

PROSPECTUS



CWMBRAN
HIGH SCHOOL

Stronger Together



INTRODUCTION

to the Interim Headteacher



Cwmbrian High School is a high achieving, academic school.

Dear Parents/Carers

Choosing the best school for your child is a vitally important decision. Parents/carers need to be sure that, in addition to a sound education, pupils will be cared for in a happy and safe environment. In this prospectus we offer you an insight into some of the opportunities available to your children at Cwmbrian High School.

We believe we can offer the opportunities and security children need to achieve their best. Everything that we do is driven by our commitment to provide your children with the highest standards of teaching and learning. In return we have very high expectations of student behaviour and their commitment to the learning process. Teachers lead by providing a mature example so that mutual respect and tolerance are the cornerstones of school life.

As a school we are very proud of the young people in our care and their excellent levels of attendance, academic and sporting successes and participation in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Staff are dedicated to helping each child achieve his or her full potential and to this end work tirelessly to promote the effective partnerships that have been forged amongst parents, teachers, children and the community we serve. Many of the school's GCSE outcomes are strong in terms of the Welsh Assembly's new performance measures, which place an emphasis on all pupils in a school year group rather than the previously narrow focus on C grade performance, (our best 9 GCSE performance, for example, was the ninth strongest of the 34 secondary schools in EAS).

We are delighted to welcome visitors into our school, so if you would like to learn more about the life and work of Cwmbrian High School, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hicks', written over a light-colored background.

Mr J Hicks BA (Hons) MA Ed
Interim Headteacher

JOINING

Cwmbran High School



VISITING

We encourage any parents / carers who intend sending their children to our school to visit us. If you are interested in visiting us and are unable to attend the scheduled Open Evening/Intake Evening or you want to arrange a mid-term transfer, please contact us to arrange a suitable time.



ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Admission arrangements for Year 7 pupils are managed by a Transition Manager and Head of Year 7.

Mid-term admissions are managed by the Deputy Headteacher

MANAGING THE MOVE

In the Spring Term, after choices have been made by parents / carers, we contact families and send home important information. We visit all new pupils in their Primary Schools and make sure that we learn as much as possible about their needs, interests and achievements.

In the Summer Term, all new pupils will spend a day with us, finding their way around the building, meeting new teachers and possible new classmates. In addition to this, an 'Intake Evening' is provided for parents/carers and pupils to meet with their child's new Form Tutor and for any queries to be answered.



CODE OF CONDUCT

At Cwmbran High School

we will.....

- always work to the best of our ability
- always complete and meet deadlines for any homework set
- be punctual and attend regularly
- conform to the school dress code and have appropriate books and equipment
- behave in an acceptable manner and conform to the school's behaviour code at all times
- be responsible for taking home communications from school
- discuss work and any problems with parents / carers and staff
- be respectful to other pupils and staff
- treat school buildings, property and the local environment with care and respect



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Wearing the school uniform is a requirement for **ALL** students in Years 7 – 13.

All students are expected to follow the school policy for uniform.

The uniform from September 2015 is :

Years 7 – 11

- **White Shirt** (please ensure the collar is large enough as the top button will be done up at all times)
- **School Tie** (available from Pretty Miss)
- **Black Cotton V-neck Jumper**
- **Black Blazer with School Badge** (available from Pretty Miss)
- **Black Tailored Trousers** (not tight or skinny fit) OR **Black Knee Length Skirt**
- **Black / Grey Socks / Tights**
- **Plain Black Shoes** (no daps, trainers or boots)
- **Plain Black Coat / Jacket** (no coloured coats, no LARGE logos or patterns, no sleeveless coats or any type of hoodies will be allowed)



Years 12 & 13

- **White Shirt** (please ensure the collar is large enough as the top button will be done up at all times)
- **A Sixth Form School Tie** (available from Pretty Miss)
- **Black Cotton V-neck Jumper**
- **Black Tailored Trousers** (not tight or skinny fit) OR **Black Knee Length Skirt**
- **Black / Grey Socks / Tights**
- **Plain Black Shoes** (no daps, trainers or boots)
- **Plain Black Coat / Jacket** (no coloured coats, no LARGE logos or patterns, no sleeveless coats or any type of hoodies will be allowed)

- No jewellery apart from one stud in each ear, one flat ring and a watch
- No facial piercing or tunnel / spike earrings (*a skin coloured 'plug' may be used for Health & Safety reasons*)
- No extreme hair colour or styles
- No obvious make-up or nail varnish

SCHOOL SESSION TIMES

SCHOOL DAY

Registration / Assembly	8.35 am - 8.55 am
Lesson 1	8.55 am - 9.55 am
Lesson 2	9.55 am - 10.55 am
<i>Break</i>	10.55 am - 11.20 am
Lesson 3	11.20 am - 12.20 pm
Lesson 4	12.20 pm - 1.20 pm
<i>Lunch</i>	1.20 pm - 1.50 pm
Lesson 5	1.50 pm - 2.50 pm
Lesson 6 (Year 11 only)	2.50 pm - 3.50 pm

PSE / EDGE DAY

(WEDNESDAY - ALL YEAR)

Registration / Assembly	8.35 am - 9.15 am
Lesson 1	9.15 am - 10.10 am
Lesson 2	10.10 am - 11.05 am
<i>Break</i>	11.05 am - 11.30 am
Lesson 3	11.30 am - 12.25 pm
Lesson 4	12.25 pm - 1.20 pm
<i>Lunch</i>	1.20 pm - 1.50 pm
Lesson 5	1.50 pm - 2.50 pm
Lesson 6 (Year 11 only)	2.50 pm - 3.50 pm

THE PASTORAL SYSTEM

Pupils are placed in mixed ability Tutor Groups in Year 7. Each Year Group is led by a Head of Year and a Deputy Head of Year.

The Year Team monitor and encourage the progress and achievement of all pupils and support them in their social development.

CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

The English Department at Cwmbran High School is committed to engaging pupils in learning key skills that will prove essential both now and in their future beyond school.

Our aim is to challenge pupils to engage with a variety of texts; to write in a number of different styles and to open up to enjoyable experiences with Shakespeare, poetry, and writing. Pupils are encouraged to express themselves and their ideas through paired work, small group work and independent study. The skills that pupils learn in English are life-long skills that will benefit them in all subjects and in whatever path they wish to follow once they leave school.

We offer a range of ways to enrich pupils' learning with extra-curricular activities, which include theatre trips and participation in competitions etc. *Follow us on twitter! @CwmbranHighEng*



MATHS

The Mathematics Department at Cwmbran High School has use of laptops within the department, enabling access to the many online Maths websites including 'mymaths' and 'mathswatch'.

Our department's success is built on engaging students, with quality teaching and learning in lessons and challenge and progress being at the heart of our lesson planning.

We support and improve our students' numeracy/number skills by starting every lesson with a number starter and encourage our students to use both non-calculator and calculator based methods appropriately with confidence. We monitor our students' progress closely and all pupils' complete assessments every half term. We support our students with additional lessons at GCSE and extra revision time after school, and all our students have access to the online resources from 'mathswatch' and 'mymaths'. *Follow us on twitter! @CwmbranHSMaths*

SCIENCE

The Science Department at Cwmbran High School includes the subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will find a positive learning environment in the department, where all pupils are given the support to succeed.

Teaching in the Science Department is carried out by staff who are specialists in the traditional areas of Physics, Biology or Chemistry. We have invested in resources that support learning at all levels; these resources include a variety of course specific text books as well as data projectors, high-quality student microscopes and flexi-camera, data loggers, educational software and molecular modelling apparatus. *Follow us on twitter! @CHS_Science_1*



COMPUTING

The school is completely networked and we have a large number of computers to support learning across the curriculum.

Many departments have their own laptops /iPads which are used in class to enhance teaching and learning.

We have state of the art IT suites with the latest PC's and Raspberry Pi computers to allow all pupils to study Computer Science.

Particular attention is given to the teaching of safe use of the internet. The school network has high security/firewalls and all pupils have their own passwords.



ART & DESIGN

The Art Department at Cwmbrian High School has a specialist studios with specialist equipment tailored for teaching all aspects of Art.

Schemes of work range from 2 Dimensional drawing and painting to 3 Dimensional work using paper-mache and mod-roc, wire sculpture textile design and ceramics. The department has pottery facilities and a dedicated kiln room. The department also has a suite of computers with Adobe Photoshop facilities which allows students to develop their artistic skills in digital media.

We have exciting projects that provide engagement and challenge for students, and exciting classroom displays within the department. We offer a caring nature and an 'open door' policy which creates a safe environment where students feel at home. Students are encouraged to attend Art Clubs at lunchtimes and after school to continue developing their coursework.

The staff within the department have a breadth of knowledge and experience, which allows students to receive a high quality, inclusive Art education whilst developing a wide range of Art skills.

We run regular lunchtime and after school Art Clubs, interesting and educational Art trips, which include trips abroad. We run competitions in school and externally to encourage students and to provide them opportunities to develop their artistic skills.



“The school provides a caring and supportive environment that has a positive impact on many aspects of pupils’ development and wellbeing.” - Estyn 2015

MUSIC, DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

The Music, Performing Arts & Drama Department at Cwmbran High School is a busy and vibrant department, providing numerous opportunities for student success through both a varied curriculum and a varied extra-curricular timetable.

This success of this department is a result of teachers and students having excellent working relationships, where teachers have high expectations of students; delivering challenging lessons and enabling pupils to achieve their full potential.

Each classroom has a set of laptops for student use and we have 15 Apple Mac computers to enhance learning.

Extra-curricular activities within the department include a whole school choir and several instrumental ensembles/bands. The students are given many opportunities to perform to the public in regular Charity Concerts (where funds raised are donated to a charity of the students' choice), a Christmas Carol Service, Christmas concerts in the community and a whole school production.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORTS



The Physical Education Department is situated in the Leisure Centre where students have access to a Sports Hall, Gymnasium, Fitness Suite, a full size Swimming Pool, Dance Studio, Boxing Suite, a full size Red Gravel area, a full size Football Pitch and a full size Rugby Pitch.

As a department we value the importance of Physical Education and strive to promote physical activity and its importance in leading a healthy and active lifestyle. To achieve this we provide opportunities for students to participate in a variety of activities and aim to deliver lessons that are of high quality, interesting and suitably challenging to all students.

Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of competitive activities, health related activities, outdoor and adventurous activities and creative activities. Therefore, students will typically participate in Rugby, Football, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Gymnastics, Dance, Swimming, Fitness Classes, and Athletics.



TEACHING & LEARNING

Teaching and Learning is at the heart of everything we do at Cwmbran High School. As a school we believe that it is our duty to provide all students with quality teaching that will enable them to make excellent progress and take control of their own learning.

We support our pupils to ensure:

All learners become self-confident, independent and organised learners who take a delight in acquiring knowledge, developing skills and extending and enriching their understanding of the world around them.

All learners develop the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to achieve external qualifications, which reflect their abilities and aspirations and enable them to move on successfully from school to further/higher education/employment etc.

How we make sure this happens:

All staff at Cwmbran High School are professionally challenged and supported to ensure the learning experiences across the school are always improving and developing. We do this by sharing best practice, self-reflection and target setting through performance management and opportunities to collaborate with professionals in and outside the school. Action research is facilitated to allow teachers to use the best methods from across the profession and adapt them for our context. Staff have high expectations of learners and themselves so that we can secure improving outcomes for all pupils irrelevant of their starting points. We ensure that learning in the classroom is supported outside of school by regular homework, enrichment activities and guidance and support in revision.

Overall, we will ensure our pupils receive a consistently excellent standard of engaging lessons, which meet their specific needs. By doing this we will ensure that every pupil makes the maximum progress in every lesson they take part in.





LITERACY & NUMERACY

At Cwmbran High School we recognise that high standards in Literacy & Numeracy are fundamental to our students' success and well-being both at school and in life beyond. We are continually working to embed the Teaching and Learning of Literacy & Numeracy Skills across the curriculum raising the awareness of their importance among all members of our community.

'Literacy' encompasses competence and confidence in reading, writing, speaking and listening, spelling and the use of vocabulary; in its widest sense it can be understood to represent the ability to function effectively in the wider world. We are committed to working with students and their parents / carers to overcome any existing barriers to literacy ensuring each student is equipped with these skills.

In Wales, The National Numeracy Programme describes Numeracy as the application of Mathematical understanding in daily activities at school, at home, at work and in the community. Within Numeracy we expect children and young people to become accomplished in, developing numerical reasoning, using number skills, using measuring skills and using data skills.

“The school has a positive and supportive ethos, which is reflected in the experience of many pupils and staff. All pupils have equal access to every area of the curriculum and the school challenges stereotyping in all aspects of its work.” - Estyn 2015

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

All pupils join the school with a set of achievement data. This includes Key Stage 2 results and the results of reading/literacy tests. This Information is used by the government to generate targets for Key Stage 3 and for Key Stage 4.

In Year 7 all pupils are assessed, which gives additional information about a pupil's potential and about their learning style. We then set challenging targets for each pupil. Each pupil is aware of their targets for each subject and will join in discussions about the best ways of achieving these targets. There should be evidence of these discussions in marking and reports.

We monitor pupil achievements at regular intervals ('Progress Checks') and make sure that they are making appropriate progress towards achieving their targets. If we are concerned we will contact parents / carers and involve them in planning strategies for improvement.

Full progress in Literacy and Numeracy is a priority and we will provide additional intervention work if we feel that this is necessary. This will include mentoring and additional lessons.

Throughout the year we run many additional study sessions across the curriculum both at lunchtime and after school.



ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

Some pupils require special additional support in order to be able to do as well as possible. This may be because of learning, physical, social, emotional, or behavioural difficulties. Highly trained staff work closely with a wide range of outside agencies to make sure that appropriate help is provided.

We are an inclusive school which means that we support the learning and development of all pupils in mainstream classes whenever possible. The additional support may involve help in class, withdrawal from some lessons or be a range of other intervention strategies.

We are fortunate to have the help and support of a specialist ASD Base and Hearing Impaired Base.





EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



“There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities that broaden pupils’ experiences” - Estyn 2015

“ Teaching focuses strongly on developing literacy, numeracy and social skills as well as subject-specific skills. This helps pupils to make particularly good progress. ” - Estyn 2015



“ The school provides effective support for pupils with additional learning needs, particularly those with autistic spectrum disorder and hearing impairments. This ensures that nearly all pupils successfully access the full range of learning experiences in mainstream classes. The school has appropriate systems to ensure that parents of pupils with additional learning needs are well informed about their child’s progress ” - Estyn 2015

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