



Year 7

**Parents' Information Booklet
2022-2023**

Headteacher - Miss Rebecca Collins



It is my pleasure to introduce you to our Year 7 Information Booklet. The purpose of this booklet is to answer some of the questions you may have at this early stage of your child's education here at St Cenydd - questions about our curriculum, 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 7 have made to their studies here at St Cenydd. They have settled quickly, made friends and are already making good progress in their lessons. It has been a pleasure to see how hard they are trying and how well they are performing.

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 Mrs Buswell or Miss Bolton.

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 Y7 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, Subject Departments and also the Pastoral Support Team 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 staff, support from our school counsellor or through some of our external providers, such as the school nurse or Educational Psychology 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 Mrs Buswell.

In summary, we will 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 - Mrs Buswell



As your child's Head of Year it has been a pleasure to welcome Year 7 to St Cenydd and I would like to thank you all for your support in ensuring a smooth transition for the pupils into secondary school. We have been delighted with the confident and happy start so many have made to the new school year. Staff have commented on how wonderful it is to see how quickly the Year 7 pupils have settled.

My role at school is to ensure that all pupils in Year 7 reach the highest standards and continue to make progress. I have the highest expectations of all pupils and I am confident that when pupils attend regularly, apply themselves to learning, they can 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 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 also refer to external agencies when necessary. Please let us know if you need further assistance.

As Head of Year, 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 BusweA@stcenydd.co.uk. Due to my large teaching commitment, it may not be possible to speak to me immediately, but I will aim to return your call within 48 hours. You can also contact Miss Tara Bolton, Assistant Head of Year 7, who is available to deal with any immediate issues. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either of us.

It is a privilege to be Head of Year for your child as they embark on their first 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 7 pupils.

Further information for Year 7 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

Attendance

Attendance, as always, is a priority. Learning in school is the best way we can support your child. We continue to strive for 95% attendance for every child and have a number of support strategies we can use to help your child attain this target.

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**. If a pupil arrives after registration or morning assembly they must first report to the attendance team in the Head of Year's office before going to lesson 1.

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 learning portal) when away from school. If you require any with accessing this provision, please do not hesitate to contact the




home assistance 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 Head of Year
- Effort monitored and interventions implemented necessary


ST CENYDD SCHOOL
YSGOL SANT CENYDD
 YEAR 10 MID SUMMER TERM Progress report
 ADRODDIAD CYMDD BILWYDDYNN 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
CYMRAG Short Course	B	Excellent	B
GEOGRAPHY	B	Excellent	B
HISTORY	B+	Excellent	A
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	A	Excellent	A
SKILLS CHALLENGE	W	Excellent	F

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. 3, 2 and 1, with 3 being the highest. For BTCC 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.

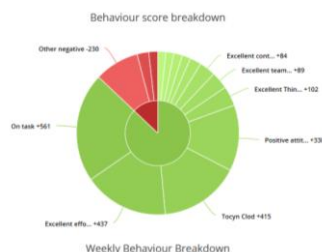
Yours sincerely,

 Head of Year

leaders and where

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.



Aspire & Achieve

St Cenydd Community School will be adopting Curriculum for Wales with Year 7 from 2022.

Our curriculum will support each student to be:

- an ambitious, capable learner, ready to learn throughout their life
 - an enterprising, creative contributor, ready to play a full part in life and work
 - an ethical, informed citizen, ready to take part in Wales and the world,
- and
- a healthy, confident individual, ready to lead a fulfilling life as a valued member of society.

To help us achieve these 4 purposes, our new Curriculum for St Cenydd is based on 3 pillars



Character

I am...

Who our students are



Skills

I can...

What our students can do



Knowledge

I know...

What our students know

Our curriculum will be delivered through 50 one hour lessons over the fortnight, supported by a range of extra-curricular opportunities, enrichment experiences and pastoral wellbeing sessions. Lessons will be taught in subject disciplines.

LANGUAGES LITERACY AND COMMUNICATION

- CYMRAEG
- ENGLISH
- FRANÇAIS
- ESPAÑOL

MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

- MATHS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- IT
- TECHNOLOGY
- SCIENCE

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

- ART
- DRAMA
- MUSIC

HEALTH & WELLBEING

- FOOD AND NUTRITION
- PE

HUMANITIES

- HISTORY
- GEOGRAPHY
- RE

Core subject information

Year 7 Science

We aim 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 want our pupils to develop durable, long-term memories from studying a rigorous, sequential knowledge rich curriculum.

The sequencing of our subject curricula is very carefully planned. We begin by teaching the most fundamental, central concepts to provide pupils with a deep foundational understanding in Science from which pupils will study the 'Big Ideas' of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

We will assess pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding every half term and give feedback to each pupil on how they are progressing at various key points throughout the year. We will do this through a wide range of assessment types that provide everyone with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. These assessments range from science investigations, literacy and numeracy rich tasks to digital competency tasks. In addition, pupils will apply what they have learnt in novel and highly motivating STEM work undertaken across Science, IT and DT.

Pupils will get to experience a variety of 'hands-on' practical activities which play such an important role in making Science enjoyable and interesting by allowing pupils to be curious learners. These activities help deepen a pupil's understanding of many key concepts.

Google classroom:

- Knowledge organisers and Core questions to revise the key concepts
learn key scientific vocabulary



and

Example of some Year 7 key concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics:

<p>BIG IDEA:</p> <p>THE CELLULAR BASIS OF LIFE</p> <p><i>Organisms are made of one or more cells, which need a supply of energy and molecules to carry out life processes.</i></p>	<p>BIG IDEA:</p> <p>HEREDITY AND LIFE CYCLES</p> <p><i>Genetic information is passed from each generation to the next; this information and the environment affect the features, growth and development of organisms.</i></p>	<p>BIG IDEA:</p> <p>SUBSTANCES AND PROPERTIES</p> <p><i>Materials are either made of a single chemical substance or a mixture of substances which each have distinctive properties.</i></p>	<p>BIG IDEA:</p> <p>PARTICLES AND STRUCTURE</p> <p><i>All matter is made up of atoms. The behaviour and structural arrangement of atoms explains the properties of different materials.</i></p>	<p>BIG IDEA:</p> <p>FORCES AND MOTION</p> <p><i>Forces make things change. Understanding forces helps us to predict and control physical change.</i></p>	<p>BIG IDEA:</p> <p>SOUND, LIGHT AND WAVES</p> <p><i>Waves radiate information. Understanding waves helps us to communicate.</i></p>
<p>Topic BCL1 Cells</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <p>BCL1.1 Living, dead and never been alive</p> <p>BCL1.2 Cells and cell structures</p> <p>BCL1.3 Cell shape and size</p> <p>BCL1.4 Diffusion and the cell membrane</p>	<p>Topic BHL1 Inheritance and the genome</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <p>BHL1.1 Heredity and genetic information</p> <p>BHL1.2 The structure and function of the genome</p>	<p>Topic CMS1 Properties and materials</p> <p>CMS1.1 Combining materials</p> <p>CMS1.2 Classifying materials</p>	<p>Topic CPS1</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <p>CPS1.1 Particle model for the solid, liquid and gas states</p> <p>CPS1.2 Particles in solutions</p>	<p>Topic PFM1 Forces</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <p>PFM1.1 What forces do</p> <p>PFM1.2 Describing forces</p> <p>PFM1.3 Balanced and unbalanced forces</p> <p>PFM1.4 Friction</p> <p>PFM1.5 Energy stores and transfers</p>	<p>Topic PSL1 Sound and light</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <p>PSL1.1 Production and transmission of sound</p> <p>PSL1.2 Characteristics of light</p>
		<p>Topic CSU1 Substances and mixtures</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <p>CSU1.1 Substance</p> <p>CSU1.2 Solutions</p> <p>CSU1.3 Separating solutions</p>			

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 19th September National Procedural Test
- Reasoning Tests One to be completed every half term (calculator needed)
- Week beginning 1st May National Reasoning Tests
- Week beginning 19th 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 through the New Curriculum for St Cenydd.

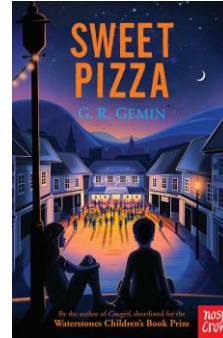
We will do this by

- Working through interesting, relevant and challenging concepts
- Using 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 such as identity other cultures, where does language come from,

defining and expressing ourselves and persuasion and argument.

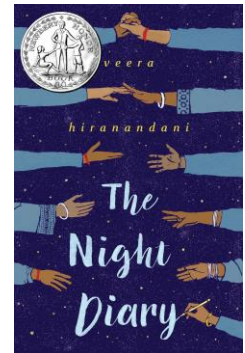
Assessment procedure

- Termly assessments
- Regular homework to consolidate learning
- National Reading/Writing Tests
- Writing challenges



Helping at home

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



Year 7 New Curriculum suggested reading [here](#)

Year 7 General English reading lists can be found by clicking [here](#)

Year 7 Challenging English reading lists can be found by clicking [here](#)

