



WEST MONMOUTH SCHOOL YSGOL GORLLEWIN MYNWWY

*Believe, Achieve, Succeed
WMS a caring School*



West Monmouth

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.

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Welcome to West Monmouth School

Croeso I Ysgol Gorllewin Mynwy

It is my absolute privilege to be the headteacher of West Monmouth School and to be the leader of this vibrant learning community.

West Monmouth is a community of aspiration in which every single pupil is nurtured and challenged to achieve their very fullest potential. We encourage all our learners to 'reach for the stars' and charge ourselves with providing them with the skills, qualifications and personal qualities to be successful in reaching their goals, however ambitious.

Our core business as a school is, of course, teaching and learning and we strive to ensure that all lessons taught at West Monmouth are both engaging and challenging. We have a fantastic team of teachers and support staff who pride themselves on ensuring that their teaching is as effective as it can possibly be; and they are constantly engaged in professional learning to ensure that their methods remain innovative and current.

Positive pupil-teacher relationships are also a key strength of our school. Pupils know that their teachers and other adults care about their progress and wellbeing, and so feel confident to speak to them about any worries or difficulties they are experiencing. These relationships are the foundation of our excellent pastoral care systems which ensure that all our learners feel supported and secure within our community.

We also understand at West Monmouth that one of the key ingredients of a happy and successful school experience is effective home-school partnerships. We pride ourselves on nurturing strong relationships with all parents and carers in pursuit of our common aim – ensuring that our young people are 'qualified for life' and ready to take their place as happy, successful and responsible members of society. We are a listening school and take every opportunity we can to gather the views of stakeholders and to use them to inform our development.

We have the very highest expectations of all the learners at West Monmouth in terms of both their academic achievement and their personal conduct. However, equally as important, is that everyone here feels that they belong and are valued within a caring community focused on ensuring that every individual believes, achieves and succeeds.

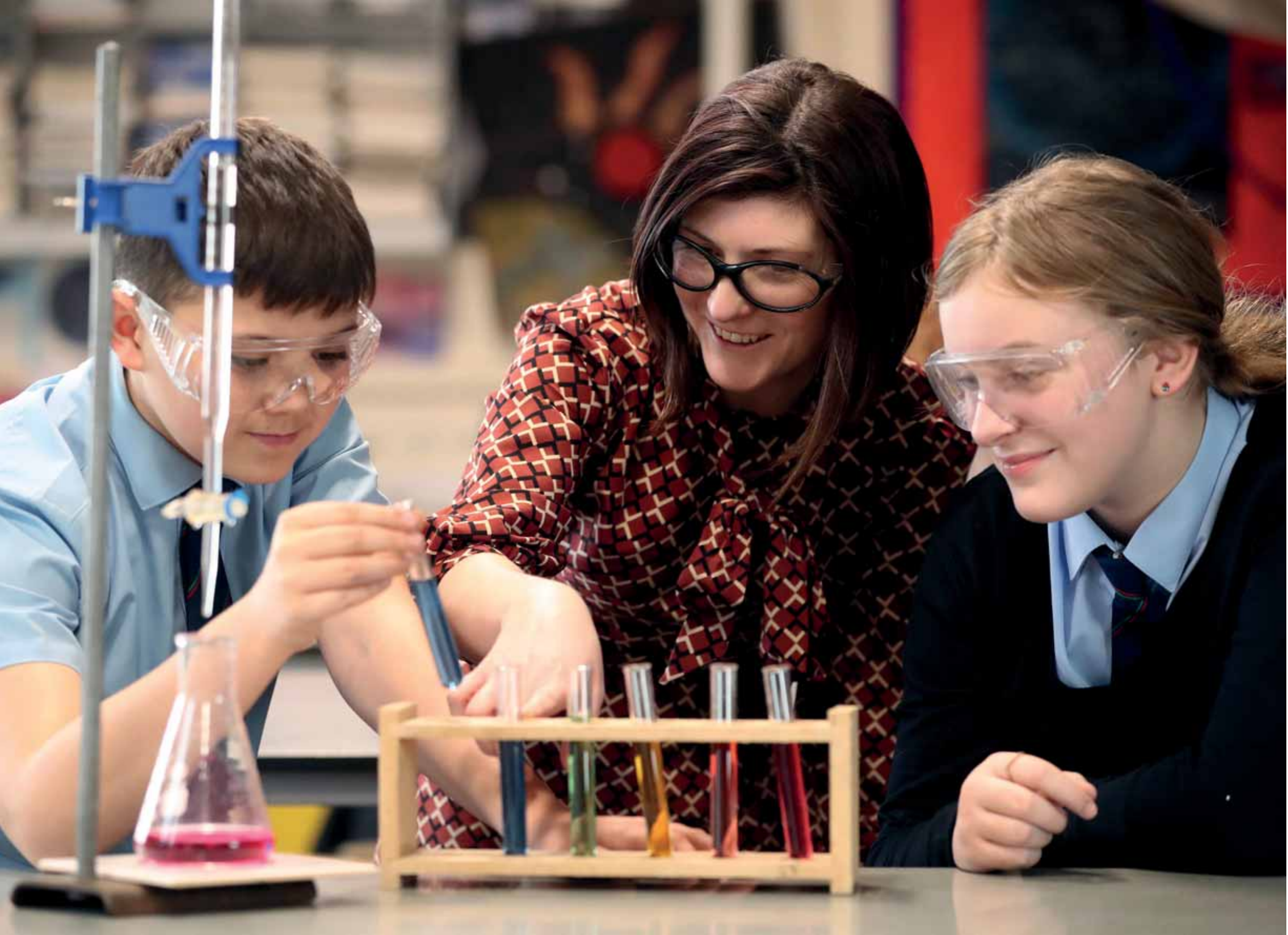
I very much hope that our school can provide the kind of learning experience that you would like for your child and look forward to meeting you personally at one of our transition events where we can provide further insight into all that West Monmouth has to offer.

Emma Jordan
Headteacher



“The ethos of inclusivity and nurture is a strength of the school”

Estyn Report 2016



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 pastoral period.

A specific team of form tutors in Year 7 under the leadership of the Head of Learning for Year 7, support the pupils as they settle into their new environment.

Each year group's team of pastoral teachers is managed by the Heads of Learning.

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 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 Team is provided by the Assistant Head in charge of Pastoral Care. The team meets 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.





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 5 and 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, to sample lessons and speak to pupils and staff and generally to get 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 and drama productions. Parental attendance at such events is always warmly welcomed and greatly appreciated.



Extra Curricular Activities

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

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 of 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 the school and Pontypool Eisteddfodau.

Activities and clubs change frequently, according to staff expertise and pupil demand, but some of those currently available specialise in Art, Drama, Computers, 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 the Harvest food collection, sponsored sports challenges to cake sales.

Most departments build visits and trips into their programmes of study to 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 Languages Department arrange the annual Year 7 trip to Llangrannog.

Most recent trips include USA, France and a rugby trip to Canada. The Science Department frequently takes pupils to lectures and science exhibitions.

West Monmouth prides itself on being the centre of the community and it has forged strong social and business links with many local organisations. Our longstanding commitment to the older members of our community is well-known, with the Christmas Concert and afternoon 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.







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

A copy of the Strategic Equality Plan is available from the school.





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