



# CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL

YSGOL UWCHRADD CATHAYS

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

C Y F L E O E D D I B A W B

## Year 7 Transition Update - September 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Cathays High School is delighted to welcome you and your children to the start of their exciting journey in secondary school. Transitioning to Year 7 is a significant milestone filled with new and exciting opportunities and experiences. As your children settle into their new routines, explore different subject areas, and create lasting friendships, we are here to support them every step of the way.

Our aim for Year 7 at Cathays is to establish a nurturing and stimulating learning environment where every child can thrive academically, emotionally and socially. In this update, you will find important information and key dates for the term ahead. We look forward to working together with you to ensure a positive and successful start to secondary school!

Best wishes,

Mr J Unwin – Head of Year 7

### Contact Information

If you have questions about your child's education or need help with an issue and you want to get in touch, you are always free to call the school on **02920 544 400** and ask to speak to someone. Alternatively, you can email specific staff and they will reply as soon as possible.

**Mr J Unwin (Head of Year 7):**

junwin@cathays.cardiff.sch.uk

**Miss E Williams (Extracurricular):**

emwilliams@cathays.cardiff.sch.uk

**Mr J Taylor (Deputy Head; Parent Partnership):**

jtaylor@cathays.cardiff.sch.uk

### SIMS Parent App

If you have signed and returned the admission pack for your child, included in which is the consent form for SIMS Parent app usage, you may have already received an email containing login information. Please be aware that, in a minority of cases, this email can get sent to junk folders. Contact us if you have not received one yet.

### Inclusion & Wellbeing (IWB) Team

Our pupils are safeguarded by a whole-school approach to wellbeing and safety, and an integral part of that approach is our IWB Team. Situated in the middle of the school site, the IWB office is a convenient place that offers support and guidance to all pupils. The IWB Team is visible at all times during the school day, including during break and lunch times on the yard and within the school building, to help maintain a peaceful and safe environment for our pupils. Pupils are encouraged to visit the IWB office outside of lesson time if they require assistance.

### Celebrating Year 7 Success

Even though it is very early in the academic year, our new Year 7 cohort has already delighted us with their amazing effort and behaviour! As of this writing, Year 7 has earned over 10,000 achievement points—da iawn! Every term, senior staff at Cathays will create and present a special rewards assembly for Year 7 to celebrate the pupils who bring the school so much joy and pride. Based on the excellent conduct demonstrated by Year 7, assemblies this year are likely to be very long indeed...

### Staff on Duty

The school yard is fully staffed during periods of the school day where pupils are out of lessons, including before and after school, break and lunch times. If pupils encounter an issue, we encourage them to seek out a visible member of staff who will be happy to help!

### Extracurricular (OSHL) Timetable

Sports and other extracurricular activities are incredibly important, and a large number of our pupils engage in them as a way to supplement their in-lesson learning. Below, you will find a Year 7 timetable with all the activities available to pupils at various times of the school day, each week. As seasons change, there may be some changes to the timetable that will be reflected in updates throughout the year. We also base the timetable upon pupil interest and staff availability. If pupils have questions about extracurricular activities, they should speak to Miss Williams in Calcella. For sporting activities, pupils can either speak to Miss Williams, Mr Sage or their Games teacher for further support and guidance. **There are separate games for both boys and girls unless stated specifically in brackets.**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>BEFORE SCHOOL</b> (7:45am)				<b>Basketball (Boys)</b> GYM	<b>Basketball (Girls)</b> GYM
<b>LUNCH</b> (12:40pm)	<b>Badminton</b> SPORTS HALL	<b>Basketball</b> SPORTS HALL	<b>Cricket</b> SPORTS HALL <b>Cheerleading</b> GYM (1:00pm)	<b>Table Tennis</b> UPPER HALL	<b>Dodgeball (Girls)</b> GYM (1:00pm)
<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b> (3:15pm)	<b>Football (Girls)</b> YARD	<b>Football (Boys)</b> TALYBONT <b>Netball (Girls)</b> SPORTS HALL	<b>Basketball</b> GYM	<b>Basketball Theory</b> GYM	

### ParentPay and Thumbprint Consent Forms

Thank you for your patience while we set up your child's profile on our system. All thumbprints have been taken for Year 7 pupils whose consent forms have been returned—use of the canteen and baguette bar in school should no longer be an issue. Parents and/or guardians can top-up pupil accounts via ParentPay. If you require a thumbprint consent for your child's access to the system, please ask them to see their form tutor, or Ms Evans and/or Mr Rees-Thomas in the finance office, located in the middle of the lower corridor (opposite Room 7).

### Peer Mentors for Year 7

We are delighted to have some of our amazing pupils in older year groups volunteer to become peer mentors for their younger peers in school. Based in Room Y16 every school day, peer mentors will be happy to speak to any pupils who are looking for support, guidance and a friendly face from someone like them who can bring empathy to any issue. Peer mentors will be visiting each form class next week to introduce themselves.

### Term Dates 2024/25

Autumn Half Term 1: 4th September - 25th October  
**HALF TERM BREAK: 28th October - 31st October**  
 Autumn Half Term 2: 4th November - 20th December  
**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY: 23rd December - 6th January**

Spring Half Term 1: 7th January - 21st February  
**HALF TERM BREAK: 24th February - 28th February**  
 Spring Half Term 2: 3rd March - 11th April  
**EASTER HOLIDAY: 14th April - 25th April**

Summer Half Term 1: 28th April - 23rd May  
**HALF TERM BREAK: 26th May - 30th May**  
 Summer Half Term 2: 2nd June - 21st July  
**SUMMER HOLIDAY BEGINS 22nd July**



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