

BLACKWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
YSGOL GYFUN Y COED DUON

Headteacher/Pennaeth Mrs J Wilkie
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Dear Parents and Carers

Thursday 27th May

Re: Transition to Blackwood Comprehensive School 2021

Firstly, I would like to welcome your child to Blackwood Comprehensive School. We are very much looking forward to meeting and working with you, and developing and sharing your child's educational experience over the next five years. The transition from primary to secondary school is an important stage in the lives of children and their families and we pride ourselves on providing a smooth and extensive transition programme, which ensures that pupils arrive on their first day in September excited about the next chapter of their education rather than apprehensive.

However, we recognise that the current situation may be challenging for Year 6 pupils and their families and we want to reassure you that we will do everything in our power to make the transition to Blackwood Comprehensive School a smooth one. Consequently, I am writing to outline our transition plan for the summer term (restrictions allowing) and also to share the extra support that we will be providing. We hope that this will help to reassure you all.

Information has been placed on the school website under 'Transition', there are various resources to help and support your child's transition. This includes welcome videos by key staff, a virtual tour of our school and a welcome pack specifically for your child to help ease their transition. You will also find copies of key documentation and other important information.

Your child may have already mentioned that they have met me. Over the past four weeks I have visited all of our feeder primary schools and some out of catchment primary schools. It was a pleasure to meet our prospective pupils and nearly all of them are looking forward to, and excited about, their transition to us. Mrs Colley and Mr Williams (Year 7 Progress Managers), Mrs Rudman (ALNCO) and myself have been working closely with your child's Year 6 teachers to ensure that we receive all the necessary information to support their academic progress. We are also working remotely with primary school staff to ensure your child is discussed individually and key information about their progress is shared with us.

In the meantime please make sure you visit our website, <https://www.blackwood.caerphilly.sch.uk/> as we will be sharing regular updates there; however, if you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Mrs T Davies on: BLKCA@caerphilly.gov.uk / 01495 225566/223326

The following planned events are subject to change due to current COVID 19 restrictions

Year 7 Virtual Transition Meeting – date to be confirmed.

In July, parents, carers and pupils will be invited to a Year 7 transition meeting where we will share a presentation about the transition process and how your child will be taught at Blackwood Comprehensive



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Strive To Succeed



School. It will also be an opportunity to meet key members of staff including our two Year 7 Progress Managers (Mrs Colley and Mr Williams) and Year 7 form tutors, who will be there to support your child while they take this important milestone. During this evening, you will also get the opportunity to ask questions to allow for a smooth transition.

Blackwood Summer Transition Afternoon - Monday 5th July - Friday 16th July 2021

Due to covid restrictions each primary school will be attending on a specific day in their bubbles. ***Dates to be confirmed.***

On their identified day, pupils will visit Blackwood Comprehensive School between 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Transport will be provided from their primary school but we would like parents/carers to collect their child at 3.30pm from the entrance at Ty-isha Terrace. The afternoon will include:

- A welcome meeting/ presentation by key staff
- A performance by our Year 10 Music & Performing Arts pupils
- A meeting with form tutors
- A tour around the school
- A question and answer session

Parent/carer Voice 2020-2021

Here is are some examples of feedback that we received from parents and carers whose children joined us in September 2020

“My daughter started Year 7 as a pupil from an out of catchment school. The staff were very supportive and encouraging to help her transition with ease. They were able to arrange for her to be in a class with the only person she knew at school, which as parents was a huge relief. Since starting the school my daughter has been happy, motivated and enthusiastic to attend. The school has proved to be a sound choice for our daughter”.

“Transitioning my daughter from Primary to Secondary school whilst in a pandemic was something that filled me as a parent with worry. However, the staff made this process feel comfortable and exciting for my daughter. My daughter's primary school teacher had excellent relations with Blackwood Comprehensive School that filled us with confidence and ease that my daughter was being given the best start to her secondary education”.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to look at our transition information and I look forward to meeting you and your child when you arrive at Blackwood Comprehensive School.

Yours faithfully,

T. Davies

Mrs T Davies
Head of Key Stage 3
Blackwood Comprehensive School
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