

Head of Campus: Debbie Cairns Secondary Phase Campus Alma Street Abertillery NP13 1YL Pennarth Campws: Debbie Cairns Campws Cyfnod Uwchradd Stryd Alma Abertyleri NP13 1YL

Friday 16th December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

It gives me great pleasure to write to you for the first time as Acting Headteacher of the Secondary Campus. Being a former pupil of the school and now a member of staff, I have seen the ability and talent within our school and in the wider community and it never ceases to amaze me. The school and its learners are extremely important to me and I would like to reassure the community that I will work hard to continue to improve the standards and learning experiences of all our learners to ensure they have the best possible life chances.

This term has been extremely busy and I'm sure I speak for the staff and learners on the secondary phase when I say that we have thoroughly enjoyed working more closely with our primary campuses and hope they have enjoyed their experiences with us at the secondary phase.

Whilst we continue to strive to improve, feedback from parents and our learners is key in this process. Our Heads of Department are currently conducting pupil voice surveys to involve learners in helping to improve their curriculum area and our Student Senior Leadership Group and Grand Council are working actively with Mrs Vaughan to improve the learning environment and school experience for our learners. Towards the end of January, I will be holding a parent forum where I would encourage parents to come and ask questions, share positive news and raise any concerns they may have. I will send out a message to parents to confirm this date in January. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact school and speak to a member of our staff who are only too happy to help should you have any concerns or questions. The email addresses for all our staff are available on the school website. In the event of extreme weather, information regarding school closure will also be available on our school website.

Recently we have seen a dramatic improvement in learners' school uniform and I would like to thank parents and learners for their support in ensuring the standard of uniform remains high and is something we can be really proud of.

The new year brings exciting projects for all our campuses including a new drive to further improve Learning and Teaching. Keep an ear open for some of the new terminology that learners will be using including a WAGOLL, FAIL (First Attempt in Learning) and Growth Mindset.

The Spring term begins on Wednesday January 4th 2017 due to staff training on Tuesday January 3rd. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, restful and very merry Christmas.

Best wishes.

Mrs Cairns



