



Caerleon Comprehensive School Ysgol Gyfun Caerllion

Maximising Potential | Sicrhewch Ragoriaeth

Dear Parent/Carer

We are pleased to report that the school has, in line with our target, moved from 'amber' to 'yellow' in terms of national categorisation. This change is related to a number of factors that have led to improvements in standards and the highest GCSE results in the history of the school (summer 2017).

Since being Headteacher at the school, I have shared the data generated by the Welsh Government as part of Step 1 of categorisation with you. However, following OECD recommendations, the Welsh Government have removed the data-driven judgement that places schools into a standards group as part of Step 1 of the National Schools Categorisation System. School data is still used to inform the discussions about the school's capacity to improve in relation to leadership, teaching and learning. The school's leadership teams and Governing Body continually scrutinise school data to ensure we make year-on-year sustainable improvements. This is evidenced both by our improved GCSE results and by the movement in school categorisation from 'red' (2015-2016) to 'amber' (2016-2017) to 'yellow' (2017-2018).

To support your understanding of the process, the link to the Welsh Government guidance to National Categorisation is on our website at

<http://www.caerleoncomprehensive.net/attachments/article/3/180130-nscs-parents-and-carers-guide-en.pdf>

The main points arising from the report are noted verbatim below.

Evaluation

- The Headteacher and senior team have a shared vision based upon high expectations for all learners.
- There is a clear strategy in place to secure the improvements required by Estyn following inspection in November 2016 and the school has worked purposefully to implement the actions identified in the School Action Plan.
- The strategic priorities are strong because they are based upon accurate data and a range of information derived from strengthened school self-evaluation processes.
- The increased rigour in the use of data by middle leaders has led to a rise in most indicators at all key stages.
- Leaders and staff have a clear and unyielding emphasis on raising standards and improving wider outcomes.
- The school has refined the target setting process so that ambitious targets are set for each pupil and these feed into subject and whole school targets.
- The school is successfully implementing strategies to raise standards.
- Senior leaders are successfully holding middle leaders to account through the refined robust line management systems which focus on standards and the quality of provision.
- The school's partnerships with a range of agencies and organisations have contributed well to improving the standards and wellbeing of nearly all learners including the more-able and talented and vulnerable.
- The school provides good value for money because outcomes on most measures have improved this year.

Areas for further improvement

- Embed the new self-evaluation cycle and the range of monitoring activities that underpin it, including learner voice at subject level.
- Align the 6th form more closely to the self-evaluation and review cycle and wider school processes, including the rigorous use of data and wider information to inform improvement planning.
- Systematically evaluate the impact of the 2017/18 professional learning offer on the overall quality of teaching and learning and against the 2017/18 priority areas.
- Further cultivate beneficial school to school partnerships, including cluster work.
- Continue to embed the school's approach to skills development in literacy and numeracy and implement the strategy for digital competency.
- Regularly evaluate the impact of grants on pupil outcomes, eg. after each literacy and numeracy intervention programme; the impact of Sound training.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. The partnership between pupils, parents and staff has always been a relationship the school has held in great store and works continuously to nurture. "Maximising potential" is more than just a school motto at Caerleon Comprehensive School. Rest assured that we continue to be motivated by the drive to ensure that all our students have the best possible life chances. Thank you for your continued support.

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Lana Picton
Headteacher