



Headteachers Update: October 2024

The start of the Autumn term has gone very positively and half term is rapidly approaching. Please find below various updates for the October addition of my Headteacher Update. Please note that each monthly update can be found on the school website.

Positive News

I am pleased to report to you that, once again, Caerleon Comprehensive remains the secondary school in our city with the lowest number of days lost to exclusion and the lowest numbers of 'high-level behaviour incidents' occurring within the school. This is a result of our robust and caring pastoral system, but also a result of the hard work of parents/carers supporting their children in ensuring a sound moral compass. We thank you for continuing to work alongside us to ensure all our young people have every opportunity to maximise their potential at our school.

Fundraising

Mr Jones and I were overwhelmed with the support we received from parents/carers in our fundraising efforts for the Cardiff Half Marathon. In total, parents/carers raised £1320.50, half of which will be going to Velindre and half to our PTFA (FOCCS) to be ploughed back into our school. Thank you for all your support, both through donations and the kind comments and encouragement from families we received. With our school's donations and through various other fundraising efforts, my husband has raised just shy of £6,000 for Velindre and sets off on his bike ride in three week's time. I will let you know how much the bike ride raises for Velindre in total after the event, but your support has been invaluable.

Site Updates/PTFA Trip

Now that our toilets are being so well looked after by the school community, we are aiming to have all of them decorated and updated as much as our budget will allow in the coming weeks. Though school budgets remain a challenge, doing what we can with our learning environment to make it as pleasant as possible for our students remains our priority. This is why your support for the PTFA remains so important, as it allows us to raise as much money as possible to support our school and our students to complete projects and buy resources that we otherwise would not be able to afford. On this note, if you and any friends fancy a day out in Bath, please do have a look at our PTFA trip on the 7th December, details of which can be found on the PTFA section of our website.

ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator)

Please be aware that our ALNCo, Mrs Emma Muggleton, Assistant Headteacher, will be off school recovering from a planned operation until the new year. The first point of contact for all ALN queries remains Mrs Angela Marchant, our Assistant ALNCo. For issues that need to be escalated, please ask to speak with Mrs Suzi Edmondson, our Lead Teacher for ALN. Mrs Marchant and Mrs Edmondson's email addresses can be found on our website.

Work to J Block

We are hoping that in the near future, the temporary accommodation that has been on our site for a very long time, housing both the ALN support base and the drama department, will soon be knocked down. To prepare for this, we have been allocated some funding from the authority to create a new ALN support base within J block. This work will be starting very soon and the

contractors are aiming to complete this during the Spring term at some point. I look forward to sharing with you updates in relation to this work as the months go on.

Our Canteen

After careful consideration, we will be moving to a new catering provider after half term. Currently, we are with Aspens, but their offer was no longer appropriate for our needs, and we will therefore be switching to Chartwells from Monday 4th November. Attached to this update you can find their menus and these will also be on our website. It is vital for us that all our students are getting a range of healthy and nutritious options every day, and the move to Chartwells means we are securing this for them.

Cynefin Day Friday 18th October

This Friday sees the first of our Cynefin Days, where we celebrate our Welsh identity and the way we all belong at Caerleon. All our students have so much to offer our community and this is a day to celebrate that. We will also be celebrating Diwrnod Shwmae as part of our Cynefin day. 'Diwrnod Shwmae is a day where we start every conversation with shwmae, su'mae or shwddi and the event is a national one, aiming to show that the Welsh language belongs to us all, fluent speakers, learners or those shy about their Welsh' (shwmae.cymru). Please can students wear Welsh colours on this day. A voluntary charity donation can be made on this day via our app. Thank you for your continued support.

I look forward to writing to you in November with my usual update. Please do check our online calendar on the website for key dates for the second half of the Autumn term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Purcell
Headteacher