

Parents Guide to Year 7

2021-2022



Information about all the subjects studied in

YEAR 7

What to expect and how you can help your child succeed.

Updated September 2021

Key Dates in Year 7

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2021/22

Term	Term begins	Mid-term holiday begins	Mid-term holiday ends	Terms ends
Autumn 2021	Thursday 2 September	Monday 25 October	Friday 29 October	Friday 17 December
Spring 2022	Tuesday 4 January	Monday 21 February	Friday 25 February	Friday 8 April
Summer 2022	Monday 25 April	Monday 30 May	Friday 3 June	Friday 22 July

IMPORTANT DATES

Parents' Evening	27th September 2021 (3.30-6.30 p.m.)
Interim Reports Issued	9th December 2021
Parents' Evening	7th March 2022 (3.30-6.30 p.m.)
Reports Issued	15th July 2022

INSET DAYS

2nd September 2021
22nd October 2021
4th January 2022
18th February 2022
8th April 2022

CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone: 01792 533066

Head of Year: Mr. N. Binding
Pastoral Support Officer: Ms. C. Francis

School Website: www.penyrheol-comp.net
Twitter: [@Penyrheol](https://twitter.com/Penyrheol)

Survival Guide

Everything You Need To Know...

The first thing to appreciate is that parents find the transition from primary to secondary school far more stressful than their children! As with all the other milestones in your child's life you will want to feel that you are there supporting them. We hope that the following will provide you with some helpful tips and peace of mind.

What's New?

Perhaps the best way to help your child adapt to comprehensive school is to start by identifying the differences between what they have been used to and what they are going to have to get used to. If you are reading this parents' guide, it's a long time since you were in school – so here are some pointers to help. Pupils will have to get used to:

- * having several teachers instead of just one class teacher;
- * moving from room to room for each lesson;
- * carrying all they need for each lesson with them each day;
- * homework most nights and not just once or twice a week;
- * choosing their own food at break and lunch times and paying for it;
- * accepting more responsibility for their own learning;
- * perhaps walking or catching a bus to school on their own for the first time.

Who's Who?

Your child will have a different teacher for each subject. However their Head of Year, Pastoral Assistant and Form Teacher will be with them for the five years that they will be in school and will get to know each pupil really well. Encourage your child to see their Form Teacher as the first port of call for any problems which they may have. Anything which the Form Teacher cannot deal with will be referred to the Head of Year. If you as parents have any concerns please feel free to contact your child's Head of Year in writing or by phone or ask for an appointment.

By now you may be wondering how you as parents, as well as your child, are going to cope.

Let's take one point at a time...

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Organisation – The Key to Success

Moving from classroom to classroom to each lesson will present your child with problems they haven't encountered before and will mean that they will have to be more organised than they have been used to. We cannot emphasise the importance of good organisation strongly enough and recommend that you encourage your child to:

- * carry only the books, kit and other equipment that they need for that particular day;
- * look at his/her timetable each night and pack the books, kit and equipment needed for the following day;
- * check his/her homework diary to ensure that any homework due in the following day has been packed;
- * give adequate notice when things like ingredients for Food Technology have to be bought;
- * ensure they always have their own fully stocked pencil case including pens, pencils, rubber, sharpener, ruler, protractor, coloured pencils, drawing compass, scientific calculator (not programmable);
- * enter any important dates such as examinations and trips in their homework diary, and tick them off when they have been done.

Homework – Where, When and How?

Homework is important. It either extends or reinforces the work which has been done in class.

- * Your child will value homework and think it is important if you do.
- * Show an interest in homework tasks; discuss how they can be done or improved; test your child on learning or revision.
- * Set aside a quiet area with a table and chair for your child to work.
- * Set aside a time each night when homework is done, ideally before any leisure activities.
- * Ideally homework should be done on the night it is set. However if regular leisure commitments mean that it cannot be done on that evening, teach your child to use their homework diary to plan the night that it will be done in order to meet the deadline.
- * Check and sign your child's homework diary on a weekly basis to see they are keeping up to date with homework.

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You may find that providing some of the following will help with homework:

- * dictionaries – English, Welsh, French
- * scissors, glue, sellotape, card, paper
- * old newspapers, catalogues, magazines for cutting up
- * membership of local library
- * the internet
- * Help your child prepare for examinations by preparing a revision timetable.

Taking Control

By helping your child develop sound study skills and a thorough and organised approach to homework during their early days at comprehensive, you will be setting the pattern for the remainder of their school career. Ultimately, the aim must be for them to accept total responsibility for their own work.

Food for Thought

For the first time at school your child will be able to choose from a wide selection at break and lunch times. They will need to:

- * select a balanced and nutritious meal;
- * select within a fixed budget.

We're Getting There

Your child may well be setting off for school on their own for the first time. You may feel happier if they arrange to meet up with friends to make the journey together. Some parents find reassurance in giving their child a mobile phone so that they can get in touch on the way to and from school should something unexpected happen. We have no objection to this provided that:

- * the phone is switched off as soon as the child enters the school gates;
- * parents realise that school will not accept responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones.

Mobile phones are not expected to be seen or heard within the school buildings.

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Home - School Contact

Whilst you were taking your child to and from primary school you probably had quite a lot of informal contact with their class teacher, very probably on a daily basis. With your child now getting themselves to school this is now not possible. However, that does not mean that we don't like meeting parents – we do. There will be two parents' evenings during year seven and you will also receive regular written reports on your child's progress. We would also ask you to tell us if there are any events occurring in your child's life at home which may affect their performance in school so that we too are able to lend our support. In short, if there is anything causing you concern, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Absence from School

We would be grateful if you could **telephone on the first day of absence**;

The telephone call helps us to eliminate those children who are legitimately absent and we can then concentrate on phoning the parents of those children who are truanting. In an extreme case it would help us to raise the alarm early on if a child should go missing on the way to school.

Emergency Contact

Please provide us with a telephone number where you or a close relative can be contacted in an emergency or if your child is taken ill in school.

School Uniform

The community does not see the good work our pupils do inside the school building. What it sees and judges us on is our pupils' appearance and behaviour on their way to and from school. Please support us therefore by ensuring that your child wears full school uniform each day. This will enable teachers to spend less time enforcing school uniform and concentrate more on actually teaching. Jewellery must be restricted to one pair of earrings and one watch per pupil due to the need for pupils to remove these items during P.E. and practical lessons and the lack of secure storage for them. Make-up should not be worn.

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Looking Ahead

There is one certain thing about examinations – parents and teachers get far more wound up and find them far more stressful than the children do. However, it does help to motivate pupils if they are aware of the goals they are working towards. Formal examinations take place every year at the end of the summer term. During Year 9, your child will choose their options. This means that they will be able to choose between certain subjects. English, Mathematics and Science are core subjects and are of course compulsory. A number of GCSE examinations now take place during Year 10, as well as Year 11. Most subjects at GCSE contain controlled assessments that constitute a substantial part of the final mark. The pupils often accuse us of “nagging” about examinations and schoolwork, but we would greatly appreciate your support in this matter!

Term-Time Holidays

Tempting though it is to take advantage of off-peak prices, we would ask you to think twice before taking your child on holidays during term time. This makes it very difficult for children to catch up in Years 7 and 8 and can have a serious effect on examination results both internal and external (GCSE). Controlled assessments and modular examinations now occur throughout Years 10 and 11. As a School we cannot authorise any holidays during school time. If a holiday is taken during term time it is treated as an unauthorised absence.

We hope you have found these few pages helpful...However, if you have any other questions you would like answered, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Together we can guide your child towards a successful future.

Presentation of Work

1. Work must be presented neatly at all times.
2. Always write in blue or black pen.
3. Drawings or diagrams must be done in pencil but labelled in pen.
4. Always write in your neatest handwriting.
5. Lay out your work like this:

Classwork/Homework

Date

Title of Work

6. Put numbers or letters of questions in the margin.
7. Write on the top line of every page and start near the margin.
8. Write on every page. Don't leave big gaps.
9. No Tipp-Ex. Cross out mistakes with one straight line. Don't use brackets instead of crossing out.
10. No graffiti.

It is your responsibility to copy up work missed due to absence and ensure your work is complete.

English

Head of Department: Mrs. S. Marks

What will your child study in Year 7?

Each half term, pupils will focus on a different theme in which they will encounter a variety of fictional and non-fictional texts.

Reading

Some texts will require very little reading but others will need more in-depth reading and will be more challenging. The texts will require different approaches and responses.

Writing

Some of the writing tasks will require a brief response whilst others will focus on extended writing. Pupils will write a variety of different text types, for example, descriptive, narrative, instructional, informative and persuasive texts. Pupils will work on effective organisation of ideas in their writing but they will also be expected to write with grammatical accuracy and correct spelling. 50% of the marks will be given for spelling and grammar.

Speaking and Listening

Pupils will be involved in pair / group discussions as well as presenting individually.

Term	Theme	Key Tasks
Autumn Term (1st half term)	Children's Literature	Writing: Opening paragraph of a narrative
		Reading: Character analysis of a children's story character
Autumn Term (2nd half term)	Victorian Christmas	Speaking and Listening: Group discussion
		Reading: A short exam style reading test
		Writing: A speech to argue
Spring Term (1st half term)	Abandoned	Speaking and Listening: Individual researched presentation
Spring Term (2nd half term)		Writing: A descriptive paragraph
		Reading: Analysing a persuasive leaflet
		Writing: A persuasive paragraph
Summer Term (1st half term)	Exam Preparation	Practice papers for classwork and homework.
		Summer Term (2nd half term)
		Writing: An article to explain

English Cont...

How can you support your child?

- ◆ Making sure that all homework (written in diaries) is completed
- ◆ Reading with your child several times a week and talking about what you have read
- ◆ Having plenty of reading material at home such as books, newspapers and magazines
- ◆ Going through the spelling of words and helping your child learn
- ◆ Having a dictionary and thesaurus available for use at home
- ◆ Discussing work that is being done and offering ideas and suggestions
- ◆ Checking through written work and helping your child with punctuation, spelling and grammar
- ◆ Helping your child use the internet for research purposes.

English trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 7

These change each year but might include: author visits, writing workshops, theatre visits and occasional trips when relevant. Past trips have included a visit to the Harry Potter Studios.

Maths

Head of Department: Mr. G. Roberts

What will your child study in Year 7?

The nature of Maths and Numeracy has changed dramatically over the last few years and is very much focussed on thinking skills and problem solving rather than just showing that a child understands the basic processes. Many children do not understand that a considerable amount of the work given to them now will be unfamiliar questions where they have to identify the skills they have been taught and use them. Very often they will think they haven't been taught the work as they don't recognise the skills. This takes time and patience to overcome! In order to do this, we always ask a pupil to attempt a question first then ask if it is correct so that any misconceptions can be seen by the teacher rather than the pupil just saying "I don't understand".

Leaving questions un-attempted is not an option in Maths!

The following topics will be covered with differing degrees of difficulty:

Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication/Division	Divisibility & Number	Perimeter & Area
Reading Scales/Units	Algebra - Simplifying	Constructions
Fractions, Decimals & Percentages	Data Handling (1) & (2)	Negative Numbers
Algebra - Substitution & Formulae	Measuring & Drawing Angles	Angle facts
Linear Equations and Inequalities	Ration & Proportion	Probability
Number, Patterns & Sequences	Transformations	3D shapes

Classwork will not be marked by the teacher as it will be marked in lessons as part of self and peer assessment. If your child is away when a piece of work is marked then make sure that they borrow a book or booklet to mark it, asking the teacher if there is a problem. Your child's book can be asked for at any time to check that it is up to date and organised and self/peer marking will be monitored in this way.

Learning Maths is about practising skills and homework provides the ideal opportunity for this. It is very important that homework is attempted to the best of your child's ability. The type of homework set varies and may be:

♦♦ A 'My Maths' Task

If you do not have internet access at home then your son/daughter can use the ICT facilities in the library before and after school and at break time and lunchtime each day. Any workings needed should be done in the back of your child's book. Usually several days or even a week will be given to complete this task to allow for computer access issues.

- ♦♦ revision for a test;
- ♦♦ general revision;
- ♦♦ completing class work;
- ♦♦ a worksheet;
- ♦♦ a challenge or a problem.

You will be informed if there is a persistent problem with homework completion via interim reports.

Maths Cont...

How will your child be assessed?

Pupils will be taught in their form class with each lesson tailored to meet the needs of each individual pupil. Progress will be assessed throughout the year with a test at the end of each unit of work. There will be an exam at the end of the year.

We do not use homework to assess your child's level as they could have worked with someone, had help, or sometimes (unfortunately) copied in a rush!

How can you support your child?

- ◆ Help your child learn their tables if they are not confident. This can be done by writing them out, chanting them and then testing them out of sequence. If your child can only answer a question like 6×8 by counting up 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48 then they are not fluent enough to be fully confident.
- ◆ Make sure your child has a safe place to keep all booklets and books and if one is lost it is a good idea to photocopy another pupil's book so you have the work.
- ◆ If your child is away from school, ensure that work is copied up straight away by borrowing another pupil's book or booklet. After the work is copied up your child can ask the teacher for help if it is needed.
- ◆ Encourage your child to 'have a go' and show methods without fear of being wrong. Fear of failure is a big barrier to learning in Maths.
- ◆ Ensure they have the correct equipment including a scientific calculator (preferably a Casio).

With homework - If your child is finding a homework task difficult, you can help in the following ways:

- ◆ Encourage them to look in their books and online for any examples or information they may have forgotten. If it is a 'My Maths' task, make sure they are using the lesson button at the corner of the homework task.
- ◆ Encourage them to do the question first and then ask you to check it, rather than you telling them what to do. You will then be able to see where they have gone wrong to home in on where they are getting stuck.
- ◆ Make sure they understand that homework is an opportunity to research and revise so all questions should be attempted. If they get them wrong then the teacher will go over any misconceptions in class with them.

It is very tempting as a parent to sit and help too much which ultimately doesn't develop the skills your child needs to cope with the new Maths curriculum. However, by following these guidelines you are reinforcing the principles we follow in school which will be very beneficial to your child. Encourage them to try the homework as they get it! Far too many pupils leave it until the night before or even the morning it is due in.

Science

Head of Department: Mrs. T. Tate

What will your child study in Year 7?

We are aiming to create the scientists of tomorrow by studying the topics of:

Changing State	Practical Skills Unit	Forces	Life Story	Living Things & Plant Power
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Your child will improve their thinking skills by:

- ♦ conducting a series of enquiries within the above topics that will develop your child's planning, analysing and reflection skills;
- ♦ developing their thinking tools and learning strategies as part of teaching and learning.

How will your child be assessed?

All Year 7 pupils are taught in mixed ability forms. Pupils are set at the end of Year 7 using enquiry levels (and the Year 7 summer examination result).

How can you support your child?

- ♦ Look through your child's exercise book with them. Encourage your child to complete any unfinished work, improve the presentation of their work, and to discuss the concepts they have studied. This will help with test revision.
- ♦ Emphasise the importance of completing quality homework on time. Feel free to help your child contact our department if they are experiencing difficulty.
- ♦ Please ensure that your child copies up work missed, if they have been absent from school.
- ♦ Help your child to develop study skills when revising for tests and examinations. Buying a Key Stage 3 revision guide can help – these can often contain glossy diagrams and questions to help your child to test their understanding.
- ♦ Encourage your child to understand the world of science beyond school. There are many books and internet sites available to fuel your child's imagination.
- ♦ Visits to Techniquest and local museums also help to develop an inquisitive nature.

Art

Head of Department: Mrs. V. Hine

What will your child study in Year 7?

During Year 7 students will undertake various art projects that will be divided into two units of work. Pupils will be guided through the national curriculum requirements focusing on exploring, investigating, analysing and evaluating.

Autumn Term (Sep - Feb)	Aboriginal Art Project
<p>In this unit students are given the opportunity to explore and understand the artwork of the Aboriginal culture. They will learn about the various symbols within their artwork, x-ray animals and spiritual beliefs. Pupils will learn that the Aboriginal people believe the earth to be the mother of all things. The dreamtime is the core of their beliefs where they believe that the entire world was made by their ancestors.</p> <p>For this project pupils will focus on line, pattern and colour, and they will produce a decorative print based on symbols and x-ray animals for a final outcome. Annotation will be creatively applied to their work. Pupils' work will be highly decorated and sketchbook work will provide reference for their outcome of a polystyrene print and a ceramic boomerang.</p>	
Spring Term (Feb - Jul)	Portraits
<p>In this unit pupils are given the opportunity to develop specific skills focusing on the topic 'portraiture'. Students will learn about the various styles of different artists throughout time. They will engage in experimenting with a range of materials and develop painting skills. Pupils will research Picasso, Edvard Munch and various artists which is to inspire and enrich their knowledge of famous portraits created by well known famous artists. All evidence of learning is to be recorded and dated in booklets provided, focusing on key skills, improving own learning, literacy skills, numeracy and the DCF. The final outcome will be to produce a painting in the style of one of the artists researched. Each lesson will involve class discussions on prior learning and pupils will have an understanding of what level they are currently working at and know how to improve. Students will also be involved in peer assessment, group assessment and self-assessment during lessons.</p>	

All pupils will need to have basic art equipment for their lessons

How will your child be assessed?

In each project pupils will apply numeracy within their work to develop artistic abilities and mathematical skills. They will also complete literacy tasks and evaluate their learning to improve literacy skills. All pupils record their learning regularly and set targets in order to continue to develop and meet their end of year target level.

How can you support your child?

- ♦♦ Visit art galleries & museums to increase their knowledge of art.
- ♦♦ Watch art documentaries to increase knowledge of artists.
- ♦♦ Ensure your child is spending quality time on their homework & provide essential art equipment
- ♦♦ Encourage internet research of various artists and cultures.

Art trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 7

Visits to local galleries and exhibitions are arranged as and when relevant.

Cymraeg

Head of Department: Miss. B. R. Davies

What will your child study in Year 7?

Welsh traditions, culture, the Welsh language	Me, leisure time
Eisteddfod preparations	School

How will your child be assessed?

Autumn Term
Individual speaking assessment on personal details
Spring Term
Reading comprehension on 'hobbies', a personal written letter
Summer Term
A pair/group conversation on 'school'

The KS3 National Curriculum Welsh Second Language levels are made up of the following weightings:
Oracy tasks are 60%, reading and writing tasks are worth 20% each.

How can you support your child?

- ◆ Encourage your child to follow the 3 Rs:
 - Record** - It is essential that pupils record the subject (Cymraeg), the task set (as written on the board by the classroom teacher) and the date for handing in the gwaith cartref
 - Routine** - Do encourage a regular set time for homework completion. Quite often, learning work will be given for a vocabulary test or a conversation.(sgwrs)
 - Result** - Homework is an opportunity for pupils to prove their understanding of the work covered in class and to improve their own individual performance.
- ◆ Ensure that your child completes homework by the due date.
- ◆ Test your child when revising.
- ◆ Check your child's book for neatness, for progress being made and for staff comments.
- ◆ Ensuring that your child's bag is ready for each day with the correct books and equipment.
- ◆ Use the Welsh that your child knows at home and watch S4C occasionally!
- ◆ Show your child the following keyboard shortcuts for using Welsh letters:

Hold down the ALT button and type in the numbers on the right hand side of the computer keyboard. The number lock must be on.

â = ALT + 0226 ê = ALT + 0234
î = ALT + 0238 ô = ALT + 0244
û = ALT + 150

Design & Technology

Head of Department: Mr. M. Rees

What will your child study in Year 7?

At Key Stage 3, pupils will be given the opportunities to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired at Key Stage 2. They will be taught to design and make products by combining their designing and making skills with knowledge and understanding in contexts that allow them to make decisions based on the values that underpin society, helping them to become active and informed citizens.

The pupils will be made aware of human achievements and the big ideas that have shaped the world. They will be encouraged to be enterprising and innovative in their designing and making while having regard for sustainability and environmental issues in the 21st century.

Pupils will experience the three areas of Design Technology on offer at Penyrheol, twice over the key stage:

Food & Nutrition	Fashion & Textiles	Product Design
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How will your child be assessed?

Each course is individually assessed by the specialist teacher. All pupils will sit an end of year exam which covers general Design and Technology elements.

How can you support your child?

- ♦♦ By showing an interest in the work they are doing in Design and Technology – the subject has changed massively since you were in school!
- ♦♦ By speaking about items in the news of a technological nature – this helps to develop an interest.
- ♦♦ By helping with homework and stressing the importance of producing the best work of your child's ability.

Drama

Head of Department: Mrs. A. Williams-Sheaf

What will your child study in Year 7?

In Key Stage Three, Drama focuses on developing skills that will allow each pupil to gain confidence in their abilities as an individual, work effectively as a team and gain a deeper understanding of the world using performance skills, dramatic forms and theatre skills and techniques.

Pupils will be involved in schemes of work that will explore and develop the following skills:

Making
Pupils will be observed and assessed in lessons on the contribution of ideas that demonstrate understanding of skills and techniques which lead to finished presentations and the ability to work well with others.
Performing
In assessed tasks, marks are awarded for ability to perform characters using voice, movement and facial expressions. Marks are also awarded for using dramatic techniques and theatre styles, good use of space and for effective communication with other actors and with the audience.
Evaluating
This takes place when work is presented in lessons. This involves the ability to reflect and comment on own and others' work. This may be done verbally or in writing. Performances are evaluated by pupils by commenting on what was effective and why, and what could be improved and how.

How will your child be assessed?

Work is marked in levels for each area of assessment e.g.:

Making Level 4- Performing Level 4+ Evaluating Level 3+

An overall level is then awarded at the end of each assessment which would consider all three areas.

For the above it would be Level 4. Formal assessment takes place every term and targets are given for areas of improvement.

How can you support your child?

Parents/guardians can assist the development of their child's work by discussing the content of each lesson and debating topical issues and current affairs in order to build confidence, improve communication skills and form opinions.

Drama trips and extra curricular activities in Year 7

We attempt to take theatre trips whenever possible and/or host visiting theatre groups. Pupils also have the opportunity to participate in our exciting school productions.

French

Head of Department: Mrs. C. Young

What will your child study in Year 7?

The Year 7 course involves oracy (speaking & listening), reading, and writing through purposeful and entertaining activities which build up language learning gradually. Topics studied include:

Bonjour <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Say hello and goodbye.2. Talk about your name and age.3. Ask people how they are and say how you are.4. Use numbers up to 20.5. Talk about things in the classroom.6. Understand classroom commands.	Les animaux <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask questions.2. Talk about pets.3. Describe things, including their colour and size.4. Express opinions.
J'habite ici <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Talk about where you live.2. Talk about other people & places.3. Use numbers up to 30.4. Say what day of the week it is.5. Spell words using the French alphabet.	Des fêtes et des festivals <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask for the day and date.2. Discuss important events in the year.3. Talk about clothes.4. Talk about birthdays & presents.5. Wish people a Happy Easter etc.6. Use numbers 70-100 & beyond.7. Describe yourself & other people.
Chez Moi <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Talk about families & homes.2. Say who things belong to.3. Use numbers up to 70.4. Understand about masculine & feminine words.5. Describe where things are in a room.	Qu'est-ce que tu fais? <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Talk about the weather.2. Say what the temperature is.3. Talk about the months & seasons.4. Talk about sport & leisure activities.5. Say what you do at weekends.

How will your child be assessed?

Year 7 are regularly assessed in class through all four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. They will also have learning homeworks.

How can you support your child?

- By testing vocabulary and numbers.
- By assisting your child in using the dictionary.
- By making your child aware of French products in the supermarket.
- By using www.languagesonline.org.uk

French trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 7

There is a lunchtime language club which pupils are encouraged to attend.

Geography

Head of Department: Mr. M. Hyndman

What will your child study in Year 7?

What is Geography?	Continents and Countries	Gorseinon and Map Skills
Divided World	Wales	

How will your child be assessed?

Pupils are assessed using a variety of strategies including:

- ♦ extended writing tasks;
- ♦ location map tests;
- ♦ numeracy and literacy exercises to provide a best fit level.

How can you support your child?

- ♦ Encourage your child to look through an atlas, in particular, maps of Wales, the United Kingdom, Europe and the Continents, to improve their knowledge.
- ♦ On journeys and holidays, allow your son/daughter to follow a map to improve their route planning.
- ♦ If any geographical events are on the news e.g. flooding, earthquakes, tourism or an environmental issue, encourage your child to watch.
- ♦ Take an interest in environmental organisation or adopt an endangered animal

Geography trips and extra curricular activities in Year 7

In October of Year 7, we undertake fieldwork in the local area.

History

Head of Department: Dr. C. J. Rees

What will your child study in Year 7?

WALES AND BRITAIN IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD c. 1000-1500

The Norman Conquest of Britain	Castles
Life in Medieval Society	The Black Death
The Peasants' Revolt	The Crusades
King John and Magna Carta	The Welsh Princes' struggle for independence

As a result of studying History, pupils will develop the ability to: -

- ♦ explain the causes and consequences of events;
- ♦ examine and evaluate evidence;
- ♦ be aware of different points of view in History;
- ♦ research and investigate topics;
- ♦ communicate in ideas in a variety of ways.

How will your child be assessed?

Your child will undertake 5 ASSESSMENT TASKS, designed to test and improve their historical skills: -

1) September – Chronology and periods of History.
2) December – A project on why castles changed.
3) January – A research task on life in the town.
4) February/March – Examining the causes and consequences of the Black Death
5) April/May – King John, a good or bad King?

How can you support your child?

- ♦ By providing plenty of appropriate **READING** material such as the “Horrible History” Series.
- ♦ By visiting historical sites such as Cosmeston Medieval Village, or local castles.
- ♦ By encouraging your child to use the internet for research purposes.
- ♦ By checking through written work and helping with punctuation and grammar.
- ♦ By ensuring your child completes set homework tasks.

History trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 7

In October of Year 7, we undertake a fieldwork visit to Kidwelly Castle to assist pupils with their projects on how and why castles changed.

I.C.T

Head of Department: Mr. R. Marks

What will your child study in Year 7?

At Key Stage 3, learners are given opportunities to build on the skills, knowledge and understanding they have acquired at Key Stage 2. They are taught to become increasingly independent when making use of safe and suitable information sources, both ICT and non-ICT. They will have the chance to develop a range of ICT skills and become familiar with a selection of resources to find, analyse, communicate, present and share information. They will become more aware of the need to check the accuracy of their work and consider the advantages and limitations of using ICT in the other subjects they study. This will enable them to become increasingly aware of the social, ethical, moral and economic effects of ICT in the wider society.

On first entering Penyrheol Comprehensive School in Year 7, all pupils are shown how to use the hardware and software correctly and efficiently. They are also informed of the rules applying to ICT within the school. This is supported by pupils and parents signing the school's Information and Communication Technology Acceptable Use Policy.

TASK 1: Pupils are asked to create a multimedia presentation/video based on the title of 'Citizens of Wales and the World'. They have some freedom to choose the final intended audience of their presentation but must try and promote positive aspects of Wales such as tourism, our ethos towards the environment and sustainability, culture, language etc. They will start to learn how to combine multiple forms of media in an automated presentation.

TASK 2: Pupils begin to learn how data collection methods and data processing can be used to produce informed reports. The title of this work is 'Healthy Eating and Healthy Living'. Pupils will create their own electronic surveys and gather data about diet, sleep and exercise habits from friends and family. They will then process and analyse the data to help them spot trends perhaps associated with age, gender or exercise frequency. Pupils will present their findings along with healthy advice for the final audience.

TASK 3: Pupils will research using teacher-led sessions and the World Wide Web to present E-Safety information to their choice of audience. Pupils can also choose their format of presentation e.g. video, poster, leaflet to help get a specific E-Safety message across. During this task, pupils will also be taught how to focus their searches on the web using more refined search techniques available in web-based search engines.

TASK 4: Towards the end of Year 7, the focus moves towards coding. Pupils will have a chance to experience both drag and drop and typed coding techniques. The code they produce will create movement and output on screen and in programmable devices such as drones, buggies and BBC micro:bits.

How will your child be assessed?

Pupils' overall ICT levels are derived from classroom and homework tasks that they complete throughout the year. Pupils will also sit an end of year test that contributes to the feedback they receive on their final Year 7 report.

How can you support your child?

Parents can help by making sure pupils read the instructions on each homework sheet carefully before completing them. Assistance for parents can be found online at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

ICT trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 7

There is an ICT Club each Wednesday at lunch time where pupils get the opportunity to practise programming, games design and lego robotics.

Twitter: @penyrheolICT

Music

Head of Department: Mrs. L. Phipps

What will your child study in Year 7?

- ◆ Learning to perform vocally and on a variety of instruments including keyboard, ukulele, guitar and percussion instruments
- ◆ Learning to compose for a variety of instruments including the voice
- ◆ Learning to listen critically to a wide range of music from various styles, eras and backgrounds.
- ◆ Learning to develop ICT skills using I pad software packages

Topics covered in Year 7 include:

Elements of Music	Instrumental skills	Welsh Music
Carnival Music	Band Skills	

How will your child be assessed?

There is a class assessment at the end of each half term where the pupils will perform the piece they have been working on.

How can you support your child?

- ◆ Encourage them to learn an instrument through the in-school peripatetic service (Strings, Woodwind, Brass, keyboard, singing and guitar)
- ◆ Encourage them to participate in one of the many extracurricular ensembles - Junior Choir, Woodwind Group, String Group, Orchestra, School Production
- ◆ Enable them to practice on a musical instrument at home
- ◆ Listen to your child singing and make helpful comments
- ◆ Attend concerts that your child is performing in
- ◆ Encourage them to listen to a broad range of music
- ◆ Take them to performances of live music (musicals, rock concerts, classical concerts, festivals etc.)

Music trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 7

The department organises a wide selection of extra curricular activities including girls' and boys' choirs and music clubs for keyboard, guitar, strings and woodwind. Pupils get the chance to perform at both the Summer and Christmas concerts and some have the opportunity to participate in the annual school production. Year 7 pupils are encouraged to participate in the annual St Davids Day Eisteddfod.

Physical Education

Head of Department: Mr. A. Clapperton
Teacher in Charge of Girls Ms. N. Evans

What will your child study in Year 7?

Pupils are taught a range of activities in each of the National Curriculum areas:

Competitive Activities **Outdoor & Adventurous** **Health & Wellbeing** **Creative Activities**

Participation

Encourage your child to participate in every lesson with the correct kit. Send a letter in an envelope if they are too ill to participate. Usually if they are fit enough to be in school they can take part in P.E. Lessons.

Effort

Whatever your child's ability it is important that they participate with the maximum effort in all lessons. It doesn't matter if you can't do a forward roll as long as you try.

Safety

Accidents in PE can be avoided by the following rules:-

- ♦♦ All trainers must be tied up properly
- ♦♦ No jewellery to be worn. Please provide tape for earrings which cannot be removed.
- ♦♦ All instructions given by PE teachers are concerned with safety.
- ♦♦ Encourage your child to listen and carry out the appropriate instructions.

How will your child be assessed?

Pupils are awarded a National Curriculum level based on their performance and knowledge across all the areas. An average level of 3- 4 is expected in Year 7.

How can you support your child?

Ensure your child has the correct P.E. Uniform/Kit (Available from Picton Sports, Sew & Sew & T.D. Team-wear):

Girls:	P. E. T-shirt (Blue and white with badge), shorts/skorts, leggings, sports socks. rugby shirt (optional), swimming kit, trainers (not school shoes), astro trainers, football boots.
Boys	Football boots, Towel (if outside lesson), P. E. T-shirt, shorts/skorts, sports socks. rugby shirt (optional), swimming kit, trainers and football boots and/or Astro trainers.

P.E. trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 7

Full programme of 5x60 activities, available during and after school.

Full range of sports teams and training opportunities. Competitive matches and inter-school tournaments.

Sports Tours are also organised.

*****Squad members of ANY team, are expected to be reliable and committed*****

Religious Education

Head of Department: Mrs. L. Picton

What will your child study in Year 7?

Through the course pupils will be engaging with fundamental questions, exploring religious beliefs, teachings and practices and expressing personal responses. After being introduced to the worlds six main religions, Year 7 pupils will go on to study:

Human Experience
The Journey of Life – different stages of life for example Christening/Believer's Baptism, Bar-Mitzvah (becoming an adult), marriage, death.
Relationships and responsibility.
Human identity, for example the image of God.
Beliefs, faith and symbolism e.g. Christianity the Trinity.
Belonging, demonstrating commitment through worship, including a study of the Church, the Synagogue, the Sabbath/Shabbat.
Inspirational people e.g. Mother Teresa, Poverty, Work of Local Charities, Mary Jones' quest for the bible.
Search for Meaning
Knowledge and experience of the non-material/spiritual-impact of religion/religious commitment on individuals, communities and society.

How will your child be assessed?

Specific level assessments throughout the year may include comparing a Christening/Infant Baptism to a Believer's Baptism, a Christian to a Jewish or Hindu marriage, The Sabbath/Shabbat and a study of Mother Teresa.

How can you support your child?

- ♦♦ Encouraging your child to use the library for reading material and for research
- ♦♦ Helping your child to use the internet for research and revision purposes
- ♦♦ Encouraging your child to write full detailed responses, particularly with evaluation answers and level assessments
- ♦♦ Testing your child on the spelling and meaning of key words
- ♦♦ Checking through written work and helping your child to be accurate with punctuation and grammar
- ♦♦ Ensuring that set homework is completed on time and revision is carried out for set tests/examinations
- ♦♦ Ensuring the required equipment is brought to lessons e.g. pencils, pens, exercise book
- ♦♦ Helping your child to read any written material they find difficult
- ♦♦ Discussing work that is being done and offering ideas and suggestions
- ♦♦ Being supportive, encouraging self-belief and helping them to seize the opportunity to secure future success.

R.E. trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 7

Where possible, Year 7 pupils may visit a Synagogue in Cardiff and/or St Catherine's church in Gorseinon. The Gsus Bus, a special computer bus visits the school every two to three years for pupils to undertake moral case studies.

Notes