



**Year 8**

# **Parents' Information Booklet 2020-2021**

## **Headteacher - Miss Rebecca Collins**



It is my pleasure to introduce our Year 8 Information Booklet. The purpose of this is to answer some of the questions you may have about this second year of KS3 - questions about curriculum, how we can support you and your child, and what our expectations are.

We have been delighted with the start that 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.

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 Croll or Ms Harding.

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 school staff or some of our external providers, such as, the school nurse, external school counselor, or our targeted mentoring programme.

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 Croll.

This has been a challenging year for everyone and I am extremely proud of how the pupils have begun this academic year following the period of lockdown. 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 to our [Covid procedures](#) to ensure our continued safe operation at this time.

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 8 - Mrs Jo Croll**



As your child's Head of Year it has been a pleasure to welcome Year 8 back to St Cenydd after such a long time apart and I would like to thank you all for your support and kind messages over the last six months. They have 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 safety procedures we have in place.

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 [crollj@stcenydd.co.uk](mailto:crollj@stcenydd.co.uk). Due to my teaching commitment it may not be possible to speak with me immediately but if you leave a message I will aim to return your call within 48 hours. We also have a block supervisor, Ms Harding, who you may wish to contact. Ms Claire Harding is present in the E block at all times and deals with any immediate issues. Her email address is [chardi@stcenydd.co.uk](mailto:chardi@stcenydd.co.uk). Please feel free to speak to Ms Harding or myself should you wish to discuss anything.

Pupil's well-being remains at the forefront of my role in St Cenydd. In the current climate this is even more important. If you have concerns over your son/daughter's well-being then please let us know. We work in partnership with parents/guardians to ensure that all pupils reach their full potential. By liaising with many support agencies both in and out of school, we are able to provide an outstanding support package for our pupils. If you require further information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

A key aspect of this academic year is home learning. Please encourage your child to check their emails and Google classrooms regularly. Should your child be absent for any reason, this online portal allows them to take responsibility for their learning and to ensure that, whatever the circumstances, they should not fall far behind in their studies at this vital time. Classroom teachers are uploading their lessons to their virtual classroom to ensure pupils can continue their learning at home, should the need arise.

To conclude, this is a key moment in your child's schooling and all members of staff have worked tirelessly to ensure pupils feel safe and valued at St Cenydd. I look forward to continuing 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/Head of Year/Block Leader/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 are operating 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 this year but we are keen that all children attend as much as is 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. The first lesson of the school day begins at **0830** 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 CYNWYD BLWYDDYN 10  
 Canol Tymor Yr Haf

Pupil Name: 105  
 Attendance: 89.4%  
 Dear \_\_\_\_\_,  
 Please find below the Mid Summer Progress report for \_\_\_\_\_.

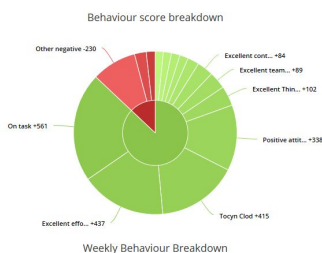
SUBJECT	ATTAINMENT	EFFORT	TARGET
ENGLISH	C	Excellent	A*
MATHEMATICS	B	Good	B+
BIOLOGY	B	Good	A
CHEMISTRY	B	Excellent	A+
PHYSICS	B	Good	A
CYMRAGS Short Course	B	Excellent	B
GEOGRAPHY	B	Excellent	B
HISTORY	B+	Excellent	A
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	A	Excellent	A
SKILLS CHALLENGE	W	Excellent	P

**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 RTTC 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:

Pupils showcase their key tasks and assessments in a '**Key Task**' book that will include a wide range of assessment types: science investigations; end of topic tests; literacy/numeracy rich tasks; and digital competency tasks. In addition, we are building toward the 'New Curriculum for Wales' where pupils will apply what they have learnt in a novel and highly motivating thematic projects (Mission Rainforest/Saving a baby Kangaroo/Keep the pizza hot!).

We also use a '**Classwork/Homework**' book - Homework 20 can be done in the back of the book.

#### 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.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| ● Test 1                  | Completed before <b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b>        |
| ● Test 2                  | Completed before <b>21<sup>st</sup> January</b>         |
| ● Reasoning Tests         | One to be completed every half term (calculator needed) |
| ● National Numeracy Tests | Dates to be confirmed at a later date                   |
| ● End of year test        | Week beginning <b>21<sup>st</sup> June</b>              |

### 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

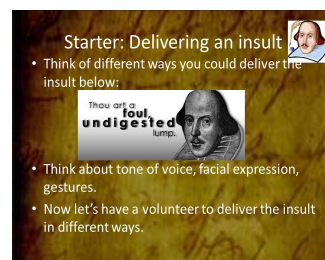
In lessons your child can expect to develop oracy, reading and writing skills

### **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 conflict, dystopia, bravery, survival, spies and Shakespeare
- 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



### **Helping at home**

- Promoting google classrooms
- Helping with spellings
- Using literacy apps
- Using the school reading lists



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

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

