

Year 6 to 7: Transition 2026

An Introduction for Parents & Carers



Monmouth | Ysgol Gyfun
Comprehensive School | **Trefynwy**



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Aaron Davies, and I am writing to you with great excitement as I prepare to step into the role of Head of Year 7 this September.

I have been teaching and supporting students for over 20 years, holding various whole-school roles that have always placed student welfare and progress at their heart. As someone born and raised in Monmouth, I feel incredibly privileged to support our new Year 7 cohort through their transition from primary school and beyond.

Thank you for choosing Monmouth Comprehensive School for your child's secondary education. I am looking forward to meeting you and your child to build the strong, supportive relationships that allow every student to reach their full potential. My aim is for every student to embody our ethos: 'Work Hard, Be Kind.' I will ensure our students meet the highest expectations, challenging themselves to be the best versions of themselves every day.

The transition to secondary school is often filled with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. It is a "new chapter"—a chance for a fresh start. While students will need to navigate new routines and build relationships with many different teachers, I recognize that you, as parents, may also feel some anxiety. To support successful transitions, our form groups are carefully planned, encouraging new friendships from day one. Alongside a team of experienced and caring form tutors, my role is to ensure every student feels happy, safe, and develops the resilience to overcome any challenge.

How we are supporting the transition: Over the coming weeks, I will be visiting our feeder cluster primary schools to introduce myself and learn more about each individual student. During our Transition Days, we will introduce the routines of 'The MCS Way' to help students feel relaxed and prepared for September.

How you can help at home:

- Talk about the move: Discuss how your child is feeling. Are they excited or worried – or both? Opening these conversations now helps them feel prepared.
- Stay informed: Regularly check the Year 6 Transition page on the MCS website and keep an eye on your inbox for updates.
- Join us in June: Please attend our New Entrants' Evening. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet your child's Form Tutor, tour the building, ask questions and meet other key members of staff.

I look forward to meeting you soon and getting to know your child over the coming months.

Mr Aaron Davies

Pennaeth Blwyddyn 7, Medi 2026
Head of Year 7, September 2026



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 1st

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 15th or 16th or 17th

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 1st or 2nd

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.

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

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.

Uniform, equipment and mobile phone policy

















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 until at least age 14. We also strongly recommend that you do not allow your child to have access to social media.

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 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 their new school

Learn about their new school by visiting our website or talking to families that are already here. 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.

