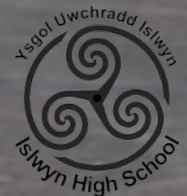


Welcome to Islwyn High School Transition Meeting 2026



Islwyn High School
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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: Progress Manager Yr. 7

Mrs Nicola Strachan: ALNCo

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

Mr Adam Webb: Assistant Head: Attendance Lead/ deputy safeguarding officer



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Intake 2026-2027

Feeder Primary Schools

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

Out of Catchment:

- Blackwood
- Crumlin
- Sofrydd
- Pentwynmawr
- Roath Park



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206 pupils (full)

Form Tutors:

Humanities team:

Mr J Morris

Mrs J Jones

Mr R Thomas

Mrs S Llewellyn

Miss M Mutlow

Miss O Perrett



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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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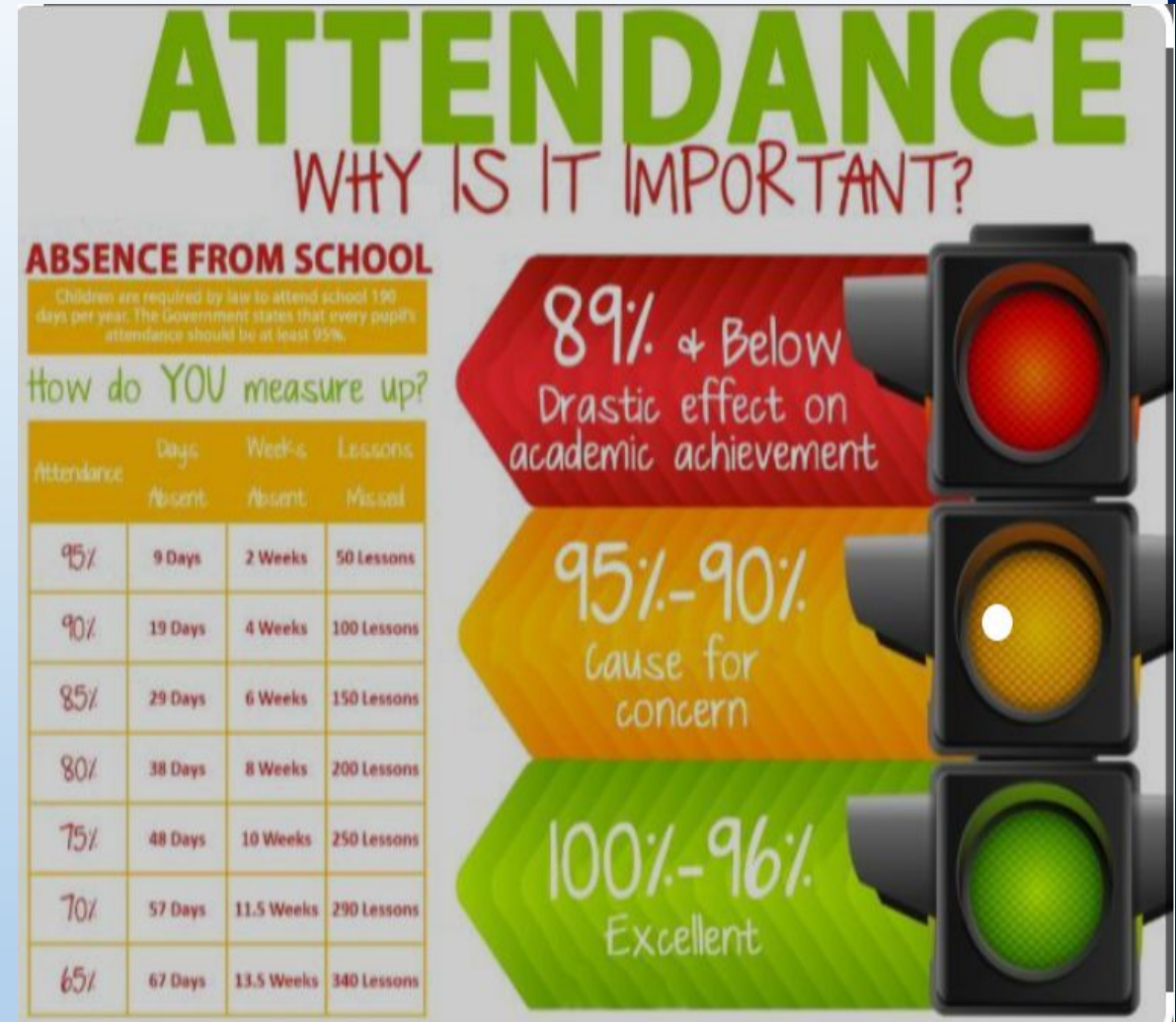
Attendance

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 2027

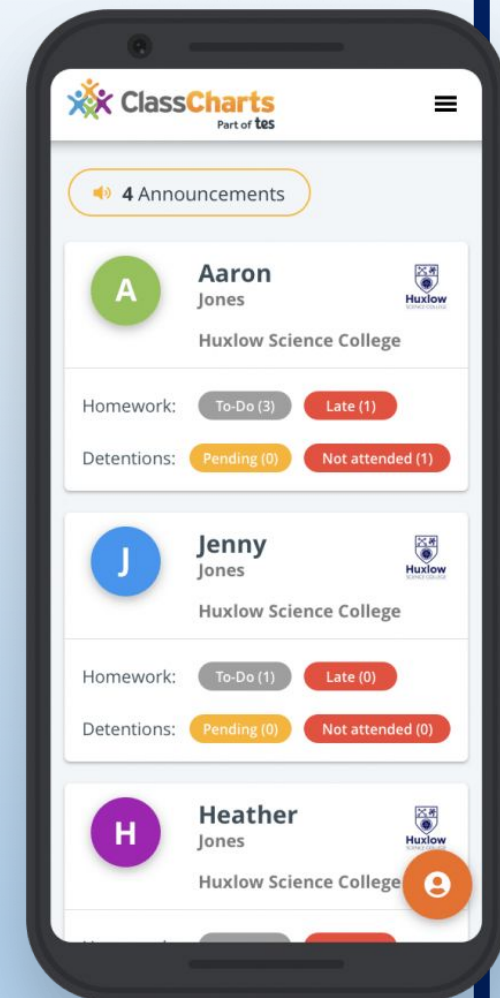
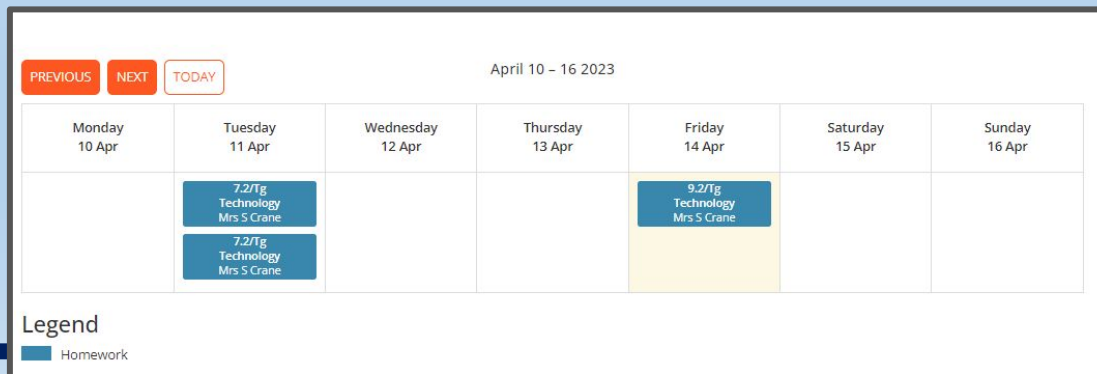
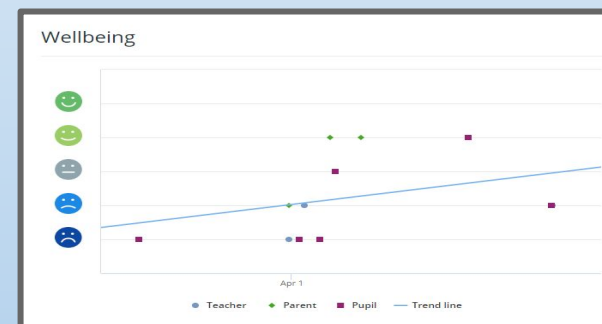
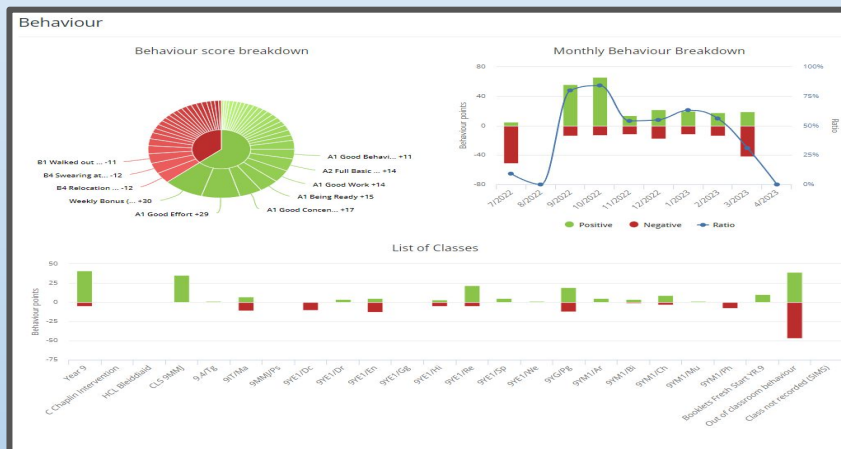


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Class Charts Parent

ClassCharts



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Positive Focus Of The Fortnight:



POSITIVE FOCUS OF THE
FORTNIGHT IS...



Being Respectful



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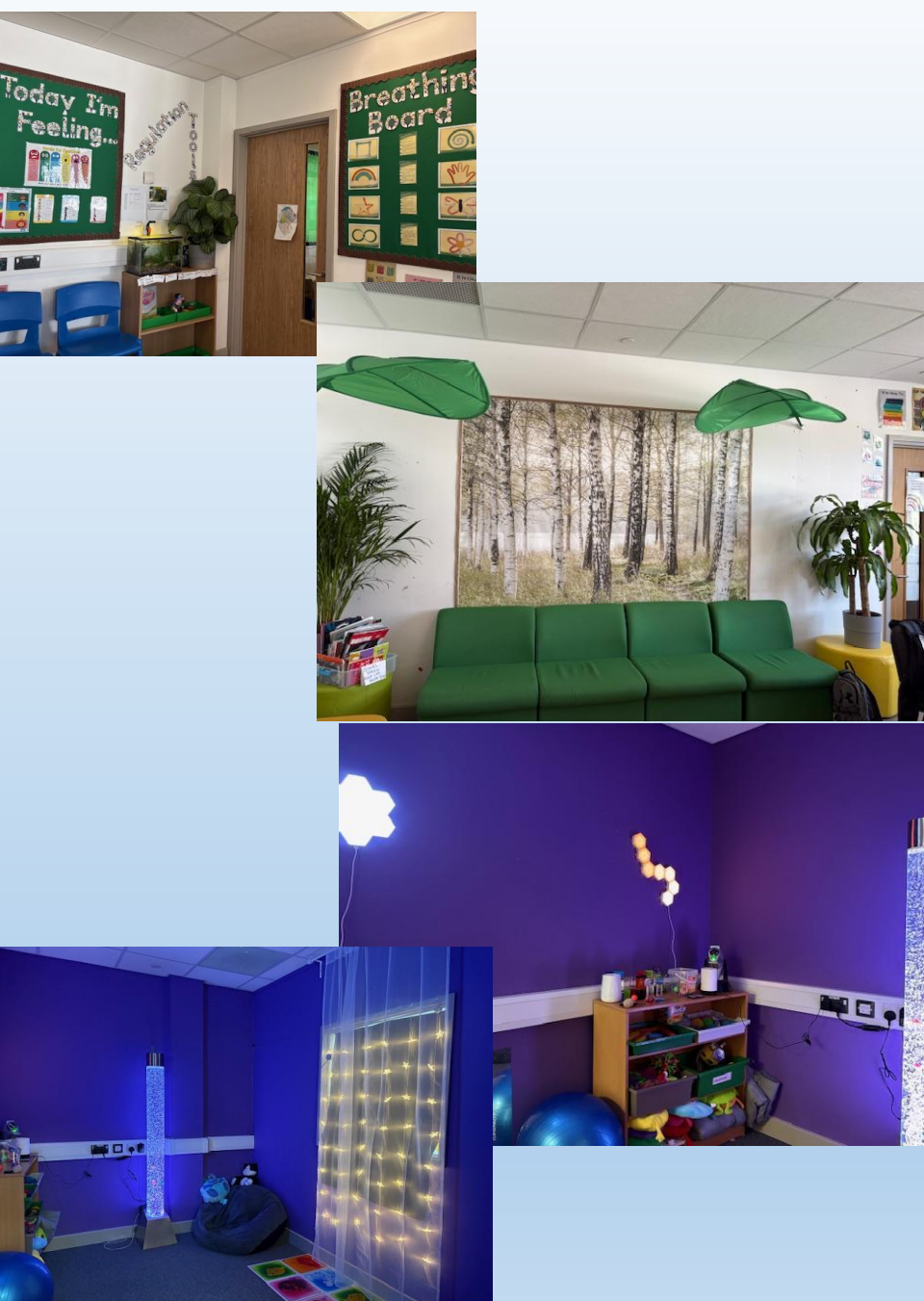


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ALN Support

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
- Social Interventions for Talkabout
- Emotional based support through ELSA

Class Based Provisions

- Nurture groups (smaller numbers - approx 15 pupils) - throughout school - allocated on both academic need and on social need.
- Class based LSAs
- 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

	Darren Morgan Sports	AJM Embroidery	Olympia Design
Address	High Street Cross Keys NP11 7FN	UNIT 1C BLOCK C NEWBRIDGE ROAD IND EST PONTLLANFRAITH NP12 2XF	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.

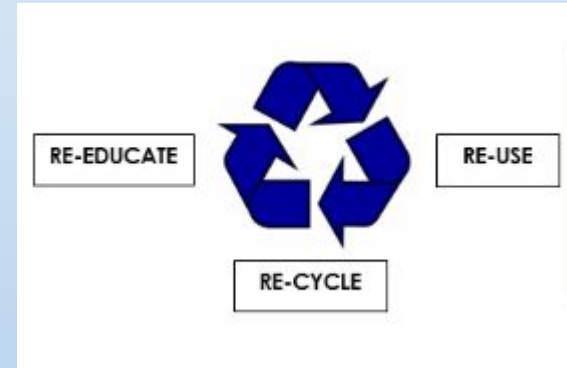
FREE! - Perhaps you have out-grown your uniform or coat..... Swap it here, for a new size.

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.

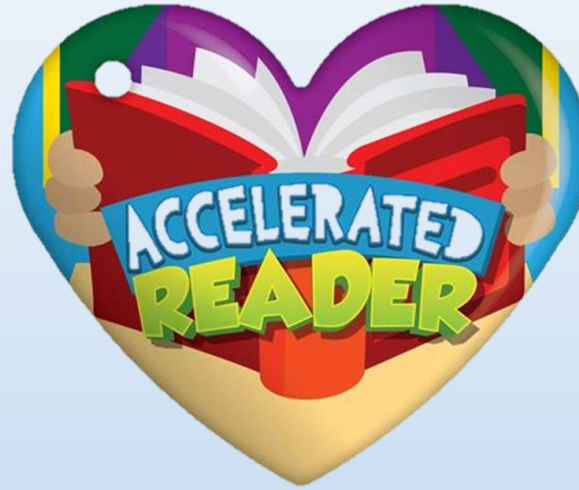
We Accept....

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

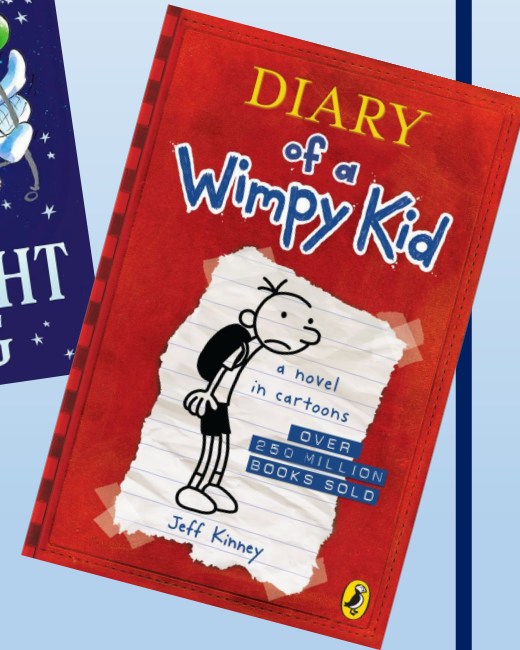
More details to follow on how to request items from our Uniform Swap Shop.



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Reading every day is the biggest contributor to pupil outcomes!



18 'Word Millionaires' in Year 7!



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FLO

Family Liaison Officer: Sam Edwards



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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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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

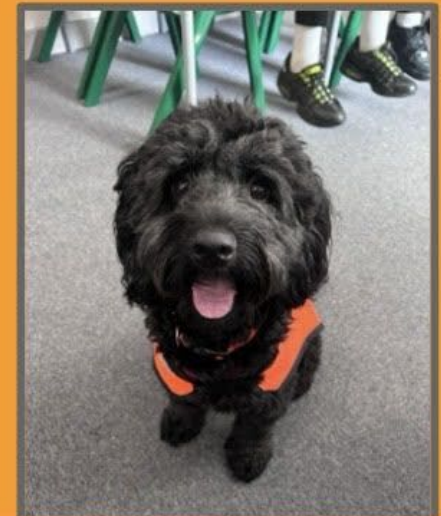
The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.



My Training day with
the Dog Mentor



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The Dog Mentor
Building Characters



Medical Conditions:



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Mobile Phone Free Zone



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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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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.

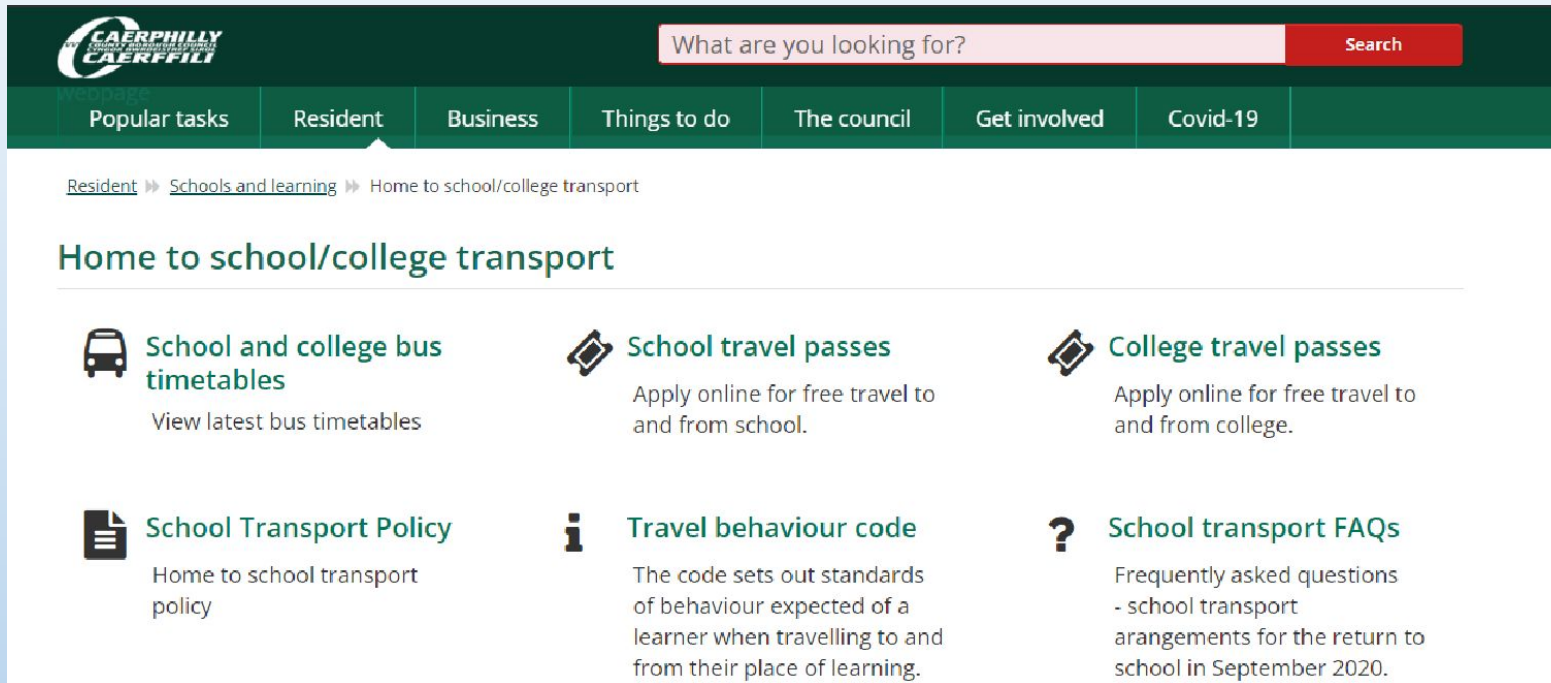


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Transport:

[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 the search bar is a navigation menu with links: Popular tasks, Resident, Business, Things to do, The council, Get involved, and Covid-19. The 'Resident' link is highlighted. Below the navigation menu is a breadcrumb trail: Resident >> Schools and learning >> Home to school/college transport. The main heading is 'Home to school/college transport'. Below this heading are six cards arranged in a 2x3 grid:

- School and college bus timetables**: View latest bus timetables. (Icon: bus)
- School travel passes**: Apply online for free travel to and from school. (Icon: school bag)
- College travel passes**: Apply online for free travel to and from college. (Icon: school bag)
- School Transport Policy**: Home to school transport policy. (Icon: document)
- Travel behaviour code**: The code sets out standards of behaviour expected of a learner when travelling to and from their place of learning. (Icon: information 'i')
- School transport FAQs**: Frequently asked questions - school transport arrangements for the return to school in September 2020. (Icon: question mark)

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 at lunch time.



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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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What do our pupils think about our school?

I like my school (88%)

I believe I am doing well in school (93%)

I feel safe in school (96%)

If I am worried or upset at school, I know there is a member of staff I can talk to (90%)

Other children behave well in class (90%)

I feel safe from bullying (91%)

If any bullying, harassment or discrimination occurs, the school deals with it well. (93%)

I have good learning experiences and interesting work to do at Islwyn High School.(93%)

Teachers and other adults at Islwyn High School expect me to work hard and to do my best. (99%)

Teachers and other adults in school teach pupils respect and fair-play for all, whatever their background, faith or traditions. (98%)

The school helps me to do things for myself and to take on responsibility (95%)

I know what to do and how to get extra support with my learning when I need it.(91%)



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Parent/ carer voice

IHS Parent Survey Results 2025

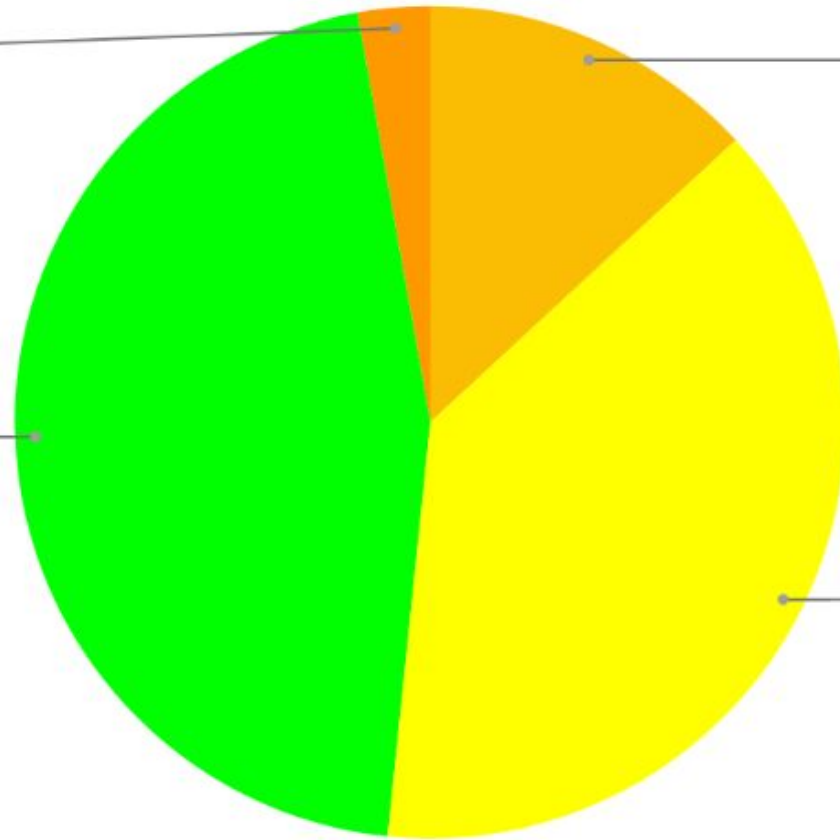
My child likes this school

Almost never
2.8%

Some of the time
13.1%

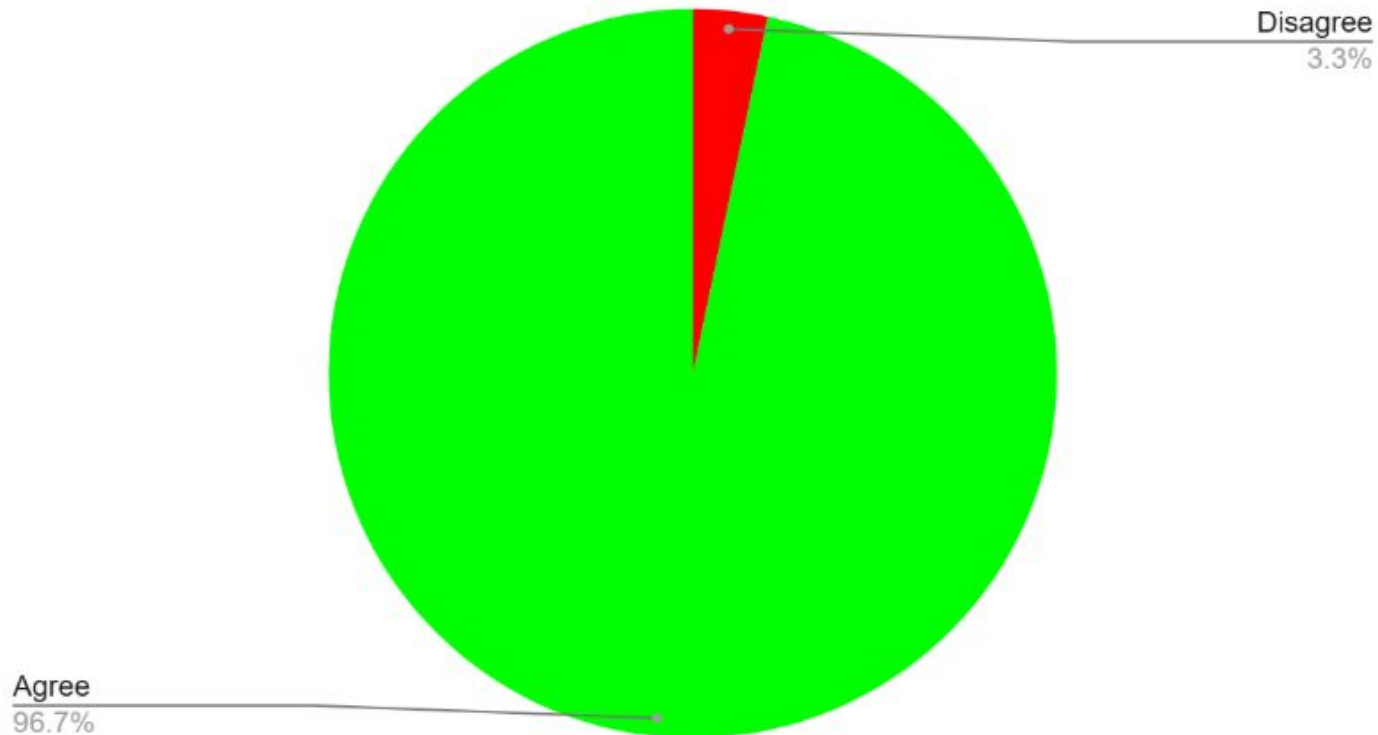
Most of the time
45.5%

All the time
38.5%



Parent/ carer voice

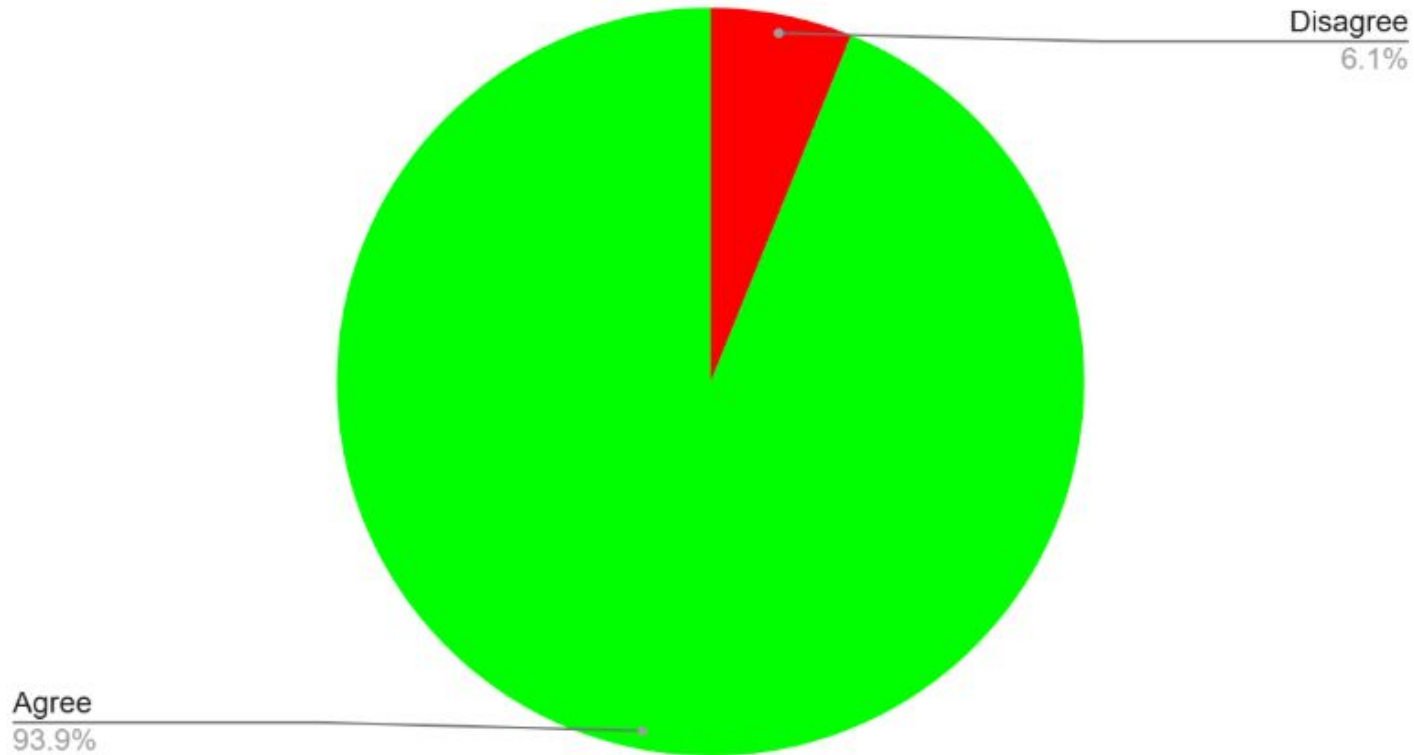
The school helped my child settle in well when they started



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Parent/ carer voice

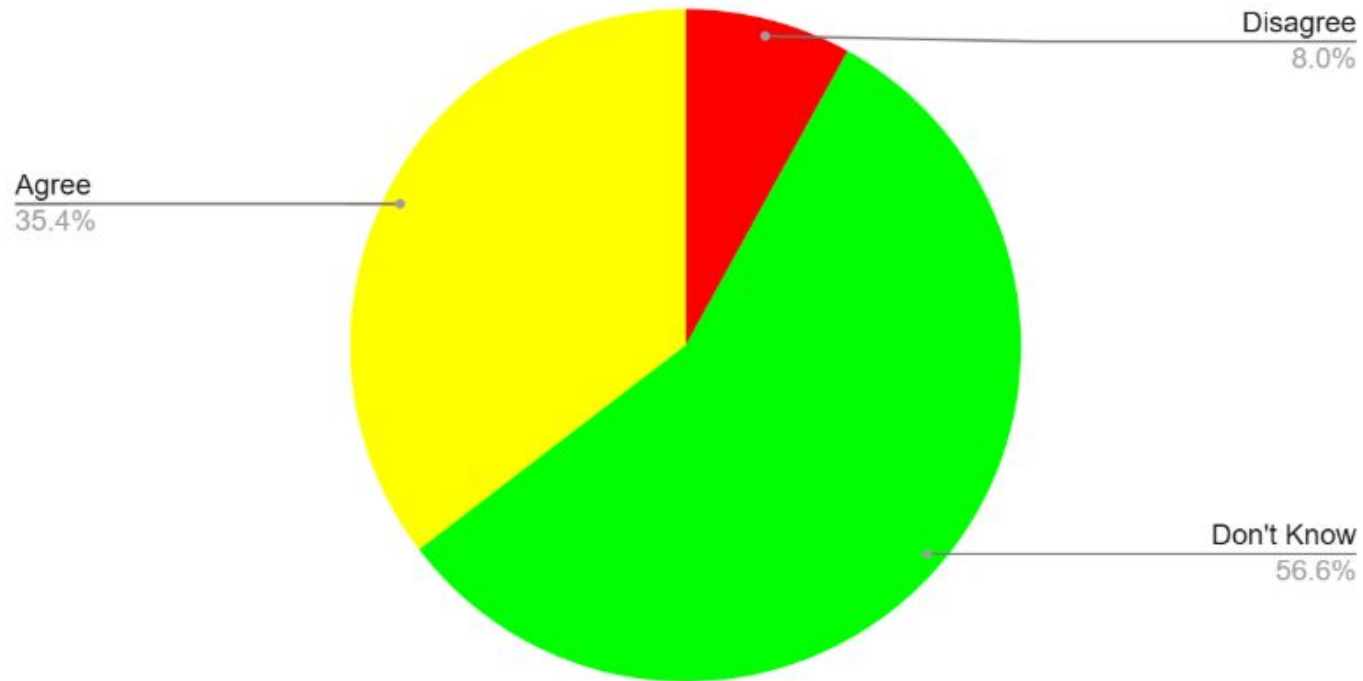
I believe that my child is safe in school



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Parent/ carer voice

I believe the school deals with any incidents of bullying, harassment or discrimination well



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Transition events over the coming weeks:

- Transition day Friday 26th 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/ netball matches (monthly)
- Cluster residential trip to Manor Adventure Park 3rd – 5th July
- Viewing of our school production 'Charlie and the Chocolate factory' at Newbridge Memo On 8th July at 10am



Year 6 Transition Day: June 26th 2026



Year 6 transition day feedback was very positive

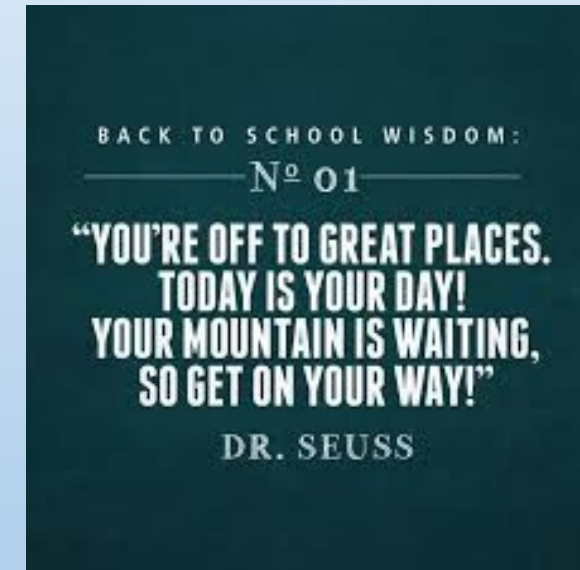
- 99% of the pupils said that they had really enjoyed the day.
- 96% of pupils enjoyed the circle time activities and thought it was “great fun, exciting, different, that we were making new friends without realising it and it wasn’t forced or fake.”
- 94% thought they had made new friends different to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



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First day/ first week: Wednesday 2nd September 2026

- 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



Islwyn High School
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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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