



Mountain Ash Comprehensive School

Ysgol Gyfun Aberpennar

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Our Ref: SJE/ja

S J Evans BA, MA
Headteacher

Date: 15 October 2018

Please ask for: Mrs S J Evans

Dear Parents/Carers

We are nearing the end of a very busy half term and wish to update you with some positive news.

Examination Results (2018)

I wish to draw your attention to recent data that has been made available to schools to confirm where the school's performance sits in relation to other similar schools. I am very pleased to report that results at MACS have placed us in the top 25% of similar schools in most performance measures.

The positions on the KS4 Wales Benchmarking data for MACS are as follows:-

5 A*/A grades at GCSE	-	Top 25% of similar schools
Level 2+	-	Top 25% of similar schools
Level 2	-	Top 25% of similar schools
Level 1	-	Top 25% of similar schools
Capped 9	-	Top 25% of similar schools
WBQ National	-	Top 25% of similar schools
Skills Challenge Certificate National	-	Top 50% of similar schools
English	-	Top 25% of similar schools
Maths	-	Top 50% of similar schools
Science	-	Top 25% of similar schools (top mark)

The school results were above modelled expectations for Level 2+, Level 2 and Level 1 and significantly above LA and Wales averages for the Welsh Baccalaureate National and Foundation and the Skills Challenge Certificate National and Foundation.

Please see the attached flyer outlining the incredibly positive examination results that pupils at MACS had in the summer.

Leadership Review

Local Authority/Central South Consortium undertook a Leadership Review in September 2018. It was an extremely successful review and we are pleased to share some of the findings below:-



The school closely tracks pupils' behaviour and attendance and there is now a greater focus on rewards rather than sanctions.

The restorative practice training for all staff has contributed to an improvement in pupils' behaviour in lessons and around the school.

The strong focus on improving the quality of teaching has had a positive impact on pupil progress in Key Stage 4

During the learning walks conducted by the team pupils were fully engaged in their learning and positive and supportive relationships with pupils were noted in nearly all classrooms.

Accelerated Reader Gains 2017/18

The incredible success of Accelerated Reader continues at MACS supporting pupils' reading skills and encouraging enjoyment of reading.

The outcomes below showcase the impact that this programme is having on improving reading skills.

Headline Figures

- **82%** of pupils in KS3 have shown an improvement in their reading age over 3 terms.
- **39%** of pupils in KS3 have increased their reading age by at least 1 year over 3 terms.
- **14%** of pupils in KS3 have increased their reading age by at least 2 years over 3 terms.
- **5%** of pupils in KS3 have increased their reading age by at least 3 years over 3 terms.

Year 7

- **84%** of pupils in year 7 have shown an improvement in their reading age over 3 terms.
- **47%** of pupils in year 7 have increased their reading age by at least 1 year over 3 terms.
- **17%** of pupils in year 7 have increased their reading age by at least 2 years over 3 terms.
- **6%** of pupils in year 7 have increased their reading age by at least 3 years over 3 terms.



Year 8

- **80%** of pupils in year 8 have shown an improvement in their reading age over 3 terms.
- **36%** of pupils in year 8 have increased their reading age by at least 1 year over 3 terms.
- **12%** of pupils in year 8 have increased their reading age by at least 2 years over 3 terms.
- **4%** of pupils in year 8 have increased their reading age by at least 3 years over 3 terms.

Year 9

- **82%** of pupils in year 9 have shown an improvement in their reading age over 3 terms.
- **37%** of pupils in year 9 have increased their reading age by at least 1 year over 3 terms.
- **13%** of pupils in year 9 have increased their reading age by at least 2 years over 3 terms.
- **4%** of pupils in year 9 have increased their reading age by at least 3 years over 3 terms.

First Give Update

MACS was nominated for School of the Year at the prestigious First Give Awards Ceremony on Thursday 27th September 2018.

Congratulations to Nicole Walker (Year 10) who won the Alumni Pupil of the Year Award for her ongoing commitment to charity work and for inspiring pupils who took part in the First Give Programme at MACS in the summer term.

Parent Forum

Macs held its first Parent Forum on Tuesday 25th September, where the Senior Leadership Team met with parents to share the vision and direction of the school and sought parent views on strengths and areas for improvement.

The school is currently working to address the issues discussed and will provide feedback later in the term on progress made.

We wish to thank parents who attended on the evening.



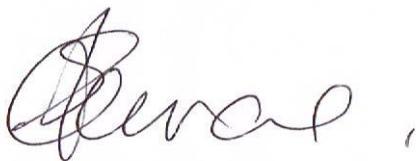
School Improvement Priorities

Following an extensive self-evaluation at school, we have identified four key priorities for 2018/19:-

1. To continue to improve learning and teaching through collaboration and consistency so that best practice becomes standard practice.
2. To use Restorative Approaches to raise expectations across the school with regard to attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning.
3. To continue to improve pupil outcomes by:-
 - Increasing the percentage of pupils achieving their potential in KS3, 4 and 5.
 - Using “closing the gap” strategies to raise the performance of boys, eFSM pupils and vulnerable learners.
4. Increase accountability of leadership at all levels by:-
 - Using clear Standard Operating Procedures and a robust quality assurance calendar
 - Ensuring that leaders at all levels are familiar with the revised Common Inspection Framework
 - Reviewing the school’s staffing structure.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S J Evans
Headteacher

