

Year 6 to 7: Transition 2025

An Introduction for Parents & Carers



Monmouth | Ysgol Gyfun
Comprehensive School **Trefynwy**



Welcome

Annwyl Rhieni / Dear Parents,

I am delighted that you have chosen for your child to join us at Monmouth Comprehensive School next year. My name is Jon Owen, and I am one of the Heads of Year in the Pastoral Leadership Team. I have been teaching Physical Education at MCS since 2012; I began as a student teacher, then becoming a Form Tutor for 9 of those years; and more recently Head of Year 11. As Year 11 leave us this summer, I will be saying goodbye to them and welcoming our new entrants as their new Head of Year.

During the transition process, my role will be ensuring that students feel happy, settled and safe in a new environment, whilst also encouraging their independence, developing their resilience and promoting their wellbeing. Throughout their time at Monmouth Comprehensive School, I will be a constant point of contact and will support them through Years 7 -11. Alongside a team of experienced Form Tutors, we will care for your child's academic progress and personal development.

The transition from primary school is a significant step in a child's educational journey. It can be a challenging time for some students, but it is also a chance to start a fresh chapter and to make the most of this new period in their lives. In contrast to their primary experience, they will be taught in a variety of classrooms and spaces, which will require them to move with purpose around the building, eager to learn from our expert teaching staff.

There may be worries during this transition from your child – they may worry about how they fit in alongside other new and unfamiliar students coming from a variety of schools. They may worry about making new friendships and holding on to old ones. The pastoral team will be there to guide and support them with these questions as they encounter them. We will also show them how Monmouth Comprehensive School works and how they can be exemplary students who meet our ethos of **Work Hard, Be Kind**.

As parents and carers, there are many things that you can be doing over the coming weeks to support your child with their transition which will build their confidence and resilience:

- Discuss the transition with your child. How are they feeling about the move? Are they excited or worried? By talking about it now, they will be better prepared in September.
- We will be liaising with primary schools between March and May in a bid to learn as much as possible about the children joining us, so that their transition is a smooth one.
- You can keep up to date with regular check-in at the MCS website [Monmouth Comprehensive School - Year 6 Transition to MCS](#) and via email information.
- Attend our New Entrants' evening in June. You can meet the staff who will be involved with your child's education and tour the school. This will help your child to get a feel for the building, meet their new Form Tutor and allow you to ask questions in person.

I look forward to meeting with you at one of our New Entrants' evenings and getting to know your child more during our transition programme in the coming months.

Mr Jon Owen

Pennaeth Blwyddyn 7, Medi 2025
Head of Year 7, September 2025



Key Transition Events

The MCS programme of transition events to support all of our new students consists of:

March - May

Key staff from MCS gather data from primary schools about the students joining in September.

The data covers as wide a variety of aspects as possible, to allow us to get to know the children as well as we can, in order: to understand their experiences, situations and learning needs. This data gathering usually happens both electronically and via in-person meetings with primary school teachers. Wherever possible, MCS staff visit Year 6 in their primary schools.

As this process is running, MCS will 'build' the Year7 form groups (see page 4).

w/c June 2nd

Parents, students and staff are informed of the form group allocation at MCS for September.

We recognise that this is can be a source of anxiety at this time; children are still at their primary school with the security and predictability that this holds. We can assure you that these groups are built with care, and that, while change takes time, students nearly always settle into routines quickly.

June 16th or 17th or 18th

New Entrants' Evenings for Year 6 parents and students: three new form groups per evening.

This is a one-hour event hosted at MCS. Parents and Year 6 children will be invited as a formal welcome to their new school, which heralds the start of their transition events. During the evening there is a brief presentation from the headteacher and head of year, before students spend the rest of the time with their new form group and form teacher. Parents have the chance for a Q&A session with a member of the senior team of the school.

July 2nd or 3rd

Year 6 Taster Days at Monmouth Comprehensive School

Students spend a day at MCS experiencing a range of lessons with their new form group. The event also allows them to become more familiar with each other, the school building and our staff at MCS.

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Official first day at secondary school – Induction day

On this day, only our new Year 7 and Year 12 students attend school. This day is again spent in form groups and provides students with a range of activities to further understand their new school.

Building Form Groups at MCS

At secondary school, your child will be part of a number of different classes. As they progress to later years they are likely to have different classes for each subject that they take. In Year 7, lessons across most of their subjects are with their **form group**, with only a small number of subjects in other class groupings.

The form group is the main class your child will know when joining MCS. Students stay with the same form group throughout, from Year 7 to Year 11. It is their form group that they go to first thing every morning for daily registration. Their form tutor will be the first point of contact in most situations, such as student attendance, preparedness for the school day, concerns or support, and general progress through the School.

We typically have nine form groups in each year 'cohort'. Form groups are mixed in terms of gender, primary school, academic performance and other characteristics. We want every child to feel safe, confident and valued. While their learning is the core of what we do, their growth as a person is just as important.

For some students, moving to secondary school is a particular challenge. The scale of building, amount of movement around the site, number of lessons and teachers can be too much. For these students, we offer a small form group provision. Students for this group are identified by our ALNco and Head of Year, through the discussions between primary and secondary school. The group accesses all curriculum areas, and has a reduced number of teachers to provide a more gradual change into secondary education.

Form Group Construction at MCS

We are an inclusive, community secondary school with an overall principle of developing balanced form groups, allowing for relational and academic progress. This considers the needs of the students gathered from their primary schools and our own structures. Our policy is to place students in form groups that meet their learning and pastoral needs; *it is not our policy to place students in forms in existing friendship groups*.

Every child will be put in a form group with at least one other child from their primary school, where possible, striving to ensure that each student has a familiar face in their group. However, it is probably key to understand that they are beginning a new phase of education and that previous friendship groupings are not part of the consideration. Our aim is to support secure transition, whilst allowing students to develop and build new relationships. Children joining MCS at age 11 are with us for many years, and most are still here as they enter adulthood; thus, the form building process is purely forward-looking. We seek to forge a new MCS identity with our students.

Our 'form building' process can be summarised as follows:

- **Primary school attended**
A fair spread of all primary schools is represented in each form group.
- **Balance across the forms**
Equal numbers of students and, within reason, a balance of academic potential and sex/gender.
- **Consideration of specific students or groups that may require additional support**
Ensuring that those students requiring additional support can be catered for effectively.
- **Social, emotional, mental health and behavioural needs**
From meetings with primary colleagues, working to balance the range of needs and support on offer.
- **Potential positive or negative learning relationships**
Consideration of the strongest combination to support learning, given the previous factors.

Equipment & Uniform

















We are proud of our uniform at MCS and all students are required to wear it appropriately. A new uniform, and our expectations surrounding its importance, can be quite a change for some students.

We recommend purchasing it early enough in the summer holiday so that new students can try it on several times and become familiar with it. This can both ease anxiety about the change and help students in looking forward to the start at secondary school.

Our school website provides information on all of the required, recommended and optional items of school equipment and uniform. This can be found under the 'Parents' drop-down menu on our website: ([Monmouth Comprehensive School - School Uniform and Equipment](#)).

In preparing for the move to secondary school, it can be supportive to include your child in selecting pencil case equipment, school bag and uniform. Participating in the choices can aid to grow their sense of independence and help in the understanding of the coming transition.

Compulsory / Essential Items:			
Black or blue pens		Green pen	
HB Pencil		Eraser	
Pencil case		Scientific calculator *	
Highlighter		Ruler	
Recommended Items:			
Protractor		Colouring pencils	
Pencil sharpener		Reading book	
Pair of compasses		Solid glue stick	



We do not recommend that you provide a smartphone for your child.

At this stage of life, we understand that mobile phones add to a sense of security and in helping with everyday arrangements. If you choose to provide a phone for your child, we recommend that it is a 'simple' phone that can call and text only.

Phones are not required for learning. Although they can be brought to school, they must be switched off and left in a bag or locker. If seen or heard in school, they will be confiscated in line with our published [mobile phone policy](#).

Further information about smartphones and children can be found here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/about>

Growing and Changing: Supporting your Child through Transition

Transition to secondary school can be an exciting time for children: marking a new phase; a stage of growing up. It will also be accompanied by questions and, naturally, some anxiety. Some worries are often around:

- uncertainty of 'the unknown' (following the predictability of primary school)
- the journey to and from school will be new and perhaps unfamiliar
- making new friends, not fitting in, being bullied
- getting lost and not finding their correct lesson
- concern with their ability to do the work

There are a range of groups that provide parenting advice, including on transition from primary to secondary school. While these do not reflect the specifics of moving to MCS, many have common tips for parents:

Give it time

This is a *process* of change. Settling-in may take longer than you expect and it may not be completely smooth. Too much change at once can be overwhelming – great if they throw themselves into everything from the start, but don't worry if they don't. They need time to adjust and space to relax: transition can be exhausting. Familiar activities and people can support. And remember, it is going to be a change for parents too!

Talk & listen

The greatest support for a child is knowing that they can fall back on parents or carers. Chat about how they are feeling and how secondary will be different from primary. For instance: a larger school; being the youngest year group; being surrounded by (awkward) teenagers; many new faces and social norms; greater independence and maturity; changing teachers; managing homework. Reassure them that nerves are normal, as is some sadness at leaving familiar things, and that these feelings subside. Focus on the opportunities too: new subjects to learn from specialised teachers; the chance to discover new friends; the milestone of finishing primary school. Keep talking when they start at MCS and show interest in the detail of their days in school.

Resilience & Growing Independence

Resilience will be a key ingredient for all students. Understand that there may be bumps along the way, but that they can get through these. They have a range of support from home/family, friends, in school. Everyone is in the same boat with the same worries. Encourage them to focus on themselves and their learning: digging deep to get through challenging times. You can use the summer break for activities that support increasing independence. Examples could be: selecting their new stationary equipment; help writing shopping lists; making a packed lunch; packing bags for an overnight stay.

Making friends

Students in Yr9 had this to say about making friends when they joined MCS: *"don't judge people too quickly", "spend the time to get to know new people", "put yourself out there with a smile"; "remember that most people will also be looking to get to know others and find friends"; "changing school can feel like moving from knowing everything to knowing nothing, just focus on getting used to things – you will get there!"*

Journey to school

Encourage your child to discuss their journey to school – maybe practise it with them before starting. Talk through different scenarios, both travelling to school and back home, and what to do when plans change.

Get to know the new school

Learn about the new school by visiting the website or talking to families that are already there. Encourage your child to make a list of questions, e.g. what their daily routine will be like, how many teachers they will have, where are the toilets etc. Discuss the similarities and differences between their current and new school.

