

FAQ – Parents and Yr.6 pupils

What is the school's uniform for Yr.7 pupils?

Year 7 pupils wear a white collared shirt with our clip-on tie and purple V-neck jumper bearing the school logo. All of our pupils wear black skirts or trousers with black footwear. A dark coloured coat will also be required for the winter. As well as this, all pupils will need the school's P.E. kit and trainers. Our uniform cannot be purchased directly from us but is available from Brodwaith in Llangefni (01248 750333), Orchid School Shop in Bangor (01248 354777) and All Sewn Up in Bangor (07402 919563). We recommend that all clothing is labelled clearly with pupils' names. A school uniform will be required for school attendance in September 2020, even though pupils may not attend school every day of the week due to COVID-19 social distancing measures. Our gradual return timetable which will be shared with parents and pupils as soon as possible.

What equipment should my child bring with them to school?

Every pupil is asked to bring their own pencil case containing pens, pencils, a ruler, a rubber, a protractor and a small set of colouring pencils. A calculator will also be required. Pupils bring their P.E. kit on the correct days according to their timetable – the P.E. kit will not be required on their first day. Everything should be carried in their school bag. We urge pupils to bring only the necessary equipment as they will carry their bags with them all day. We do not provide lockers. Due to COVID-19 regulations, pupils are also asked to bring their own paper and any other equipment required at the moment, and equipment cannot be shared for safety reasons.

When does the school day start and finish?

Usually, pupils are expected on site by 08:45. Registration starts at 08:50. There are 6 x 50-minute lessons during the day with a 15-minute break between 10:50 and 11:05, and lunch between 12:40 and 13:35. The school day finishes at 15:20.

However, in September it is very likely that we will follow a gradual return timetable which will be slightly different and will be shared with you as soon as possible.

How should my child pay for school lunch?

We use the School Gateway biometric system for school lunches. Parents can pay online and pupils use a fingerprint system to pay for their meal. A daily maximum can be set. You will be asked to complete a form to give us permission to use your child's fingerprint and all the relevant information will be included for you on this form.

Where should my child catch the school bus and how do I get a pass for the bus?

Pupils who live more than 3 miles from the school and within the school's catchment area are eligible for a bus pass. Pupils living within 3 miles who require the use of a school bus can also make an application for a pass but a cost will be incurred. All school transport questions should be directed the County Council as they are responsible for all transport arrangements (01248 752458).

Which class will my child be in?

This September we will have 9 registration groups: 7Y, 7M, 7D, 7R, 7E, 7C, 7H, 7A and 7F. There will be an average of 24 pupils in each class. Pupils will be allocated a registration class along with at least one or two of their friends where possible, based on information provided by their primary school. Pupils will attend most Areas of Learning in their registration groups, but will be in 'set' groups for Mathematics and Numeracy. All groups are taught bilingually, with 7 Henllys working mainly through the medium of English and the other 8 groups mainly through the medium of Welsh. The County Policy dictates that pupils moving from primary schools following first language Welsh must continue to do so as they move into Secondary education.

Do you 'set' pupils in Year 7?

We set for Mathematics and Numeracy lessons only in Year 7. These sets are formed using data and information provided by the primary schools. All other Areas of Learning are taught in mixed ability groups.

Which subjects are studied by Year 7 pupils?

The Year 7 curriculum is comprised of 6 Areas of Learning. These are Languages, Literacy and Communication (including English, Welsh and French); Science and Technology (including Computing); Mathematics and Numeracy; Humanities (History, Geography and Religious Studies); Expressive Arts (Art, Music and Drama) and Health and Wellbeing (including P.E.). In September, due to our gradual return timetable, our Curriculum for Year 7 will be amended slightly to reflect the need for pupils to integrate successfully to Ysgol David Hughes, possibly without any prior visits to the school. Health and Wellbeing will be at the forefront of our curriculum during this time. More information on these amendments will be shared with you before September.

How will I know if my child has homework?

We use an online service called Show My Homework from Team Satchel to set and remind pupils of homework tasks and to share information with pupils. You and your child will receive a password and PIN in order to use this service and an app can be downloaded to your mobile phone, tablet or personal device. In addition, our pupils are provided with a HWB Cymru email address and login so that they can access a wide range of online tools, including Google Classroom, where many 'working from home'/homework tasks are set and feedback can be given by our members of staff. Further information on the use of both platforms can be found on our main website.

Are there any trips for Year 7 pupils?

Usually, yes. But 2020-2021 does not look like it's going to be a 'normal year'. We organise an annual trip to Glan-llyn in October of Year 7 to help the pupils get to know one another and our members of staff. Unfortunately, it is very unlikely that the trip will go ahead this October. There are also trips organised by the Areas of Learning to strengthen subject understanding and provide relevant experiences that enrich the learning. As well as this, there is usually a Christmas outing and an end of Year trip.

Who will support my child in Year 7?

Starting in a new school can be overwhelming for some pupils. Concerns about getting lost, difficult subjects and even bullying can cause problems for pupils. Your child's Form Tutor will be their first port of call regarding any worries or concerns that they may have, as they will see their form tutor every morning during registration. Pupils may also turn to their subject teachers for help with school work or worries around homework. A pastoral team of Heads of Year and members of the Senior Management Team are on duty throughout the day in the 'Porth' to help with any significant problems or concerns, and for pupils with Additional Learning Needs, 'Y Gorad' is another area of the school they can visit for help and support.