



Year 8

Parents' Information Booklet 2021-2022

Headteacher - Miss Rebecca Collins



It is my pleasure to introduce our Year 8 Information Booklet for 2021/2022. The purpose of this booklet is to answer some of the questions you may have about this second year of Key Stage 3 - questions about the curriculum, about how we can support you and your child, and what our expectations are.

We have been delighted with the start that nearly all of Year 8 have made to their studies this year. No doubt many students have gained huge confidence from the progress that they made during this first half term as we return to a more regular school day and rhythm.

Like you, we are ambitious for your child. We are here to support you and your child as they consider which qualification and career path they would like to pursue, and we will do all that we can to ensure that they achieve those dreams and aspirations. All things that can be summed up by the school statement of 'Aspire and Achieve', which is exactly what I believe is at the heart of all school values. This is what we want for your child – for each of them to dream big, for us to support them and help you as they work hard to achieve their ambitions.

There are a lot of staff here at St Cenydd involved in the education and care of your child. You will have opportunities during the year to have direct communications with their subject teachers, and we will report to you on their effort and progress. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Steer or one of our Pupil Support Officers.

I hope that you find this information booklet useful and we very much hope to be able to welcome you to the school later in this academic year.



Assistant Headteacher (KS3) - Mr Lee Dickinson



Welcome to the Y8 Information Booklet. I am the Assistant Headteacher who oversees Key Stage 3 and I am also the Deputy Safeguarding Lead for the school, assisting the Safeguarding Lead, Mr Andrew Harrison.

My role is to ensure that your child has the best opportunity to thrive academically, whilst supporting their social and emotional wellbeing.

This involves leading and working alongside their Head of Year, Heads of Department and subject teachers to enable all pupils to aspire and achieve their potential.

Academic performance will be monitored closely, with early intervention and support being provided where necessary to ensure that your child has the opportunity to thrive in their subject areas.

We at St Cenydd pride ourselves on the support network that is available to the pupils, whether that be through targeted intervention by teaching or pastoral support staff or through some of our external providers, such as the school nurse or the School Based Counselling Service.

We will ensure that your child is well supported and cared for. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Miss Steer.

The past year has been yet another challenge for all and I am extremely proud of how the pupils have shown resilience and determination at the start of this academic year. The school has spent a significant amount of time and effort to ensure that we can operate as safely as possible, following closely government guidelines. I have attached a link for your perusal of the Headteacher's recent letter highlighting the current [Covid protocols](#) to ensure our continued safe operation at this time.

In summary, we will continue to do our utmost to ensure that your child is safe, happy and has everything in place to allow them to aspire to achieve their potential.



Head of Year 8 - Miss Jess Steer



As your child's Head of Year it has been a pleasure to welcome Year 8 back to St Cenydd. I would like to thank you all for your support as the last year has certainly been testing times for us all. Year 8 have settled well into the new routines that we have established and are already familiar with the new timings of the day and safely moving around school. There are many changes to the way the school day at St Cenydd operates and we have been delighted with the confident and happy start so many have made to the new school year.

My role as Year leader is to ensure that all pupils in Year 8 reach the highest standards and continue to make progress. My expectations of all pupils are high and that all should aim to reach their full potential. An important part of my role is to provide a home-school link; helping to answer your questions and any concerns you may have regarding your child's progress or well-being. I can liaise with members of staff and support staff should pupils need assistance with a particular subject; I work closely with our ALNCo Mrs Hannah Evans; I can refer pupils to our school counsellors, school nurse, careers advisor and can refer to external agencies. Please let us know if you need further assistance.

As Year leader I am your first point of contact should you have any questions or concerns. Please contact me at the school on 02920 852 504 or email me at steerj@stcenydd.co.uk. Due to my large teaching commitment it may not be possible to speak to me straight away but if you leave a message I will try to return your call within 48 hours.

At St Cenydd we encourage pupils to be ready to learn, ready to be challenged and ready to reach their potential. We expect them to arrive on time to school and lessons, bring the correct equipment, take an active role in lessons and complete any homework set. Pupils also need to show respect to themselves and others by being polite and respectful in the classroom, school environment and local community. Pupils also need to behave in a safe manner at all times, keeping themselves safe on the journey to and from school and also informing us of any concerns they may have about their own safety.

Already pupils have started to take responsibility and ownership of their learning and should now be familiar with accessing Google classroom and Gmail. Please encourage them to check their emails and classrooms regularly. Should your son/daughter be absent, the Google classroom has become even more significant in allowing pupils to take responsibility for their learning away from the classroom. Staff will continue to upload resources for lessons to their virtual classroom to ensure pupils can continue their learning at home, should the need arise.

It is a privilege to be Year Leader for your child as they embark on their second year at Secondary school. We all have a key role to play in helping your child to achieve their true potential and more importantly for them to succeed. I hope that we can continue to work together in order to provide the highest standards of education for all Year 8 pupils.

Further information for Year 8 parents / carers

Wellbeing and support

Pupils' wellbeing and support remains at the forefront of all we do. Highlighted below are the ways in which we can support your child should they need it.

- Form Teacher/Pastoral Support Officers/Head of Year/SLT
- Subject Teachers
- ALNCO - Mrs Hannah Evans
- School Based Counsellor
- School Nurse
- School Careers Advisor
- Outside Agencies

Please note that during the current climate, some of these services continue to operate virtually to ensure safety of both pupils and staff.

Attendance

Attendance, as always, is a priority. Learning in school is the best way we can support your child. There are going to be understandable challenges again this year but we are keen that all children attend as much as possible.

If your child has an unavoidable absence, it is imperative that they catch up with all missed work, through the monitoring of Google classroom, emailing staff and also using online resources such as BBC Bitesize.

Punctuality to school is also crucial to both success and the wellbeing of pupils. Registration begins promptly at **0835** with pupils being allowed on site from **0815**.

Reporting an absence

If your child is too unwell to attend school, for whatever reason, please contact the attendance office at the earliest opportunity.

Google classroom


Please ensure that your child is able to access Google classroom (the home learning portal) when away from school. If you require any assistance with accessing this provision, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Progress Monitoring

Throughout the academic year we will report on pupils' progress. This will allow pupils and parents to see how much progress is being made in each subject area. As well as attainment, effort grades will also be reported. Parents/carers can expect the following:

- Teacher data
- Reports sent home with pupils during the year
- Monitoring academic progress and effort
- Termly setting groups monitored by SLT, Core KS3 leaders and Head of Year
- Effort monitored and interventions implemented where necessary


ST CENYDD SCHOOL
YSGOL SANT CENYDD
YEAR 10 MID SUMMER TERM Progress report
ADRODDIAD CYNHYDD BLWYDDYN 10
 Canol Tymor Yr Haf

Pupil Name 105
 Attendance 89.4%

Dear _____,
 Please find below the Mid Summer Progress report for _____

SUBJECT	ATTAINMENT	EFFORT	TARGET
ENGLISH	C	Excellent	A*
MATHEMATICS	B	Good	B+
BIOLOGY	B	Good	A
CHEMISTRY	B	Excellent	A+
PHYSICS	B	Good	A
CYMRAEG Short Course	B	Excellent	B
GEOGRAPHY	B	Excellent	B
HISTORY	B+	Excellent	A
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	A	Excellent	A
SKILLS CHALLENGE	W	Excellent	P

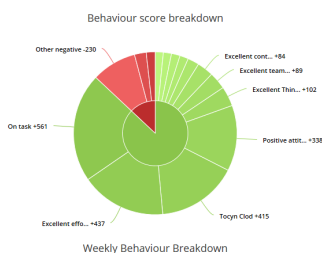
Attainment Grade
 This is the student's current attainment. The grades are linked directly to the GCSE grading system, ie, Grades A to G and including U for unclassified; and the Entry Level grading system, ie 1, 2 and 3, with 3 being the highest. For BTEC level 2 qualifications the grading awards are distinction (D), merit (M) and pass (P). For Skills Challenge a 'W' has been recorded representing that the student is working towards completion for this qualification.

Yours sincerely,

 Head of Year

Class Charts

You are also able to access your child's **Class Charts** remotely. This software enables you to monitor your child's behaviour in school. Should you require a copy of your child's Class Charts code or the parental access code, please contact your Head of Year.



Core subject information

Science at Key Stage 3

Our aims:

To develop ambitious, capable learners in Science who...

- undertake **research and evaluate** critically what they find;
- can **explain the ideas** and concepts they are learning about;
- understand how to **interpret data** and apply mathematical concepts;
- use digital technologies creatively to **communicate, find and analyse information**.

General information:

We get pupils to showcase their best work and assessments in a '**Key Task**' book that will include a wide range of assessment types that give all an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. These assessments range from science investigations; end of topic tests; literacy/numeracy rich tasks; and digital competency tasks. In addition, pupils will apply what they have learnt in novel and highly motivating STEM lessons and thematic projects such as Mission Rainforest (Y7), Saving a baby Kangaroo (Y8), and Keep the pizza hot! (Y9). Pupils will also have a '**Classwork/Homework**' book - Homework 20 can be done in the back of the book.

Pupils will also get to experience a variety of practical activities which play such an important role in making Science enjoyable and interesting. These activities also help develop a pupil's understanding of many key concepts.

Google classroom:

- Knowledge organisers and Core questions to revise the key bits and learn key scientific vocabulary
- Challenge questions - optional homework to further deepen knowledge and understanding



Homework 20:

Your child will be set one of our Homework 20 tasks which has a 'Core' and a 'Challenge' task within it. These are available on the school website and Google classroom.

Further information regarding the Year 8 Science curriculum can be found by clicking [here](#)



Mathematics at Key Stage 3

Mathematics is a subject that all students can do well in, and the Maths department in St Cenydd are fully committed to help all students develop a love, respect and appreciation for mathematical concepts. Maths is not only an important school subject where Numeracy skills are needed in other subjects but an essential subject for life. We know that students will achieve their best with encouragement and support from home.

Assessments

Pupils in KS3 are assessed regularly through teacher assessments. The work that is used to reach a judgment is from class work and how much support they need, homework and tests.

Tests will be part of normal timetabled lessons. Dates of tests can be found below.

- Week beginning 18th October Maths Test 1
- Week beginning 6th December Maths Test 2
- Week beginning 14th February Maths Test 3
- Reasoning Tests One to be completed every half term (calculator needed)
- Week beginning Dates to be confirmed National Numeracy Tests
- Week beginning 20th June End of Year Tests

Equipment

The maths department are selling scientific calculators for £4 and maths sets for £2 (which include a metal compass, pencil, eraser, sharpener, 15 cm ruler, 45 and 60 degree set squares, protractor and pen).

Homework

Departmental Homework is set once a fortnight. Pupils may get additional homework set by their class teacher that will also need to be submitted by the deadline. Pupils will need to access homework through Google Classroom or on the school website which their class teacher will show them how to use.

Further information regarding links to homework, schemes of learning and supportive resources at home can be found by clicking [here](#)

English at Key Stage 3

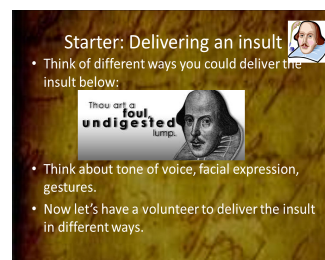
In lessons your child can expect to develop oracy, reading and writing skills

We will do this by

- Working through interesting, relevant and challenging Schemes of Work
- A variety of assessment procedures that will challenge oracy, reading and writing.
- Covering and working through a range of fiction and non fiction texts
- Discussing topics of diversity, conflict, choices, quests, relationships and dreams
- Ensuring that all aspects of the national curriculum are covered, developing a broad range of skills to prepare pupils for external examinations at Key Stage 4

Assessment procedure

- Half termly assessments
- Regular homework to consolidate learning
- Regular spelling tests
- National Reading Tests - April 2021
- Writing challenges



Helping at home

- Promoting google classrooms
- Helping with spellings
- Using literacy apps
- Using the school reading lists to encourage reading at home



Year 8 General English reading lists can be found by clicking [here](#)

Year 8 Challenging English reading lists can be found by clicking [here](#)

