

West Monmouth School



I am proud and privileged to be leading the learning community both within and outside the West Monmouth School environment.

West Monmouth School is a very caring school providing a wide range of opportunities for all pupils in order that they are able to reach their full potential, irrespective of their talents and personal qualities. Every child really does matter to us.

We pride ourselves on nurturing strong relationships with all of our parents and carers in pursuit of a common aim.....preparing all learners to be happy, responsible and successful in an ever-changing and competitive world. I genuinely do believe that the stronger the relationship between home and school, the more likely the successful outcome for everyone. We try to be a listening school and use every opportunity to allow

parents and learners to influence our practice for the better.

Our most recent Inspection in April 2010 was extremely positive in all aspects of school life and reflects our dynamic and forward thinking approach to learning. Links with our primary feeder schools were described as outstanding. Our present curriculum is rich and benefits from being delivered by a well qualified, innovative and enthusiastic staff.

I have very high personal standards and expectations for all those connected with West Monmouth School, but equally important, it is my challenge to ensure that everyone feels valued as part of a very caring community focused on the highest possible achievement for each individual.

I look forward to meeting you personally if WMS appeals to the learning needs of your child. Together we can make a difference!!

Kindest Regards

Clive Jackson, Headteacher

Statement by Chair of Governors



West Monmouth School represents something unique and very special in Torfaen, having been educating youngsters for more than a century. It is built on a rich history, but embraces modern thinking as can be witnessed in the broad curriculum available and the new facilities developed in recent years. West Monmouth pupils excel in all fields, and examination results are especially impressive. Every pupil is encouraged to be a self-confident and tolerant individual with respect for the differences of others. West Monmouth people have enjoyed success in all areas of human endeavour, and some have even changed our world. I hope that your child will become part of this proud legacy.

Stephen Senior

Good School

A good school must draw its strength from the world around it. It must bring adults from that world into the school, and it must encourage its students to go into that world and learn from it - even improve it a little, if they can.

Young people from good schools will know that not all problems in the world have been solved already and that they can solve some of them better than their elders.

A good school will show its pupils that there is more than one way of being clever.

School Mission Statement

We value the contribution of each individual and endeavour to be a community asset which offers a wide range of high quality experiences, to ensure our pupils reach their full potential and are well equipped to confront today's challenges and to prepare for tomorrow's continuing journey of life-long learning and changing career opportunities.



Dates of School Year 2011-2012

Autumn Term	2nd September - 20th December
Autumn Half Term	24th October - 28th October
Spring Term	3rd January - 5th April
Spring Half Term	13th February - 17th February
Summer Term	23rd April - 19th July
May Day Bank Holiday	7th May
Summer Half Term	4th June - 8th June

Times of School Day

Morning Registration/Assembly	8.25.a.m. - 8.45.a.m.
Lessons 1 and 2	8.45.a.m. - 10.45.a.m.
Break	10.45.a.m. - 11.15.a.m.
Lessons 3 and 4	11.15.a.m. - 1.15.p.m.
Lunch	1.15.p.m. - 1.55.p.m.
Lesson 5	2.00.p.m. - 3.00.p.m.

Admissions

Parents wishing to enrol their child at West Monmouth School are encouraged to visit the school and to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. Thereafter, contact should be made with the Local Education Authority requesting

permission for the child to be enrolled. This is in line with the current L.E.A. policy on admissions. The school is in a position to admit up to 220 pupils per year group

School Uniform

Staff and Governors believe that the wearing of uniform is important in helping to create a sense of belonging to a community. In general, it ensures your children are dressed appropriately and safely for the demands of school life. Pupils are not allowed to wear make-up and jewellery (apart from one signet ring and a set of ear studs). All items of uniform should be marked with the child's name for ease of identification.

Details of the school uniform and a list of suppliers are available from the school office.



Pupil Voice

Each Year Group has a Year Council, made up of two pupils from each registration class. From each of the respective Year Councils, two members are elected to the School

Council. Meetings are held once every half term, chaired by the Head Boy and Head Girl. The School Council plays an active role in the School's decision making.



Lunchtime Arrangements

Pupils are not allowed off site at break time. With the exception of Year 11, all pupils must remain on the school site at lunch time. Pupils may choose to eat from the main

Dining Hall or the other eateries on the school site. A variety of foods are available each day. Some pupils may wish to bring a packed lunch, which can be eaten in the Dining Hall.

School Organisation

West Monmouth School is led by the Headteacher, Mr. C. Jackson, supported by the Senior Leadership Team, which comprises Mr. M. Rees, Mr. J. Allan, Miss C. Hughes and Mr. G. Cooksey.

The academic organisation of the school is based on subject departments, each of which is led by a Head of Department, who is responsible for programmes of study and effective teaching and learning of the subject

specialism of the department. (See the back cover of this prospectus).

For pastoral purposes, the school is divided into Upper School (Years 10 & 11) and Lower School (Years 7, 8 & 9) under the leadership of the Head of Lower School and Head of Upper School.

Each Key Stage has a Head of School, Deputy Head of School and a Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator, together with a team of Form Tutors.

Pastoral Care

At West Monmouth School, pastoral care means looking after the total welfare of each pupil.

In providing the right environment and support for all its pupils, the school recognises that all teachers are involved in the pastoral care of its pupils. However, many members of staff have designated pastoral responsibilities and some members have specific pastoral roles. Pastoral matters can be dealt with during the daily registration period. A specific team of Form Tutors in Year 7, under the leadership of the Head of Transition, support the pupils as they settle into their new environment.

Each year group's team of pastoral teachers is managed by the Head and Deputy Head of School. These members of staff fulfil a wide ranging pastoral role, and who are the first point of contact between school and home. The Head of Transition will work closely with Year 6 pupils and then remain with them for their first year at West Monmouth School. The Head of Transition will build on

our strong and successful links to the Primary Schools within the West Monmouth catchment area. The importance that the school attaches to these links is reinforced by subject staff who spend some of their time teaching lessons in the Primary Schools. This allows the Primary Pupils to become familiar with the staff at West Monmouth, and ultimately make the transition process as smooth as possible.



Leadership of the Pastoral Teams is provided by the Head of Transition (Year 7), Head of Lower School (Years 8 & 9) and Head of Upper School (Years 10 & 11). The teams meet regularly to discuss matters of pastoral concern and to further develop the pastoral programme which provides a strong framework for the school's pastoral care.



Curriculum Organisation and Approved Qualifications

The school operates a ten-day timetable and each day includes five one-hour lessons, which meets National Assembly requirements. The medium of teaching is English. Welsh is taught as a second language throughout Key Stages 3 and 4.

During Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) the following subjects are taught:

- English
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Welsh
- Geography
- History
- Religious Education
- Art (incorporating Textiles)
- Manufacturing
- Design: Control
- Music
- Drama
- Physical Education
- Food
- Personal, Social and Health Education
- Vocational Studies

In Year 7, Teaching Groups are organised in mixed ability groupings, and follow a theme-based approach to learning. Much emphasis is placed on ensuring that pupils of all abilities are suitably challenged by the learning opportunities presented to them. This requires careful differentiation of learning materials and teaching methods. Exceptionally able pupils are encouraged to develop any particular aptitudes they may have and each subject department is required to operate procedures for identifying such pupils and suitable strategies for teaching them.

At Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11) all pupils study a common core of subjects, consisting of:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science (Double Award)
- Welsh
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Life Skills/PCSHE

Additionally, pupils choose optional subjects from the following list:

- Science (Separate Physics, Chemistry and Biology)
- Child Development
- Art
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Welsh
- Religious Education
- Technology
- Business Studies
- History
- Geography
- ICT
- Drama
- Music
- Physical Education
- Catering
- Health and Social Care

These subjects are taught to GCSE level. Some are also available at Entry Level.



The following vocational courses are also offered at Key Stage 4:

- B.Tech Hospitality and Catering
- B.Tech Graphics
- B.Tech Business Studies
- B.Tech ICT
- B.Tech Science
- B.Tech Art and Design
- B.Tech Health and Social Care
- B.Tech Travel and Tourism
- B.Tech Performing Arts
- B.Tech Countryside and Environment
- B.Tech Sport

As part of 14 -19 Pathways pupils also have the opportunity to study the following courses at Coleg Gwent. The courses are followed at Usk, Pontypool and Newport Campus. Courses currently offered at NVQ Level 1 are Hair and Beauty, Small Animal Care, Motor Vehicle Studies and Construction. Media Studies is offered by U.C.W. Newport.

An alternative curriculum is available for a small number of pupils whom the full curriculum does not suit. They follow the core curriculum, a vocational subject and spend one day a week on related work experience. The work experience is linked to NVQ Level 1.

Further details on curriculum matters are available on application to the school.

School Examination Policy

West Monmouth has an open policy for entry into public examinations. Following consultation between pupil, teacher and, if necessary, parents, pupils are entered for the appropriate

public examination. On the rare occasion when it is necessary to withdraw pupils from examinations, this is done with the knowledge and consent of both pupils and parents.



Homework Policy

All students should be encouraged to realise that homework (work relating to school subjects undertaken outside of lesson times) is a vital part of the learning process.

Pupils are provided with homework timetables and staff are expected to set homework in accordance to it. All teachers are aware of the need for prompt and consistent marking of homework and of clear feedback to pupils.

The school provides each Key Stage 3 pupil with a Homework Diary, and pupils are encouraged to have it in their possession at all times, making a note of all homework set. The school encourages



parents to check the diary regularly and to make comments within it. These comments will be picked up by pupils' registration teachers, during a diary monitoring process in registration periods. Key Stage 4 pupils are issued with Student Planners and are expected to record all homework set. These too can be monitored by both parents and staff.

The school provides various opportunities for pupils to do homework using school facilities. The computer suites are available for pupil use during lunchtimes and after school until 4.00p.m. Pupils are also offered support through subject clinics and homework clubs.

Religious Education

Students follow a broad, balanced and relevant programme of Religious Education in Years 7 to 11.

Collective worship is delivered through full school and year group assemblies. Parents wishing to view the Religious Education syllabus can contact one of the



Assistant Heads. Those parents with specific religious beliefs, who would like their child to be excused from assemblies, should contact the relevant Head of School to discuss the matter. There is a "Thought for the Fortnight" which is introduced to pupils each morning, to provide individual reflection.

Welsh Education

In line with National Curriculum legislation, all pupils are taught Welsh as a second language. Each pupil follows a compulsory Welsh programme from Year 7 to Year 11, and those wishing to extend their familiarity with the language can choose to take it as a GCSE subject at Key Stage 4. Pupils have the opportunity to practise their spoken Welsh during residential visits to the

Urdd (Welsh Youth Organisation) camp at Llangrannog, and also by attending Welsh Club at lunch times. The school holds an annual Eisteddfod, and has enjoyed success in competing at the Pontypool Eisteddfod. Both pupils and staff are encouraged to use incidental Welsh across the range of curriculum areas.

English KS3 Results

Level	Results 2010	Results 2009
1	-	-
2	1	2
3	10	9
4	26	30
5	46	39
6	15	18
7	-	-
8	-	-
W	-	-
D	-	-
N	-	2

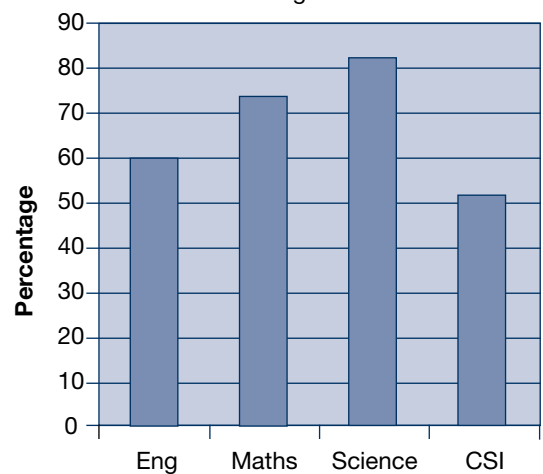
Mathematics KS3 Results

Level	Results 2010	Results 2009
1	-	-
2	-	-
3	6	9
4	28	19
5	23	33
6	25	28
7	10	10
8	6	1
W	-	1
D	-	-
N	-	1

Science KS3 Results

Level	Results 2010	Results 2009
1	-	-
2	-	-
3	2	2
4	25	9
5	50	46
6	20	25
7	1	15
8	-	-
W	-	-
D	-	-
N	-	4

Percentage of Pupils Achieving Level 5 or Higher at KS3 2010



Abbreviations

- TA Teacher Assessment
- A Pupil who failed to register level due to absence
- D Pupil who failed to register level due to disapplied
- N Pupil who failed to register level for a reason other than absence



Key Stage 4 Results 2010

GCSE	Pupils	2010 A* - C	2009 A* - C	2008 A* - C	2010 A* - G	2009 A* - G	2008 A* - G
Art	18	88.9	92.3	82.6	100	100	100
Astronomy	7	0	0	25	85.7	83.3	100
Child Development	24	45.8	13.3	25.9	95.8	100	100
D & T (Res Materials)	47	53.2	59.2	57.4	100	100	100
Drama	11	45.5	57.7	60	100	100	100
English Language	227	40.5	43.4	52.8	97.4	94.4	97.7
English Literature	99	69.7	66.7	82.4	97.4	100	100
French	35	97.1	77.4	91.1	100	100	100
Geography	58	63.8	52.9	75.6	98.3	98	100
German	3	100	100	100	100	100	100
History	49	71.4	77.8	68.4	95.9	100	84.2
ICT	31	82.2	89	72	100	100	100
ICT (Applied DA)	30	73.3	75	86.1	100	100	100
ICT (Short)	11	18.2	14.3	80	100	100	100
Mathematics	223	51	40.5	49.2	96.7	88.5	97.8
Music	23	45.5	86.7	75	95.7	100	100
Physical Education	58	75.9	97	77.6	100	100	100
PE (Short)	2	0	50		100	100	
Science Biology	32	87.5	94.1	87.5	100	100	100
Science Chemistry	32	84.4	94.1	100	100	100	100
Science Physics	32	87.5	94.1	81.3	100	100	100
Science (A)	150	49.3	33.1	41.9	98.7	96.4	98.4
Science (Additional)	105	59	51.8	60.2	100	96.4	99.1
Spanish	19	100			100		
Welsh (Short)	94	61.7	29.2	69.2	98.9	98.6	100
Welsh (Full)	9	22.2			100		
PE (Yr 10)			100	100		100	100
Mathematics (Yr 10)	16	100	100	95.5	100	100	95.5
ICT (Yr 10)	19	100	100	100	100	100	100

AS Level Results 2010

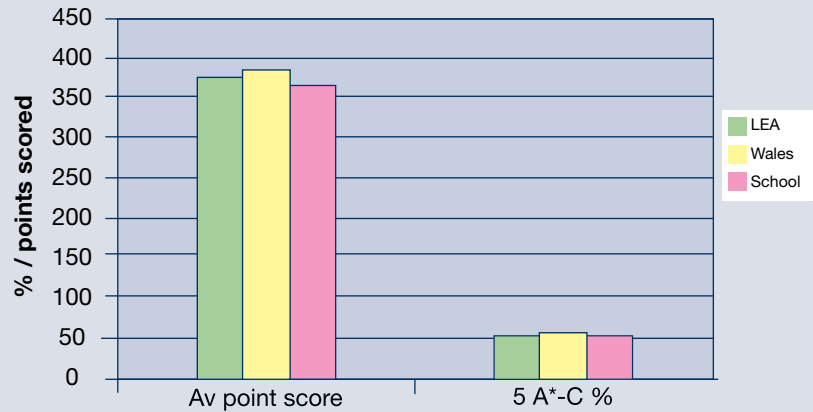
As LEVEL	No Ent	A	B	C	D	E	U
ICT	1	4	8	3	0	0	0
Mathematics	1	5	6	2	1	3	0
Music	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
PE	3	0	0	1	2	0	0

ENTRY LEVEL	No Ent	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Life Skills	8	5	2	1
Humanities	7	2	5	0
ICT	7	2	4	1
English	33	2	24	6
Science	7	2	4	1

GCSE Results 2010

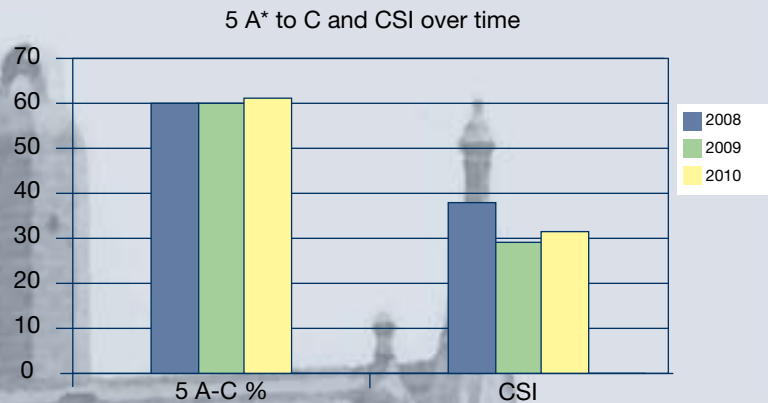
	Av Point score	5 A*-C%
LEA	380.9	60.9
Wales	386.6	63.1
School	366.2	61.1

CSI - Core Subject Indicator
This is the percentage of pupils that gained Grade C or above in English, Mathematics and Science



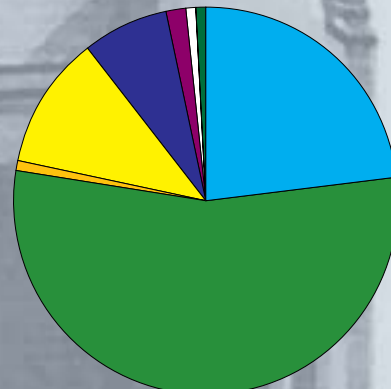
GCSE Results 2008 - 2010

	5 A*-C%	CSI
2008	60	37
2009	60	29
2010	61	34



Destination of Leavers 2010

Full time Education (in School)	23.2%
Full time Higher Education-College	54.4%
Full time Employment	0.8%
Work based training with employed status	0.0%
Work based training without employed status	11.2%
Unemployed	7.2%
Moved from area	1.6%
Not known	0.8%
Unavailable	0.8%



Careers Education and Guidance

School based Careers Education is delivered mainly through the Personal, Social and Health Education Programme. Series of lessons, courses and activities are provided in order to enhance self-development, decision making, transitional skills, enterprise, economic and industrial understanding, career exploration and career management.

In Year 9 pupils take part in a Business Enterprise which offers them the chance to develop entrepreneurial understanding and skills, which are further extended by other enterprise activities in Years 10 and 11. Year 10 students undertake a structured work experience programme which culminates in a work placement offered by local businesses.

Pupils are able to access Careers Guidance on several CD ROM software packages available in school and are encouraged to consult the Careers Information Library which is supplied and monitored by Careers Wales Gwent.



Guidance is given at both Key Stages by the Careers Co-ordinator, with the help of a Careers Advisor from Careers Wales Gwent, who attends school for two days a week.

The West Monmouth School Careers Guidance Programme provides a sound basis for students from which they can make intelligent and informed choices about subject, further education and employment options.

Further details can be obtained from the Assistant Headteachers.

Special Needs Provision

The principle that inspires and pervades the work of our school is that we provide education of equal value to all children, whatever their intellectual, social or physical capabilities may be.

The school believes that the matching of subject content and teaching methods to the abilities and needs of individuals is crucial in ensuring that all pupils receive a satisfying and effective education.

In accordance with the Code of Practice, the school has a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (School SENCO) and there are three Subject SENCOs (English, Maths and Science) who address the needs of pupils within their subjects. The Special Educational Needs Register is compiled by the School SENCO and parents of pupils kept on the register are invited to an Annual Review. Individual Education Plans are drawn up for pupils who require them. Those pupils who are identified as needing extra support in their basic literacy are withdrawn from some lessons and taught in very small groups by an appropriate teacher. The school also operates a "Buddy System" whereby Key Stage 4 pupils, trained by

a specialist employed by Torfaen County Borough Council, offer help in basic literacy skills to younger pupils, on a "one to one" basis, during break and lunchtime.

Also included on the Special Needs Register are those children identified as "More Able and Talented pupils." The School SENCO and Subject SENCOs are responsible for ensuring that the needs of these pupils are met.

Systems are in place to support both teachers and pupils and they include the use of a Torfaen Specific Learning Difficulty Tutor, a teacher to support travelling pupils and classroom assistants. To help it address pupils' needs outside the immediate classroom environment, the school is able to avail itself of the services of an Education Welfare Officer and Education Psychiatrists and Psychologists from the school Psychological Service.

Equal Opportunities

West Monmouth School operates the Torfaen Equal Opportunities Policy. Broadly speaking, the policy states that no member of West Monmouth School, whether pupil or staff member, should have their access to all opportunities open to them restricted by their gender, race, colour, religion, or physical capability. The school has an Equal Opportunities Officer.

The school makes every effort to accommodate the needs of physically disabled pupils within the confines imposed by the school building.



Parental Partnership

West Monmouth School believes in working closely with parents. The school invites new parents and pupils to sign a “Home - School Agreement”, which lists the ways in which Governors and Staff endeavour to support pupils, as well as the ways in which parents can support their children and the school. By working together, we can help ensure all our children achieve their full potential.

During Year 6, prospective parents are invited to Induction Evenings. This offers an introduction to the school environment and ethos, and aims to provide parents with information about the curriculum and school procedures.

For the duration of their children’s attendance at West Monmouth, all parents are invited to annual parent / teacher



evenings, in order to discuss their children’s progress with their subject teachers. These evenings generally coincide with the school’s reporting procedures. Parents will receive reports on their children’s progress at regular intervals throughout the academic year. A copy of the school calendar highlighting relevant dates will be available at the beginning of each year.

During the Autumn Term, the school holds an Open Day, when parents are offered the opportunity to visit the school and stay a while, sampling lessons and lunch, and generally getting the feel of the school on a typical working day.

Governors and staff of West Monmouth also invite parents to other annual events, such as the Christmas Carol Concert, Sports Day and various musical evenings and drama productions. Parental attendance at such events is always warmly welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Friends of West Monmouth School

“Friends of West Monmouth School” is an organisation that exists to support the work of the school. It is open to all parents, staff and friends who wish to help.

Access to Records, Documents and Complaints Procedure

To make contact with the school in order to access records and documents relating to your child / children, or to make a comment or a complaint, please ring 01495 762080 /

764817 to make an appointment with the Headteacher or an Assistant Head.



Attendance

Parents and guardians are asked to support the school in stressing the importance of regular attendance.

The pastoral team works closely with pupils, families and the Education Welfare Service in order to encourage attendance. Attendance figures are calculated on a weekly basis and results are published to both staff and pupils. An award scheme runs throughout the school for excellent attendance.

West Monmouth has always maintained a high level of attendance and every effort will be made in the future to sustain our excellent record.

Attendance for 2009/10 (%)	
Year 7	92.4%
Year 8	90.8%
Year 9	88.5%
Year 10	88.1%
Year 11	89.1%
School Total	89.6%

Absence for 2009/10 (%)	
Authorised	7.1%
Unauthorised	3.3%

Health and Safety

The school has a wide range of policies and procedures in place to ensure the Health and Safety of all personnel within the school building, its grounds and its immediate vicinity. A Health and Safety Committee meets regularly to discuss Health and Safety issues and site maintenance.

To promote intra-mural safety, measures include, for example, termly fire drills, regular inspection of fire safety material by members of the Fire Brigade, staff supervision of rooms and corridors during break and lunchtimes, first aid training for staff and frequent risk assessment throughout the school.

To promote extra-mural security, measures include, for example, staff patrols of the grounds at break and lunch times and staff

supervision of bus boarding at the end of the school day. All visitors are required to report to reception when entering the site and to wear identification badges. The school has recently installed an external video surveillance system to further protect buildings and personnel.

All extra-mural events are organised following safety and risk assessment procedures stipulated by the Local Education Authority.

Any queries about Health and Safety arrangements should be addressed, to the Headteacher.



Sex Education Policy

The school's Sex Education Policy aims to provide each pupil with a graduated and continuous cross curricular programme of study in sex education which is based on normal considerations and the value of family life.

We teach both the physiological and psychological aspects of sexual development

and address the issues of gender, on a personal and social level, within the delivery of the pastoral curriculum.

The school documents relating to sex education policy are available, on request, for parents to peruse at their leisure. Parents may arrange to withdraw their child from lessons if they so wish.



Head Boy's & Head Girl's Message to Prospective Pupils



'Welcome to West Monmouth School'.

This phrase has been said so many times, but does it really do justice to the welcome that you receive when you visit our school? We'll answer that – no! Here at West Monmouth School, we provide a caring and friendly environment for all pupils, regardless of ethnic backgrounds, religion and academic abilities.

In recent years, some radical changes and developments have occurred at our school, including the construction of the new Haberdashers Building, improved computing equipment and a higher standard of health and hygiene facilities. West Monmouth School has never looked so good!

On viewing the daunting gothic exterior, do not be mistaken for thinking that this is a place of doom and gloom. Beneath the dominant architecture of its façade, West Monmouth School is a building that is full of old charm and character that will invite you into accepting its family of friends, pupils and caring staff.

Behind the main front of the school, you will find more modern facilities, which have undergone some recent improvements. For example, Technology Workshops, I.T. suites and Science Laboratories, which will benefit everyone, with the most recent investment being the new canteen and purpose built teaching block, to make the school bigger and better than ever before.

Further on from all of the main buildings there lies a vast recreation ground, where the pupils can partake in sports such as netball, football, tennis hockey and athletics on either of our multi-use games area or our astro-turf, in rain, shine or floodlight.

Although you may be surprised at the size of our school on your initial approach, do not let that put you off. West Monmouth School may be big, but it is easily navigable, as all of the rooms are signposted and there will always be someone to direct you to where you want to go. We know from experience that when choosing your secondary school, one of the biggest factors is where your friends are going. However, we know that everyone makes new friends in Year 7, so it doesn't really matter if a few of your friends are going to a different school, because you will soon be making some new friends.

As everyone else, you will spend your first hour at West Monmouth School at the very heart of the school – in the main hall. In here, you

will find wooden panelled walls, stained glass windows and brass plaques commemorating past pupils who have died in two world wars. Despite these sad associations, the room is bright and lively and is often used for assemblies, ceremonies, meetings, presentations, dramatic productions and of course the occasional disco. We feel, however, the main social area of the school is the canteen, so follow your nose and the huge crowd of pupils and prepare yourself to sample the international variety of food and enjoy the relaxed and happy atmosphere.

We, at West Monmouth School, take great pride in our academic achievements, whether the learning takes place in the classroom, on the sports-field or in the local community. Some pupils also get the opportunity to better their education through trips that last a couple of days, to more than 2 weeks for international visits. During recent years there have been trips to New York, Barcelona and Switzerland.

Theatres, museums, zoo's and Techniquest are just a small sample of the places that our quest for education takes us.

As you may or not know, it isn't all hard work at West Monmouth School, at the end of your last summer term, each pupil will get the opportunity to venture out. The places that we visit range enormously from fun trips to Alton Towers and Drayton Manor, or a more action packed trip to Hilston Park. All activities participated in are enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

Something that the new intake will have to wait for but is anticipated by most, is the school 'prom'. It gives the year 11 pupils a chance to celebrate their five years spent together, with a dinner and a dance at a prestigious local hotel, all of course, clothed in full evening dress. This may seem like a long way off for those who are just starting at West Monmouth School, but believe us when we say, that time flies when you're having fun. Before you know it, you will be getting ready for your very own prom.

So, one last thing to say to all of you newcomers to the school: be prepared to meet lots of new people and enjoy many new experiences. They say that your school days are the best of your life, so enjoy them, because you are about to embark on an adventure that you will never forget.



Rhian Cleverly
Head Girl

Tom Boughtwood
Head Boy

Charges and Remissions

In order to enhance the delivery of the curriculum and broaden the pupils' educational opportunities, many trips and visits are organised. Intra mural visits by individuals and companies are also arranged.

All students are encouraged to participate in these activities and, when necessary, parents are invited to make a voluntary contribution

towards such events. If there is insufficient financial support for a particular event, it may be necessary to cancel it.

Information about specific arrangements for each activity will always be issued to the parents of a participating pupil, by the staff member or the head of the department organising the event.



West Monmouth has a wide range of extra-curricular activities that offers the pupils the chance to explore new interests and develop those they already have.

As well as the sports clubs and trips mentioned elsewhere in this prospectus, we have an equally vibrant music scene. Our school choir and orchestra perform frequently inside and outside school, and have gained an excellent reputation. The school is well served by peripatetic teachers of wood, string, brass and percussion instruments for pupils who would like specialist tuition. Pupils are given the opportunity to demonstrate both their musical and dramatic talents in public productions, and in school and National Eisteddfodau, while the annual trip to the Peter and Paul Festival in Bretten, Germany, is a chance for our musical pupils to exhibit their talents abroad.



Activities and clubs change frequently, according to staff expertise and pupil demand, but some of those currently available specialise in Art, Drama, Computers, Catering, Public Speaking and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Voluntary work for charities plays an important part in school life and the academic year is punctuated by frequent fund raising events, ranging from sponsored walks to “bring and buy” sales.

Most departments build into their programmes of study visits and trips that enrich their day-to-day work. For instance,

Geography and History arrange field trips. English and Drama organise theatre visits and in-house productions by travelling theatre groups, poets and story-tellers. The Language Departments set up exchange schemes and cultural visits - Welsh speaking Wales, France, Spain and Germany being favourite destinations. The Science Department frequently takes pupils to lectures and science exhibitions. A strong link has been formed with Cambridge University, which allows pupils the opportunity to visit as well as hold regular video conferences. The Business Studies Group regularly visits local organisations and businesses - and apparently EuroDisney's use of computer technology is second to none, so this necessitates an annual trip by the BTEC and GCSE computer classes.



West Monmouth prides itself on being the centre of the community and it has forged strong social and business links with many local organisations. Its connections with local businesses paid dividends recently, when a group of Year 9 pupils piloted a Young Enterprise Initiative Week. Our longstanding commitment to the older members of our community is well known, with the Christmas Concert and tea being a very special get-together, eagerly anticipated by old and young alike.

As you can see, the school is buzzing with extra curricular opportunities that both support and extend the curriculum and which offer the pupils a rich alternative environment in which to pursue their interests and entertain their minds.



Physical Education and Sporting Achievements

All pupils at West Monmouth have the opportunity to develop their physical competence and extend the physical skills through a range of activities which are presented in accordance with National Curriculum Guidelines.

The school provides its pupils with a comprehensive programme of sporting study and practice. At Key Stage 3, all pupils are allocated two hours Physical Education per week and emphasis is placed on traditional team games such as rugby, football, hockey, netball, basketball, baseball and cricket. Pupils are also offered opportunities to practise individual activities such as athletics, dance, tennis and gymnastics. In addition, a health related fitness course is part of the Key Stage 3 curriculum of Physical Education. At Key Stage 4, the traditional sports are studied in greater depth, but students are also given the opportunity to experience new activities including badminton, volleyball and aerobics.

All pupils are actively encouraged to join the extensive extra-curricular programme of sports activities that is organised by the Physical Education Department, and run and supervised by its members and other members of staff. Clubs are operated during lunchtimes and after school until 5pm., when pupils are provided with the requisite facilities and training



to help them pursue their sporting interests, and develop their expertise in their chosen discipline.

Internal competitions in numerous activities are run throughout the year to improve pupils' teamwork and increase their social skills. West Monmouth also takes part in inter school matches and tournaments, organised by the County Borough Council. In this way, the pupils are motivated to excel and to take pride in themselves, their physical prowess, their team and their school. Many of our pupils have gained representative honours for Torfaen, South East Wales and Wales in a wide range of sports.

Our pupils also have the chance to expand their sporting horizons to an international dimension. Our Rugby tour to Canada is a regular fixture, as is our hockey tour to Spain.

The school Sports Day is one of the most popular annual events. Many pupils participate to gain points for their houses and all pupils look forward to a lesson free day of mass participation and support. Even staff take part, providing stewarding and monitoring services, with some of them even volunteering to run in the staff versus pupils relay.

The Physical Education Department of West Monmouth offers all pupils a vibrant and vital experience that sharpens and develops their physical, mental and social skills.

