57 High St, Blackwood,
Gwent.
NP12 1BA

Tel: 0800 0284844

PUPIL DESTINATIONS

Pupil destinations of our Year 11 (2018) cohort were:

Further Education colleges	160
Part time education	5
Work based training (not employed)	20
Work based training (employed)	10
Employed	15
Left the area	1
Not known	6



Extra-curricular Activities

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Islwyn High School's 21st Century facilities for the performing arts are second to none and include practice rooms, a recording studio, a fully equipped drama studio with black out curtains and a concert hall equipped with professional standard lighting and sound equipment.

The Performing Arts play a major role in Islwyn High School and the school sees them as an excellent opportunity to boost pupils' self confidence and creativity. They will also help pupils gain a wide range of skills such as working with others and communication.

The school presented its first full scale production with *Beauty and the Beast* in July 2018 to excellent critical acclaim and this was followed by an equally successful staging of *Oliver* in July 2019. Whole school musical productions will take place every year and all pupils from Years 7 to 11 are encouraged to participate.

Pupils are encouraged to learn to play musical instruments. A wide range of instruments can be learnt by attending music lessons. These lessons, which are provided by peripatetic teachers from Caerphilly's Music Service, are subsidised by the school but do attract a notional parental charge that needs to be paid in advance.

Competitions take place throughout the year, including Caerphilly Young Musician, Young Contemporary Musician, Rotary Young Musician and Young Singer. The school runs a choir and a range of bands and many pupils regularly perform in school concerts.

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Many departments run educational visits to enhance their curriculum with a broad range of experiences available for pupils. In addition, there are subject-specific trips for courses such as the Welsh Department's annual visits to Llangrannog, the PE Department's annual ski trip along with a number of departmental overseas tours.

Progress Managers often run reward trips for their year group. Participation in these trips is entirely at the discretion of the school and are regarded as a reward for good work, behaviour and effort throughout the year. Only pupils who co-operate in this respect will be allowed to go. Whenever a trip takes place you will be fully informed of the details and nature of the visit. We would ask parents to meet their children promptly from trips returning outside school hours and to impress that the highest standards of behaviour are required. The school enjoys an excellent reputation for our pupils' conduct when representing the school and we wish to preserve this. We reserve the right to disallow pupils from participating on study visits if this is felt to be appropriate.

CHARGING FOR SCHOOL VISITS

The school follows national guidelines and has a clear policy in place that is available by contacting the school. In the case of necessary visits where the school is unable to meet the costs, a voluntary contribution is invited from parents. The Governors' intention is that every pupil who needs to take part in a visit, where possible, should be able to do so.

Extra-curricular Activities

PUPIL VOICE

Pupil participation is about developing a culture in our school where all pupils have a voice and the opportunity to play an active role in decisions that affect their learning and wellbeing.

We believe that pupils who participate in decision making enjoy enhanced self esteem and motivation. Ultimately, we believe that pupils have an important part to play in helping our school improve in all aspects of school life. At our school, pupil participation happens in a variety of ways including the School Council, the Eco Committee and the School Nutrition Action Group.

At the start of the academic year, the School Council is formed with two representatives for each year group being democratically elected by their peers. This body's main role is to present the views of pupils and students to the Headteacher and Governors. The Head Boy and Girl are associate members of the Governing Body and attend meetings.



SPORT & GYMNASTICS

The school's aims with regards to sport are:

- that everyone, regardless of age, background or ability, feel able to engage in sport and physical activity
- to provide facilities and support to enable the already active to be more so and the inactive to become active
- to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Sports on offer include:

Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Cross Country Running, Dance, Hockey, Netball, Rounders, Welsh Baseball, Rugby, Football and Tennis. For all the major sports, teams represent the school at appropriate age levels. Extra-curricular activities and trips such as skiing also take place regularly.

In addition to many successes with our team sports, we are proud that so many of our pupils represent their country at International level.

The school also has 5 x 60 Sports Officers who work alongside our Physical Education teachers to encourage an even wider range of extra-curricular activity.



Discipline

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

The school actively promotes a strong positive ethos where pupils' efforts and achievements are recognised, rewarded and celebrated.

Our school is an orderly, secure and caring community where discipline is based on mutual respect, with clear systems and consistent procedures.

Our aim is that children should enjoy attending school in a safe, secure and stimulating environment where they can develop their full potential.

Pupils know that anti-social behaviour is totally unacceptable and that appropriate sanctions will be applied according to the level of seriousness of the behaviour concerned. School rules are therefore kept to a minimum and are mainly concerned with the safety and health of pupils along with maintaining a positive learning environment for all. Disruption within the classroom will not be tolerated at any time.

We expect pupils to use common sense, courtesy and respect for others and demand very high standards of behaviour. Our aim is to achieve this in an atmosphere where we all work together. Our School Behaviour Code and Classroom Behaviour expectations are highly visible across the school and a copy is available on request.



ANTI- BULLYING

Islwyn High School does not have a serious problem with bullying and we are determined to keep it that way. However, we are aware that bullying does inevitably happen wherever there is human interaction and we take every occurrence very seriously. Our anti bullying policy is clear and robust and can be viewed on the school's website.

All efforts are made to avoid situations arising in which bullying becomes possible. When bullying does happen, as it will in every school, both the bully and victim receive appropriate counselling by either the Progress Manager or senior staff.

School Rules

All pupils are members of our school community and all their actions should be made with regard for the well-being of that community.

1. Pupils must be in their form rooms by 8.30am for morning registration. Latecomers must sign in immediately on arrival at the School Reception.

2. Conduct during lessons must be such as to promote maximum possible progress of the individual and the class. Pupils are expected to display good manners and consideration for others. Behaviour on public transport, to and from school, and in public places must be of the highest standard.

3. Movement within the school buildings and on site should be carried out in an orderly manner with no running and no pushing. Pupils should walk on the LEFT in corridors and on stairs, and bags should be carried in a manner that has consideration for the safety of others.

4. We encourage all pupils to take a pride in their personal appearance. Full school uniform must be worn, hair styles must meet the requirements of health & safety and contribute to the good image of the school.

5. Pupils must take care of personal property. Large sums of money or articles of high value should NOT be brought to school. When unavoidable, valuables may be deposited in the school office or with the Form Tutor. Pupils who decide to keep these any such items, do so at their own risk. All items of clothing and bags must be marked clearly with the pupil's name.

6. The greatest care must be taken of the property of others and of the school. All pupils must have a sense of responsibility and do everything to maintain the tidiness and cleanliness of the school. Books & equipment issued from school must be cared for and returned intact.

7. Pupils must always complete homework to the best of their ability and hand it in on time. Personal diaries should be kept up-to-date.

8. The use of mobile phones by pupils is prohibited during the school day. This hard line approach has had to be adopted in view of the increasing misuse of mobile phone cameras and the escalating risk of theft. However, pupils are always allowed access to the school telephone in times of emergency. If mobile phones are brought into school, this is done so at the owner's risk and they must be switched off at all times and stored out of sight in a school bag. If seen or heard, they will be confiscated by a member of staff and only returned in line with the school mobile phone policy, a copy of which is available on demand.

Parental support is expected in enforcing this important aspect of school life.

- NO** Litter, graffiti, chewing gum
- NO** Mobile phones
- NO** iPods or MP3 Players
- NO** Nose-studs or other body piercing
- NO** Make-up, excess jewellery or extreme Hairstyles
- NO** Trainers, hooded tops or baseball caps

Acceptance of the school rules is a condition of admission to, and continued membership of the school.

School Uniform

School uniform is compulsory for all pupils

School uniform is in place to put all pupils on an equal footing. It needs to be comfortable, easy to wash and suitable for work. It also needs to conform to health and safety rules and is there to create a sense of belonging to the school community.

The school is proud of its uniform and ALL pupils are expected to comply fully with the school's requirements. Parents are expected to support the school in enforcing these guidelines at all times.

The school uniform is available from local suppliers or separate items can be purchased from national multiple stores, however it is expected that every item of clothing will comply with the school uniform requirements.

We do not allow designer clothes, designer hair-styles such as tramlines, unnatural hair colours, jewellery (apart from a watch) or make-up. We also do not believe children should be allowed to challenge us on such matters. ***If parents are unclear as to the suitability of any items of clothing, they should contact the school before purchasing them to avoid unnecessary costs.***

Outdoor coats should be dark in colour - no leather jackets, jumpers or tops with slogans, tracksuit tops or hoodies. Caps should not be worn.

Uniform Suppliers

JansanWear- Aberbargoed

Tel: 01495 687013

AJM Schoolwear- Cwmfelinfach

Tel: 01495 200548

Darren Morgan Sports- Cross Keys

Tel: 01495 271995

Olympia Design- Trinant

Tel: 01495 211119

ALL PUPILS

Compulsory items:

- School blazer
- School tie (different for Years 7 - 9 and 10 - 11)
- Plain black tailored trousers or black knee-length skirt
- Plain white shirt
- Unisex PE t-shirt and PE shorts or PE skirt
- Rugby top (where rugby is played in PE lessons)
- Unisex socks

Optional items :

- V-neck jumper with contrasting trim and school logo
- PE hoody
- PE splash top

Summer Term:

In the summer term, pupils have the option of wearing the winter uniform above, or, they may replace the blazer, shirt and tie with the school's white polo shirt. A black jumper may still be worn.



Admissions

NEW PUPILS

Islwyn High School has an agreed admissions number of 200 mainstream pupils.

Children are normally expected to transfer to the secondary school in the area in which they live and are notified of the school concerned by the Local Authority. Parents preferring their child to attend a secondary school outside the catchment area in which they live must apply in writing through the primary school Headteacher to the Director of Education. Parents are informed towards the end of the Spring Term if their first choice is not accepted. Parents and carers have the right to appeal.

Our Open Evening is held early on in the Autumn Term and is open to all pupils due to start in September 2020 or 2021 in the new school. This is an opportunity for pupils and parents to view our school and speak to members of staff.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

This prospectus is available to view on the website. A hardcopy may be requested by contacting the school. Other useful information such as term dates, exam timetables, holiday forms, contact details are all available on the school website www.islynhigh.org



TRANSITION

Transition links are strong within our cluster of primary schools. Pupils from Year 5 visit the school throughout the year, attending a variety of activities in departments such as Science, Technology, PE and the Library.

Year 6 pupils are invited to meet with their Form Teacher and new class friends prior to their start in September. These links are strengthened with mass events such as musical play days and sports tournaments.

Attendance

Excellent attendance and punctuality are vital for success. Islwyn High School has extensive systems that track and monitor attendance throughout the day.

We need your support in maintaining our good attendance figures. Please ensure that your child does not miss school unless absolutely necessary and avoid taking holidays during the school term.

Absence from school is the biggest contributor towards under achievement. Please inform the school on the first day of your child's absence by contacting the dedicated attendance line on 01495 233600.

If your child becomes ill at school we may ask you to collect them.

Pupils will only be allowed to go to the dentist or doctor on production of an appointment card and / or a letter from a parent or carer. Please try to arrange for appointments to take place outside of the school day.

It is very important that parents send a signed and dated note after every absence. Absences unaccounted for in this way are considered to be unauthorised - unauthorised absence has to be regarded as truancy.

What can parents do to support their child to achieve good attendance levels?

Parents play a very important role in ensuring the good attendance records of their children.

A list of suggested strategies include:

- Encouraging full attendance and stress the importance of it to your child
- Not allowing your child to have time off for minor complaints or illnesses; if well enough to be up and about, he or she is generally well enough to attend school
- Monitoring your child's attendance report carefully
- Trying to book any medical or dental appointments out of school hours or make them for the very end of the day
- Ensuring your child is punctual for school
- Informing the school of any absence
- Taking any holidays during the school holidays, not during term time

If your child seems unwilling to attend, contact the school as soon as possible: do not let your child stay at home as this could set a pattern.

ATTENDANCE PERFORMANCE	
Attendance 2016 / 17	93.00%
Attendance 2017 / 18	92.50%
Attendance 2018 / 19	93.80%
Attendance 2019 / 20	93.90%

Examinations

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

The intention is to enable as many pupils as possible to receive nationally recognised qualifications and external validation of their work. We avoid the creation of non-examination groups and pupils are entered for examinations where they have at least a reasonable chance of success.

The aim is to prepare every pupil for life by providing the opportunity to achieve his or her potential. Preparation for success in external examinations is one of our main priorities from day one.

Appropriate preparation for external examinations is expected from all pupils and the school reserves the right to charge parents for any resits that may be required as a result of a lack of commitment to the first time sitting.



DATA PROTECTION

The General Data Protection Regulation 2018 has been introduced to govern provisions and requirements pertaining to the processing of individuals' personal data.

The following is a summary privacy notice:

Islwyn High School processes personal information about pupils and their families to support pupil learning and monitor attainment, to provide pastoral care, and to keep children safe.

We also process personal information to meet the statutory duties placed upon us by Welsh Government, to administer optional school trips and activities, and to deliver the school catering service, which may include verifying identity using biometric systems.

The school takes its responsibilities under data protection law very seriously, and will store and use all personal information securely, disposing of it when no longer required. Personal information may be shared securely for clear purposes with other organisations such as Caerphilly County Borough Council, Welsh Government, or other external partners (e.g. other Local Authorities, Health Boards, and Special Educational Needs Tribunal Wales) that provide a service to pupils / families.

You have a number of rights in relation to your personal information, including the right of access to information and the right of complaint.

For more information, please refer to the school website

School Outcomes (KS3-2019)

Islwyn High School
Caerphilly

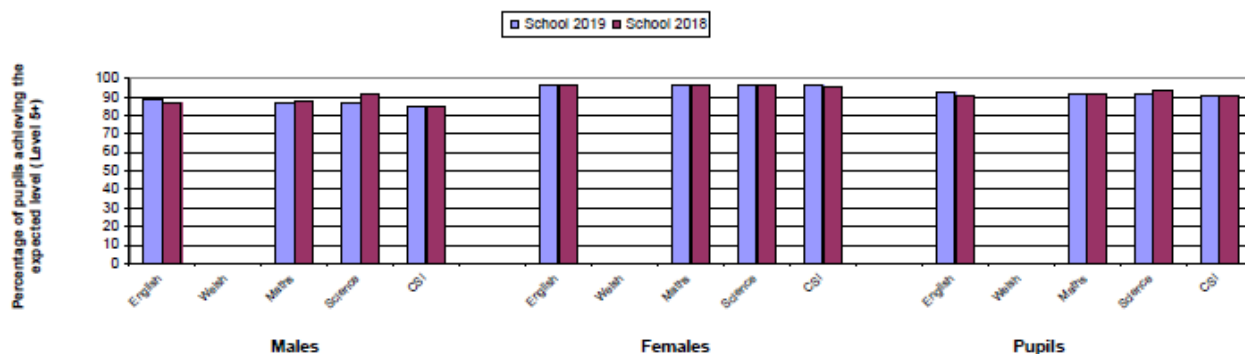
LA/School no: 676/4104

School validation report: National Curriculum Assessments 2019 Key Stage 3

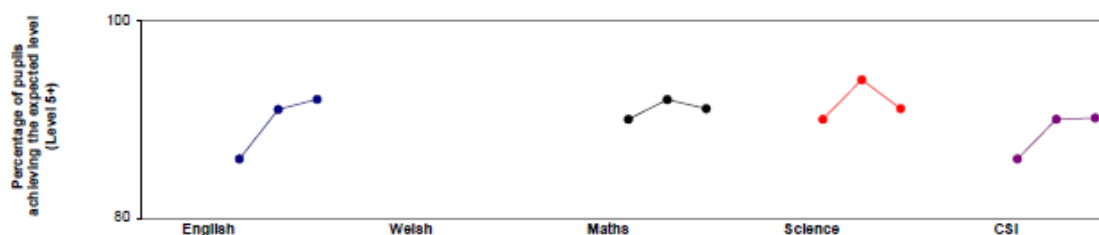
This summary data is produced from the NDC files that your school has just submitted. It's purpose is to help your school to validate the pupil level data in these files. You will be able to produce this report throughout the NDC validation period and for a short time afterwards.

Percentage of males, females, and pupils achieving at least the expected level (Level 5+):

	Males		Females		Pupils	
	School 2019	School 2018	School 2019	School 2018	School 2019	School 2018
English	88	86	96	96	92	91
Welsh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maths	86	88	96	96	91	92
Science	86	91	96	97	91	94
CSI	84	85	96	96	90	90



School Performance over time (2015 - 2019)



Notes:

- Figures for Welsh refer to attainment in Welsh first language only.
- CSI = Core Subject Indicator. To achieve the CSI a pupil must achieve at least the expected level 5 in both Mathematics and Science and either English or Welsh first language.
- If there were no pupils eligible for assessment in a subject for a particular year the graph will discontinue and show a gap for that year.

School Outcomes (KS3-2019) continued

Islwyn High School
Caerphilly

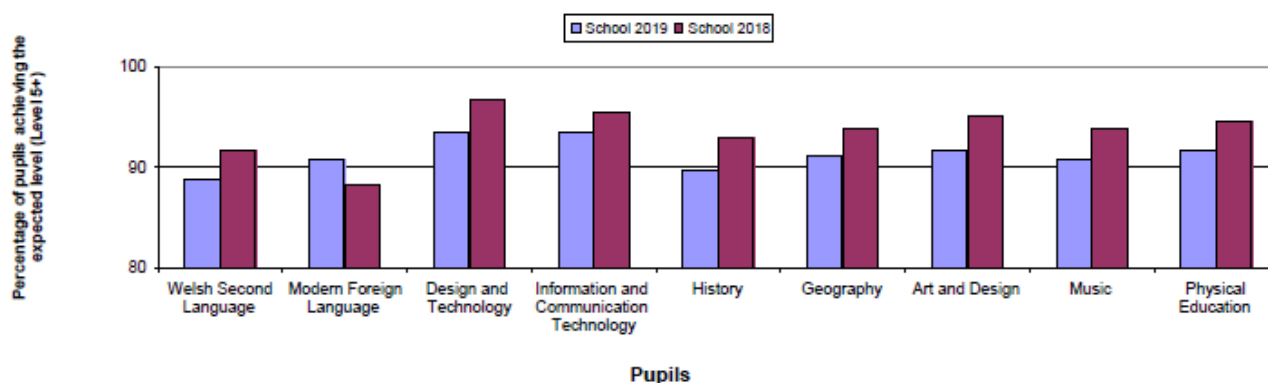
LA/School no: 676/4104

School validation report: National Curriculum Assessments 2019 Key Stage 3

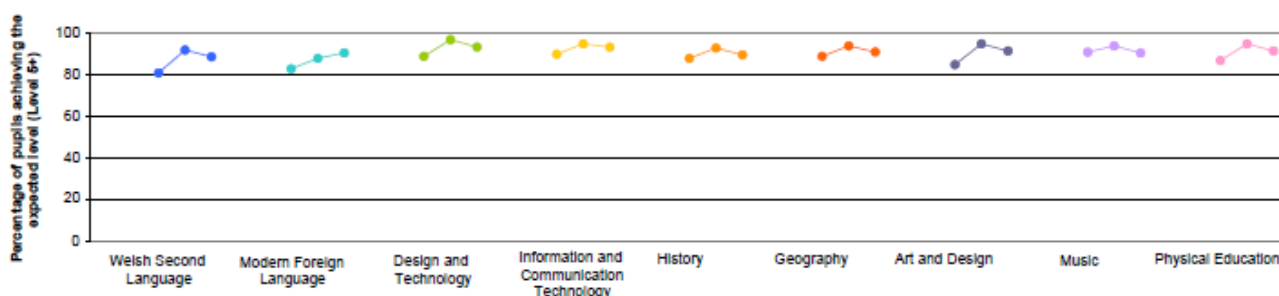
This summary data is produced from the NDC files that your school has just submitted. It's purpose is to help your school to validate the pupil level data in these files. You will be able to produce this report throughout the NDC validation period and for a short time afterwards.

Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level (Level 5+)

	Males		Females		Pupils	
	School 2019	School 2018	School 2019	School 2018	School 2019	School 2018
Welsh Second Language	82	88	95	96	89	92
Modern Foreign Language	85	83	96	94	91	88
Design and Technology	90	95	97	98	93	97
Information and Communication Technology	91	93	96	97	93	95
History	83	90	96	96	90	93
Geography	88	91	94	97	91	94
Art and Design	88	92	95	98	92	95
Music	85	92	96	96	91	94
Physical Education	89	92	94	97	92	95



School Performance over time (2015 - 2019)



Notes:

1. If there were no pupils eligible for assessment in a subject for a particular year the graph will discontinue and show a gap for that year.

School Outcomes

(KS4–2019) continued

Islwyn High School

Summary of School Performance (1) (2)

SSSP 2019

LA/School No.

676 / 4104

Pupils in Year 11

Number of pupils in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2019 : 236

Average points score per pupil:

	Capped 9 measure (interim)	Literacy measure	Numeracy measure	Science measure	Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate measure
School 2018/19	321	36	36	37	33
LA Area 2018/19	..	37	36	35	..
Wales 2018/19	..	39	37	37	..
School 17/18/19	..	37	36	37	..
School 16/17/18

Number of boys in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2019 : 126

Average points score per boy:

	Capped 9 measure (interim)	Literacy measure	Numeracy measure	Science measure	Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate measure
School 2018/19	299	33	35	35	28
LA Area 2018/19	..	35	36	34	..
Wales 2018/19	..	36	36	35	..
School 17/18/19	..	34	35	35	..
School 16/17/18

Number of girls in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2019 : 110

Average points score per girl:

	Capped 9 measure (interim)	Literacy measure	Numeracy measure	Science measure	Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate measure
School 2018/19	346	39	38	38	39
LA Area 2018/19	..	40	37	37	..
Wales 2018/19	..	42	38	38	..
School 17/18/19	..	39	38	38	..
School 16/17/18

(1) For details on approved qualifications, point scores and contribution to thresholds, please see the Qualifications Wales website (QiW) at <https://www.qiw.wales/>

(2) For details on the calculation of these indicators please see the guidance note at: <https://gov.wales/interim-key-stage-4-school-performance-arrangements>

.. Data not available.

School Outcomes

(KS4-2019) continued

Islwyn High School

Summary of School Performance (1)

Additional indicators 2019

LA/School No.

676 / 4104

Pupils in Year 11

Number of pupils in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2019 : 236

Percentage of pupils in Year 11 who:

	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language or literature and mathematics	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	Achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*-A or equivalent
School 2018/19	91	46	42	12
LA Area 2018/19	91	51	47	15
Wales 2018/19	93	54	50	18
School 17/18/19	93	48	47	13
School 16/17/18	..	..	..	..

Number of boys in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2019 : 126

Percentage of boys in Year 11 who:

	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language or literature and mathematics	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	Achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*-A or equivalent
School 2018/19	88	40	36	8
LA Area 2018/19	90	45	41	12
Wales 2018/19	91	49	44	14
School 17/18/19	90	43	41	9
School 16/17/18	..	..	..	..

Number of girls in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2019 : 110

Percentage of girls in Year 11 who:

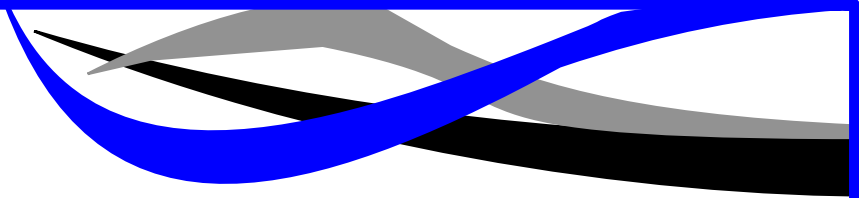
	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language or literature and mathematics	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	Achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*-A or equivalent
School 2018/19	94	52	49	17
LA Area 2018/19	92	57	54	19
Wales 2018/19	95	59	56	22
School 17/18/19	95	55	54	17
School 16/17/18	..	..	..	..

(1) For details on approved qualifications, point scores and contribution to thresholds, please see the Qualifications Wales website (QiW) at <https://www.qiw.wales/>

.. Data not available.

School Outcomes

(KS4–2019) continued



Islwyn High School

School Type: 0

Linguistic Delivery: 0

SSSP 2019

LA/School No. 676 / 4104

Number of SEN Unit/Special Classes 2019: 5

Number of Pupils on Roll in NCY 11 2019: 237

Percentage of compulsory school age pupils eligible for FSM 17/18/19 ⁽¹⁾: 18.7

Percentage of pupils in year 11 on SEN register 2019: 22.8

(1) Used for all Free School Meal benchmarking tables. This indicator is only shown for mainstream secondary schools.

.. Data not available.

Home School Agreement

Name of Pupil: _____ Form: _____

This agreement has been produced to help the school and parents / carers to work together to enable pupils to maximise their potential through a positive educational experience. However, this is not a legal document and should be entered into in the spirit of partnership. This agreement will help the school to achieve its aims.

The school will seek to:

- provide an appropriate, balanced and stimulating curriculum for all pupils
- provide an appropriate, safe environment for all aspects of school life
- set challenging targets for pupils, and monitor progress
- support pupils working to maximise their potential
- provide appropriate individual guidance when required
- inform parents / carers of their child's progress through reports, parents' evenings and letters
- set and mark homework as appropriate
- look after the well-being of pupils when at school
- liaise with all outside agencies which support the welfare of the child
- treat all children equally, irrespective of gender, race, creed or disability.

We ask that parents / carers should attempt to:

- ensure that your child attends regularly, properly equipped for that day's lessons
- endeavour to ensure that your child arrives on time
- notify the school when your child is absent, and provide a note on the child's return
- support all aspects of the school's behaviour policy
- encourage your child to behave well
- support the school's uniform policy
- take an interest in homework and check it has been completed; sign the homework diary
- attend all meetings that involve your child
- inform the school of anything which may affect your child's work or behaviour
- encourage good behaviour when travelling to school, explaining the need for safe travel
- take the opportunity to become involved in the life of the school whenever possible.

Pupils should make every effort to:

- attend school and be on time
- bring all the necessary books and equipment for the day in good condition
- maintain school uniform requirements and be presentable at all times
- follow the school Behaviour Policy and keep school rules
- produce classwork and homework of a high standard
- be caring, respectful, polite and considerate towards others
- make the most of all the opportunities available during their time in school.

Signed: _____ (Parent / Carer) Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Pupil) Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Head Teacher)



Islwyn High School

Waterloo

Oakdale

BLACKWOOD

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Email: ihsc@caerphilly.gov.uk

