

Dear parents/carers

Re: Headteacher's update October 2023

Thank you

A huge thank you to all parents/carers who contributed towards our MND day at the end of September. We are still collecting donations and working out the grand total; so will be in touch with this as soon as possible.

Can I also say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who supported their child in entering the European Languages Day bake off. There were some absolutely fantastic creations!

Trips

We have started this year as we mean to go on with a range of trips being offered within different departments. Please can I draw your attention to the two-year plan for significant (usually overnight/overseas) trips which can be found on our website. This allows parents/carers to see what is available for their child's year group and plan accordingly if you wish for them to attend. There is also a plan on our website of smaller trips (tending to be day trips) for parents/carers to view.

Our Website

After some technical hitches, our new website is up and running! I hope you find it easy to navigate and to obtain the information you require. If you have any feedback, please let us know at the usual general email address. We are working on a new prospectus and other documentation that is currently 'coming soon' on our website.

Homework

We would like to focus this term on the creation of a homework policy for our school. We would like all our parents/carers/students/staff and governors to be able to provide input into this policy. Please expect to receive a Microsoft form soon, allowing you to do so.

Anti Bullying Policy

At Caerleon we firmly believe in having policies that reflect our practice. We are therefore keen to update our anti-bullying policy to ensure this reflects our current practice and we also wish to seek the views of parents/carers/staff and governors as to how the school can best act around issues of bullying. Mr Gardner will be sharing a suggested policy during the Y7 parent forum on the 12th October, and he will send the policy to the Anti-bullying Alliance Group. We will also ensure that the suggested policy is sent out to all parents/carers and enable you to feedback your views on this before creating the final draft. Please do contribute if you feel you can.

Reward Trips

You will be aware that we weren't happy with our strategy for rewards trips last summer, where prices were very high and we were unable to secure buses/locations at reasonable costs. We have therefore re-thought our planning in relation to reward trips, and each Head of Year is scheduling a series of smaller reward trips to go ahead this year. We will aim to book the summer reward trips (which tend to be bigger and most costly) for students as far in advance as possible to try and secure the best deals and give parents/carers time to plan financially if necessary. Details about Christmas reward trips will be sent to parents/carers soon. Every reward trip run will have clear criteria in

relation to student selection, to ensure students feel the process is fair and consistent. Information from Heads of Year will follow in due course.

Cynefin Day

On the 13th October we will celebrate our first Cynefin day of the year. This is where we celebrate our 'Welshness', our sense of belonging, culture and heritage. It is essential to us that all our students who attend our school and live in Wales feel a sense of belonging and understand the contributions people of many different ethnic backgrounds have made to our wonderful little country! We want our students to understand how diverse Wales is, and how this is most certainly cause for celebration. Our summer Cynefin day in 2023 focused on all the different cultures we are lucky to have at Caerleon and it was a wonderful occasion seeing our young people celebrating their Welshness, but also the other cultural backgrounds they are proud to have. This October Cynefin Day, we would like all students to wear red, not only because it is our national colour, but also because we want to 'wear red for anti-racism'. At Caerleon, we aim to be part of an anti-racist Wales and on this day we wish to raise awareness that racism is still an issue in our society. We also want to send a clear message that racism will not be tolerated at Caerleon Comprehensive School. Please support our message by ensuring that your child wears something red to school on Friday 13th October. We are not asking for monetary donations on this day for any charities, as we are mindful we recently asked for contributions for our MND day. Thank you in advance for your support.

Reminder of other Key Events

Half term is fast approaching so please can I take this opportunity to remind you of several key events before the half term holiday:

Parent Forum Y7 parents – 12th October 5-6pm; all Y7 parents welcome

Y12 School Photos & Y11/13 Friendship group photos – 18th October.
Communication to follow.

Y11 Parents Evening – 19th October, virtual. Information to be sent by our administrative team

Please do remember that our online calendar contains all the information you need to know about the weeks and months ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Purcell

Headteacher.