



Year 9

**Parents' Information Booklet
2020/21**

Headteacher - Miss Rebecca Collins



It is my pleasure to introduce our Year 9 Information Booklet. The purpose of this is to answer some of the questions you may have about this third 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 9 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 Barton or Mr Hopkins.

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 Year 9 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 Barton.

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 9 - Mrs Laura Barton



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 bartol@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, Mr Hopkins, who you may wish to contact. Mr Hopkins is present in the Year 9 block at all times and deals with any immediate issues. His email address is hopkie@stcenydd.co.uk. Please feel free to contact either of us should you wish to discuss anything.

Year 9 is an extremely important year for pupils as they begin to prepare themselves for their GCSE years. Within this year pupils will undertake

- Formal examinations in June to prepare pupils for their future and as key component of assessment pattern
- Maths, Science and English examinations to familiarise pupils with GCSE conditions
- Personal responsibility for their revision and for recording their results when received from teachers
- In some subjects, pupils begin studying GCSE material in preparation for year 10 examinations.
- Completing their options process for GCSE subjects - information to follow later in the year

Home learning is paramount to success this year. 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.

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 9 pupils.

Further information for Year 9 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 SAINT CENYDD YEAR 10 MID SUMMER TERM Progress report ADRODDIAD CYNWDD BLWYDDYNN 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	P

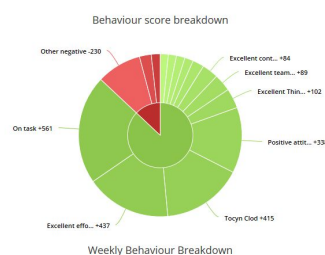
Attainment Grade
This is the student's current attainment. The grades are linked directly to the GCSE grading system, i.e. Grades A to G and including U for unclassified; and the Entry level grading system, i.e. E, 2 and 1, with 3 being the highest. For BTCC level 2 qualifications the grading awards 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

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 9 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 26th November |
| ● Test 2 | Completed before 21st January |
| ● 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 21st June |

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

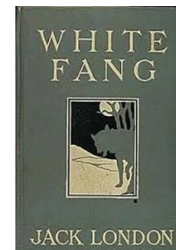
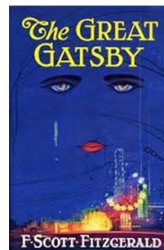
In lessons your child can expect to develop oracy, reading and writing skills

We will do this by

- Working through interesting, relevant and challenging Schemes of Work
- 2 formal assessments of oracy, reading and writing.
- Covering and working through a range of fiction and non fiction texts
- Discussing topics including On the Edge, advertising, the world of work, animal rights, being different and Of Mice and Men
- 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
- Using regular writing challenges

Assessment procedure

- Half termly assessments
- Weekly homework to consolidate learning
- National Reading Tests - April 2021



Helping at home

- Promoting google classrooms
- Using literacy apps
- Using the school reading lists



Year 9 General English reading lists can be found by clicking [here](#)

Year 9 Challenging English reading lists can be found by clicking [here](#)

