

# Welcome to Islwyn High School Transition Meeting 2025



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# Introduction to key staff:



Mr Jason Hicks: Headteacher

Mrs Nicola Bowden: Deputy Head Teacher / Transition Coordinator / Safeguarding Lead.

Mrs Lauren McGirr (aka Miss Poole): Progress Manager Yr. 7

Mrs Sue Cooper: Deputy Progress Manager / RADY champion Yr. 7

Mrs Nicola Strachan: ALNCo

Mrs Hayley Radford: Assistant ALNCo

Miss Tina Crooker: Inclusion Manager / Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

Miss Sam Edwards: Family Liaison Officer (FLO) / Safeguarding Officer.



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# Intake 2025-2026

## Feeder Primary Schools

- Rhiw Syr Dafydd
- Trinant
- Cwmfelinfach
- Ynysddu
- Penllwyn
- Pontllanfraith
- Bryn



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206 pupils (full)

## Out of Catchment:

- Libanus Primary
- Abercarn Primary
- Hengoed Primary
- Blackwood Primary
- Maesycwmmmer Primary
- Cefn Fforest Primary
- Gilfach Fargoed Primary
- Pengam Primary
- Pentwynmawr Primary
- Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen



# Form Tutors:

**Humanities team:**

**Mr J Morris**

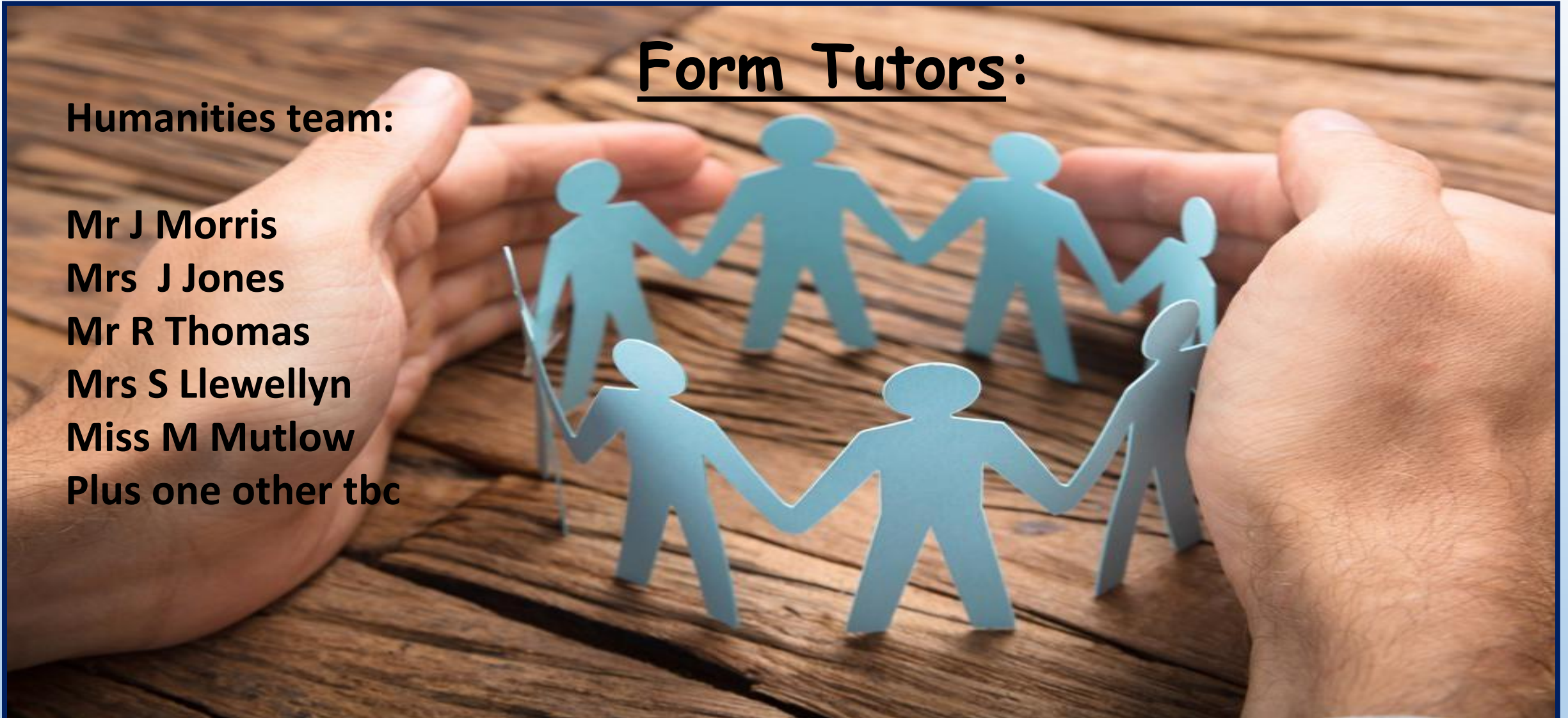
**Mrs J Jones**

**Mr R Thomas**

**Mrs S Llewellyn**

**Miss M Mutlow**

**Plus one other tbc**



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# Classes



Year 7 are mixed ability, we try and place your child with someone of their choice. They will be set for certain subjects over the first year based on tests and assessments. We also have two smaller discrete classes that Mrs Strachan will discuss later.

You will find out your class on the transition day in June.



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# 3 Basic Expectations



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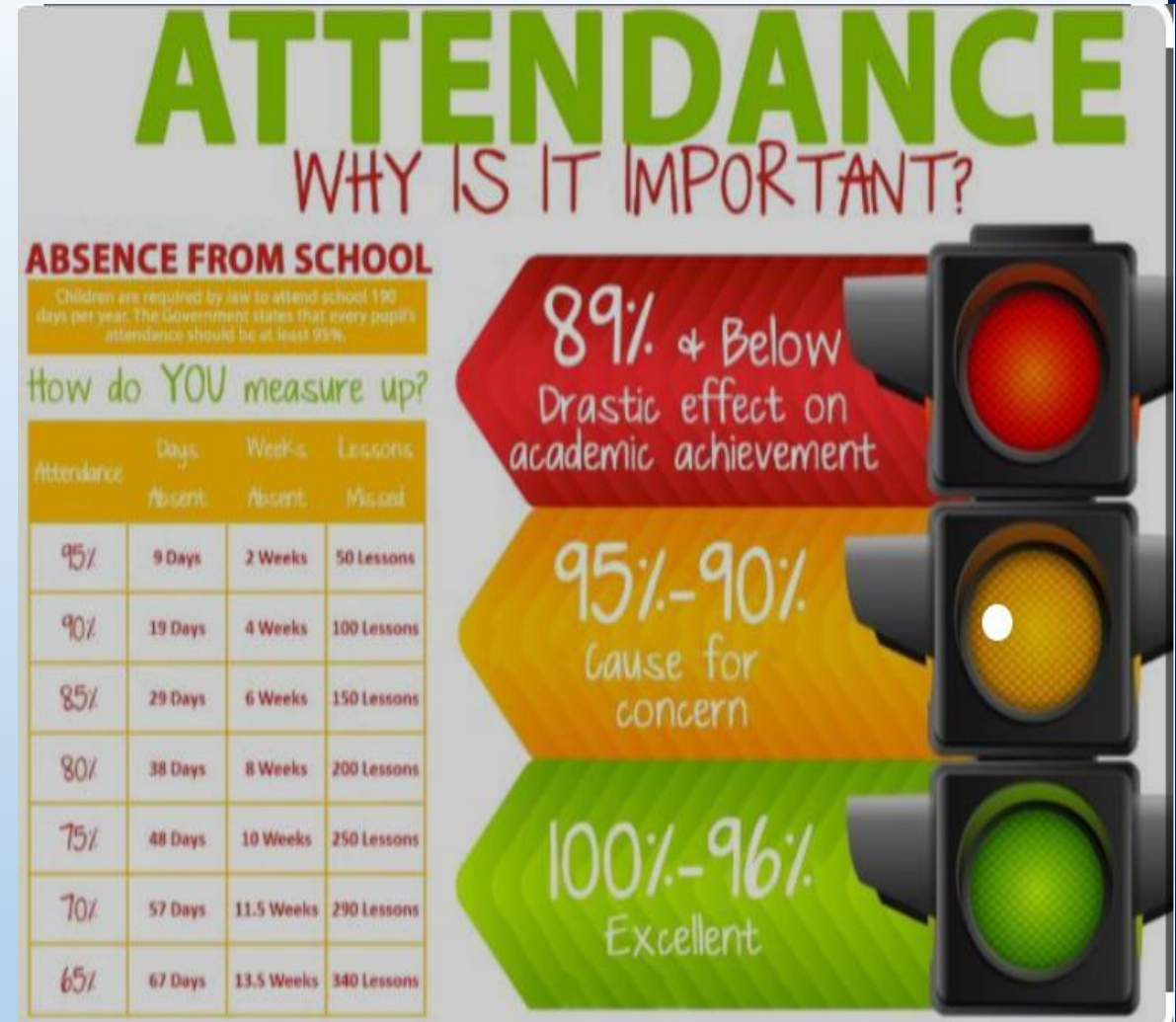
# Attendance

## Attendance at Islwyn High.

At Islwyn High School, we consider regular attendance to be part of the foundation of pupils 'Belonging, Believing and Achieving.' If pupils are not in school, they cannot benefit from the educational opportunities that the school offers.

We will consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all pupils. We aim to promote and encourage good habits of punctuality and attendance in all our pupils. The school will work collaboratively with parents, pupils and the LA to secure this.

We encourage appointments to be made where possible out of school hours and holidays during term time.



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# Structure of the school day

## What will a school day look like for my child?

- 8.00 am - School gates open/ breakfast club open
- 8.25am - Warning bell for start of school
- 8.30 am - Registration time.
- 8.55 am - Lesson 1
- 9.55 am - Lesson 2
- 10.55 am - Break to include warning bell
- 11.15 am - Lesson 3
- 12.15 pm - Lesson 4
- 1.15 pm - Lunch to include warning bell
- 1.50 pm - Lesson 5
- 2.50 pm - End of school day

Year 7 will leave early for lunch in the first few weeks.

Year 7 have their own designated yard – break/lunch area.

Year 7 will integrate into the main yard from June 2026.

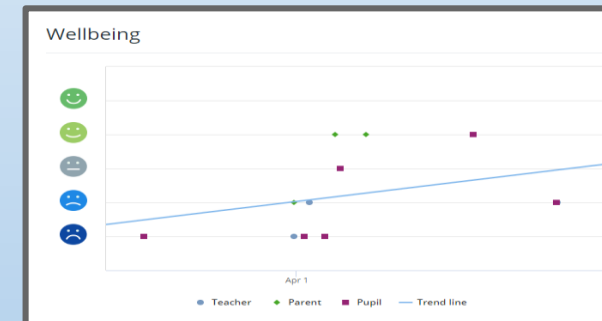
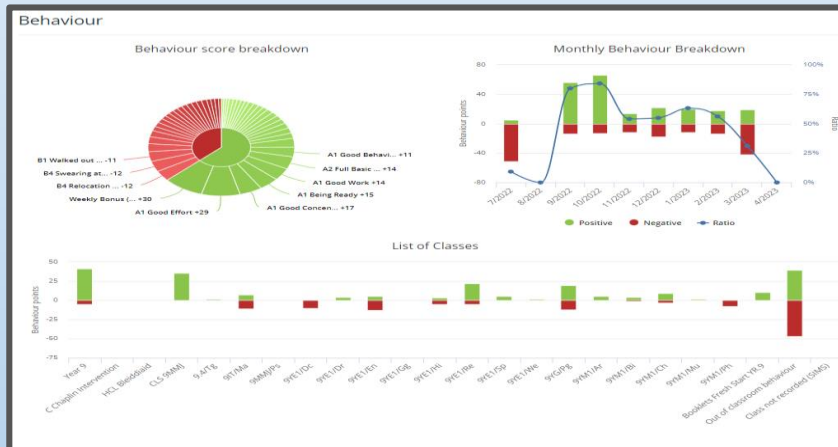
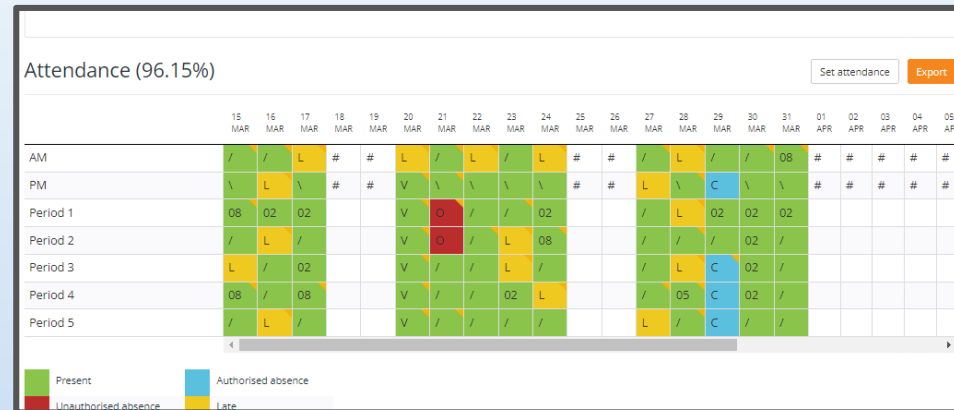


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# ClassCharts

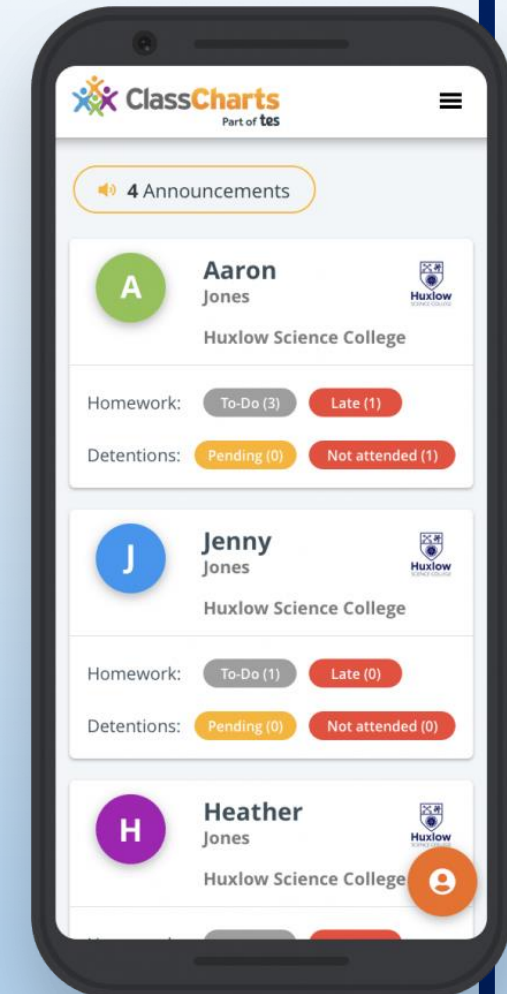


PREVIOUS NEXT TODAY April 10 - 16 2023

Monday 10 Apr	Tuesday 11 Apr	Wednesday 12 Apr	Thursday 13 Apr	Friday 14 Apr	Saturday 15 Apr	Sunday 16 Apr
	7.2/Tg Technology Mrs S Crane			9.2/Tg Technology Mrs S Crane		

Legend

Homework



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# Positive Focus Of The Fortnight:



POSITIVE FOCUS OF THE  
FORTNIGHT IS...



Being Respectful



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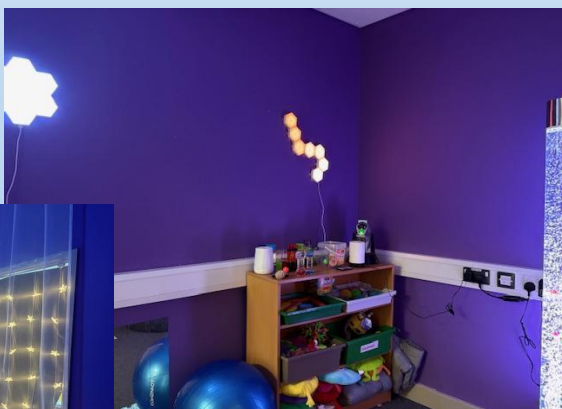
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# ALN Support

We have a team of experienced staff based in the CYNEFIN on floor 3. This is a new bespoke ALN area that centralises much of the provision on offer.



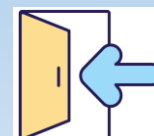




# CYNEFIN

- Home of wellbeing (HWB) - quiet space - used as a drop in to access an Emotionally Available Adult and for quieter social times.
- Sensory room - re-regulation opportunity.
- Intervention space for ELKLAN (Speech, language and communication)
- Specific Learning Difficulties specialist - bespoke support tailored for need.
- Pre and post teaching to consolidate key words

Entrance and Exit Criteria



# Class Based Provisions

- Nurture groups (smaller numbers - approx 15 pupils) - throughout school - allocated on both academic need and on social need.
- Class based LSAs - allocated in the main by Local Authority.
- Withdrawal for literacy and numeracy and a phased approach to support based on need (overseen by Head of Literacy and Head of Numeracy based on National Test scores).
- High level of teaching and learning support within lessons using 'adaptive teaching' to ensure that learning is accessible and personalised.





# Uniform

## Uniform

Islwyn High School's Governors have selected a school uniform that is very smart, easily identifiable and befitting of the school's profile in the community. Everyone is proud of how it looks and the vast majority of pupils enjoy wearing it. We hope that all parents and carers agree that it is practical, reasonably priced, readily available and looks good on their child. We really need your support in ensuring that the high standards expected are maintained at all times.



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# Uniform Suppliers

	<b>Darren Morgan Sports</b>	<b>AJM Embroidery</b>	<b>Olympia Design</b>
Address	High Street Cross Keys NP11 7FN	1 Bridge View Cwmfelinfach NP11 7HG	3 The Shopping Centre, Trinant Terrace, Pentwyn, Crumlin, NP11 3JJ
Telephone number	01495-27199 5	01495-200548	01495 211119
Savings scheme?	Yes	Yes	Yes



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# Uniform Swap Shop

## UNIFORM SWAP SHOP!

### SWAP or NOT – The Choice is Yours!

**FREE!** - Please take what you need. Our donated and sometimes brand-new items are here waiting for you. You don't have to have items to swap.

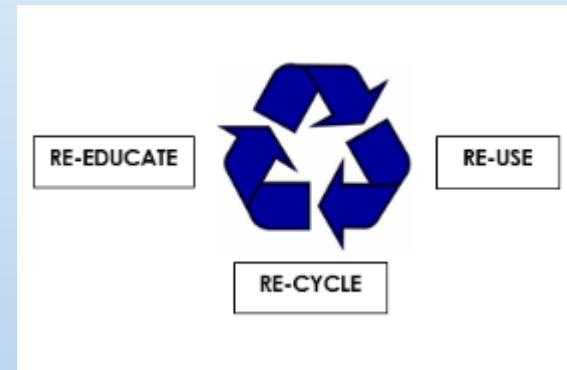
**FREE!** - Perhaps you have out-grown your uniform or coat..... Swap it here, for a new size.

And please don't forget to **donate** your 'good as new' uniform when you have finished with it and help our school re-cycle, re-use and re-educate.

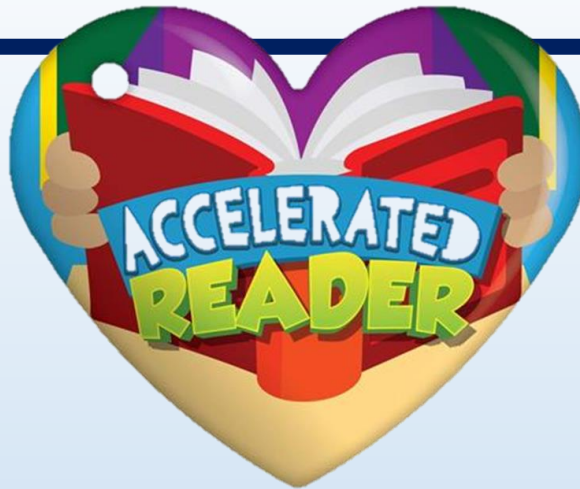
**We Accept....**

**SHIRTS, TROUSERS, SKIRTS, BLAZERS, BLACK SCHOOL JUMPERS, SCHOOL SHOES, TRAINERS, FOOTBALL BOOTS, RUGBY BOOTS, SCHOOL BAGS, PE KITS, PENCIL CASES.**

More details to follow on how to request items from our Uniform Swap Shop.



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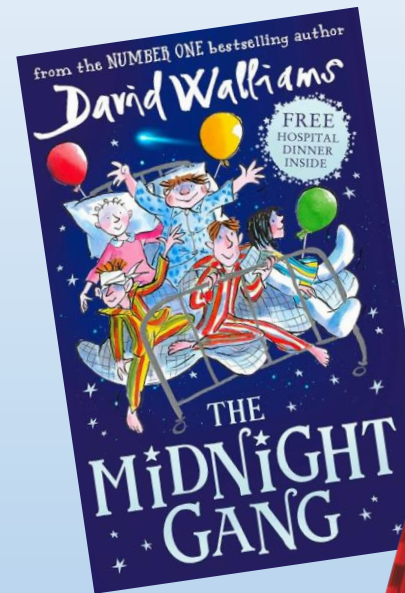


Reading every day is the biggest contributor to pupil outcomes!

Year 7 Words Read

13,347,265

5 'Word Millionaires' in Year 7!



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# Medical Conditions:



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# Emotional / Wellbeing Support

- I2A officer 2 days a week.
- ELSA
- Flourish
- School counsellor
- Trauma informed approach as a school.
- WRAP approach: Build, repair, maintain relationships.
- School nurse
- Mental Health Inreach
- Trixie wellbeing dog



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# FLO

Family Liaison Officer: Sam Edwards



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# Introducing..... Our School Dog Trixie

Here to help with:

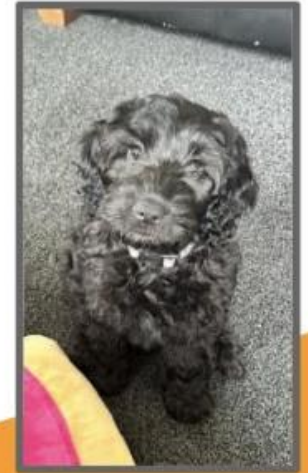
Anxiety reduction

Stress coping strategies

Communication and Social Anxieties

Studies have found that children with companion animals have higher self esteem, greater empathy, more engagement with peers and other prosocial behaviour.

When i was  
a puppy



Desensitisation and problem solving

Social Interaction and relationships

Attachment and relationship building

The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.



My Training day with  
the Dog Mentor



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**The Dog Mentor**  
Building Characters



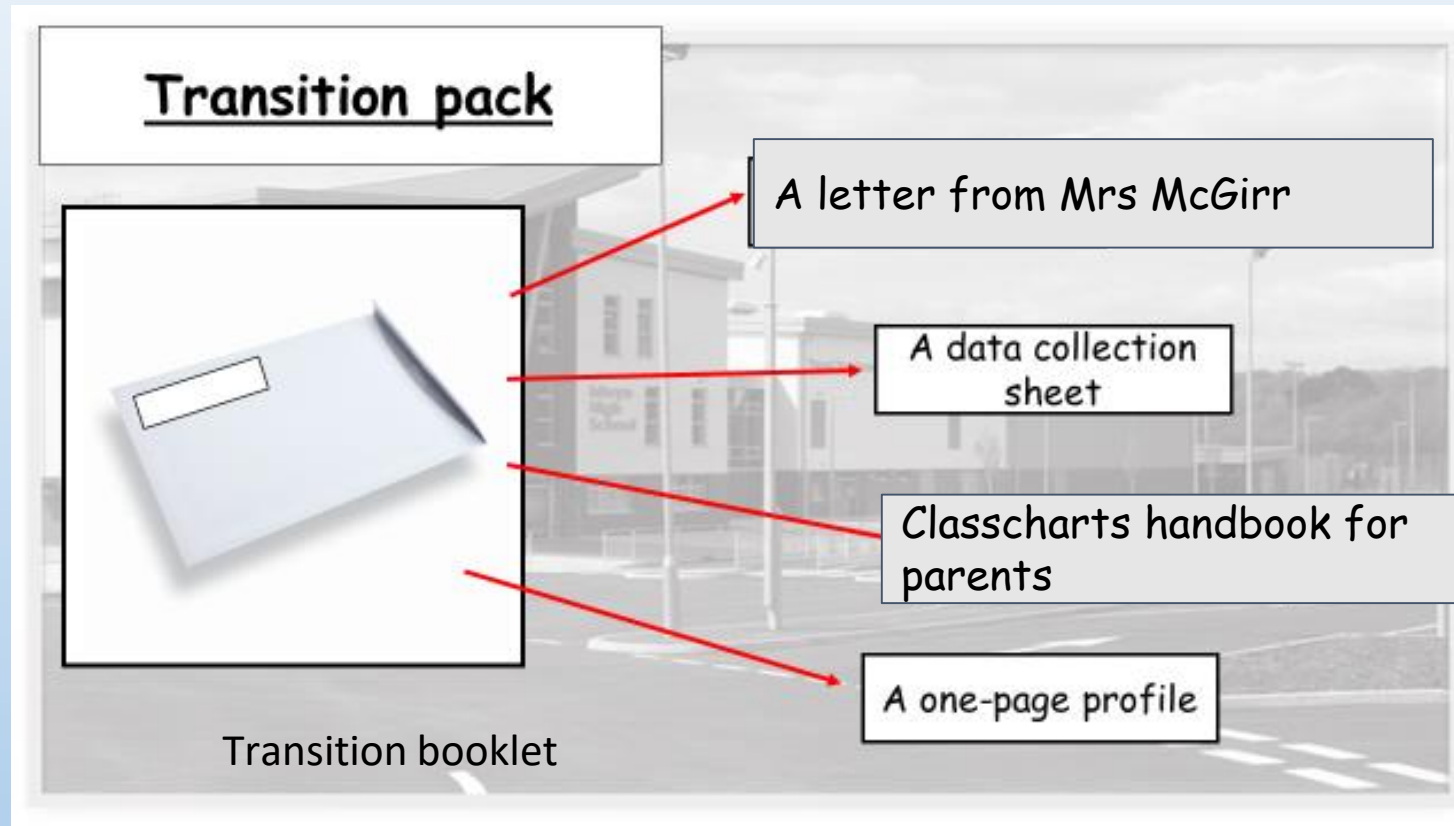
# Chromebooks:

- Every pupil in the school is allocated a chromebook with parent consent.
- They are the pupils responsibility to look after and care for.
- We recommend purchasing a waterproof case. These can be purchased quite cheaply on Amazon.
- Pupils are required to charge their chromebook every night for the following day.
- Pupils are required to bring their chromebook in every day.



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# Preparation for September 2025



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# What equipment you will need:

- A bag to carry your pencil case and chromebook in.
- Pencil case with pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, sharpener.
- Casio FX-85GTCW Scientific Calculator



*Those pupils in receipt of free school meals will have a new pencil case filled with pens and pencils and a calculator given to them in September.*

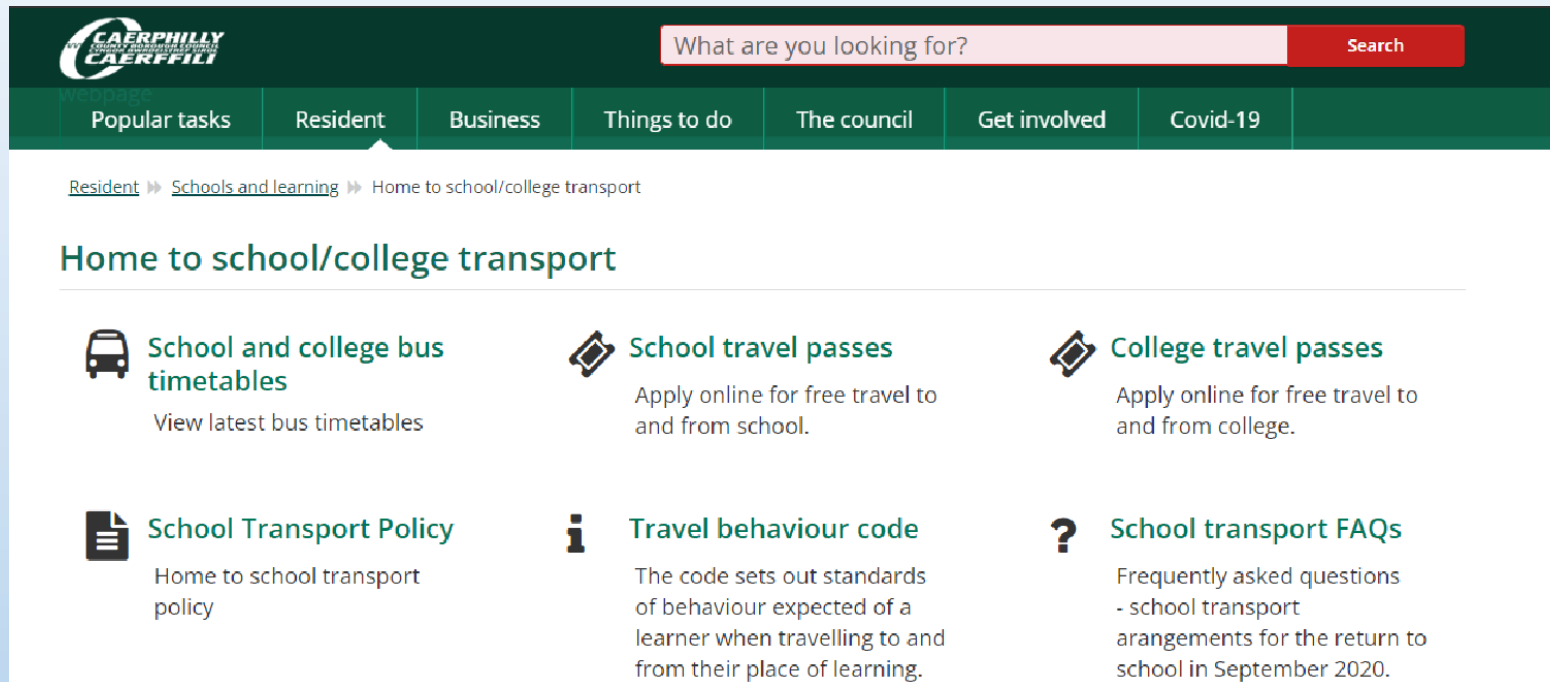


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# Transport:

Click this link for transport details :

[Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)



The screenshot shows the Caerphilly Council website. At the top is the council logo and a search bar. Below is a navigation menu with options like 'Popular tasks', 'Resident', 'Business', etc. The 'Resident' menu is open, showing a path: 'Resident >> Schools and learning >> Home to school/college transport'. The main heading is 'Home to school/college transport'. Below this are six tiles: 'School and college bus timetables' (with a bus icon), 'School travel passes' (with a pass icon), 'College travel passes' (with a pass icon), 'School Transport Policy' (with a document icon), 'Travel behaviour code' (with an information icon), and 'School transport FAQs' (with a question mark icon). Each tile includes a brief description of the service or policy.

Only late applications or those who have got a place through appeals have to apply for school transport using the link



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# Canteen:

Cashless system. Top up online with Upay Chilli  
Pupils entitled to free school meals get their allowance put on first thing. £2.25 set menu.

Breakfast club opens at 8am  
Great selection of snacks and food served at break and lunchtime.

Year 7 will have first access to the canteen during year 7.



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# Pupil voice/ pupil leadership:

Pupil voice is really important to us at Islwyn High School because we believe every student should feel heard, valued, and empowered to shape their school experience.

By involving pupils in decisions that affect them, we help build confidence, leadership skills, and a strong sense of community and responsibility.

Our Year 7 pupils have the opportunity to join the School Council and work alongside our senior pupil leadership team, including the Head Boy and Head Girl, on important school matters.

They can also represent Criw Cymraeg across the curriculum and train as peer mediators, promoting positive relationships within our school community.



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# Year 6 Transition Day: June 24th 2025



## Year 6 transition day feedback was very positive

- 99% of the pupils said that they had really enjoyed the day.
- 96% of pupils enjoyed the circle time activities and thought it was “great fun, exciting, different, that we were making new friends without realising it and it wasn’t forced or fake.”
- 94% thought they had made new friends different to those they were currently in primary school with.
- 98% were really looking forward to starting with us in September.



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## Transition events over the coming weeks:

- Transition day 24th June
- Mrs Bowden/ Mrs McGirr/ Mrs Strachan visiting our feeder primary schools to meet with your teachers and gather information about you.
- Enhanced transition visits
- Coping with comp sessions
- Cluster football matches (monthly)
- Cluster residential trip to Manor Adventure Park 11th -13th July
- Viewing of our school production 'The Wizard of Oz' at Newbridge M 16th July.





# First Day/ first week: Tuesday 2nd September 2025

- All pupils in school, this is a LA decision.
- Pupils will come to school and make their way to the year 7 area.
- Winter uniform.
- 2 hours with form tutor
- Timetables.
- Dinner fob
- Classcharts codes
- Chromebooks
- Fire drill/ lockdown drill



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# Website



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# We look forward to welcoming you to our Islwyn family!



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Thank you for attending, we welcome your feedback.



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