



SECONDARY CAMPUS INFORMATION BOOKLET

Raising Aspirations - Realising Potential - Securing Futures

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Cymuned Addysgu Abertylleri

Abertillery Learning Community

Welcome from the Principal

On behalf of the learners, staff and governors, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Abertillery Learning Community prospectus.

Whether you are reading this as a student, prospective student, parent or visitor, I warmly welcome you to our community and hope that the information provided in this prospectus and on our website, will help you to understand what it means to be part of Abertillery Learning Community.

In Abertillery we know that choosing the best school for your son or daughter is one of the most important decisions that you as a parent /carer will ever have to make. To that end we have tried to share what the school has to offer by celebrating the amazing activities, facilities and educational opportunities that we provide here.

Our aim is simple, we want all of our learners to leave our learning community fully equipped for life. We want them to have high aspirations for themselves and others, to have fully realised their potential whilst in school and be fully prepared to secure success in the future.

I hope that this prospectus and our website give you a feel for the character of our Learning Community. However to fully appreciate the ethos, atmosphere and environment of our schools, I would encourage you to visit us during one of our events or at a time convenient to you. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing with you our passion and commitment for the education of the learners of our community.

Jon Wilson

Principal



Our Vision

Our vision and our aims are simple, we want all of our learners to leave our learning community fully equipped for life. We want them to have high aspirations for themselves and others, to have fully realised their potential whilst in school and be fully prepared to secure success in the future.

Raising Aspirations - Realising Potential - Securing Futures

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Abertillery Learning Community



Five Campuses One School

Abertillery Learning Community (ALC) was established on Sept 1st 2016. We are a mixed 3-16 Learning Community based in the town of Abertillery. The Learning Community is comprised of a Secondary Campus and 4 Primary campuses, Bryngwyn Rd Primary Campus, Queen St Primary Campus, Roseheyworth Rd Primary Campus and Tillery St Primary Campus. We have approximately 1600 learners on roll with 650 in the secondary phase and 950 in the primary phase.

The school is located in the Ebbw Fach valley region of Blaenau Gwent. It serves the immediate area of Abertillery as well as homes in the wider communities of Six-Bells, Nantyglo, Blaina and Llanhilleth. Attainment on entry represents the full range of ability. The school also houses two local authority resource bases, one on the Secondary Campus and one on the Bryngwyn Primary Campus.

Abertillery Learning Community is an exciting and unique organisation. As a multi campus all through school we are afforded a wide range of opportunities for carefully co-ordinated cross phase working that supports learner's development. We believe that through the single school approach we can ensure our learners develop aspirations for themselves and for our community. We focus on developing outstanding learning and teaching with a curriculum that recognises how important it is that each learner can reach their full potential, enabling them to pursue successful working lives as responsible members of society. Our work is set in the deep-rooted belief that all learners can achieve excellence in anything they choose to pursue.

At ALC we are committed to developing passionate, energetic and well-rounded learners who place high value on their education. As a new organisation with big ambitions we are striving to provide a truly outstanding education for the learners of our community.



School Uniform - Secondary Campus

All learners in years 7-11 wear our uniform with pride. It is policy that all learners wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in school organised events outside normal school hours. This policy is based on the principles that our school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies learners as members of our school community
- Is not distracting in class
- Makes learners feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance

The Abertillery Learning Community uniform for learners in years 7-11 is:

- *School tie
- *Black school blazer incorporating the school logo
- Plain white shirt/blouse worn under the blazer
- Black tailored (not tight) trousers (not jeans, combat, cropped or skinny)
- Black skirt (knee length or just above the knee)
- Completely plain black shoes - girls' shoes can have a low heel
- Plain black sock
- A sensible coat (hats, winter gloves and scarves must not be worn inside the building)

There may be temporary modifications to the uniform during extreme weather conditions (hot or cold) but these will be at the discretion of the Principal.

For P.E. lessons, it is compulsory that Abertillery Secondary Campus learners wear:

- *Abertillery Learning Community P.E. top
- *Shorts
- *P.E. socks (optional)
- Leggings
- Swimming costume

*These items can only be purchased by ordering through Abertillery Learning Community. Order forms are issued to learners during year 6 at the Abertillery Learning Community Primary Campuses and are also available at the Secondary Campus office during April.

We only allow learners to wear sensible jewellery. This is limited to one pair of small stud earrings and a watch. The exceptions to the rule are small objects of religious significance. Facial and body piercings of any kind (including spikes) are not allowed as they may place the learner at risk of serious injury. Extreme hairstyles are also not permitted. Any headwear worn for religious reasons should be of a plain black material.

A school uniform grant is available to eligible parents/carers - please contact benefits@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or 01495 353398 for further details





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Abertillery Learning Community

Our Curriculum

Our aim at Abertillery Learning Community Secondary Campus is to ensure that our learners develop high aspirations for themselves and for our community. We focus on developing skills that will enable them to pursue successful working lives as well as a real passion for learning. We promote values that will enable them to be responsible and positive members of society, and encourage a deep-rooted belief that they can achieve excellence in anything they choose to do.

At Abertillery, we believe strongly in the power of personal goals that are meaningful to each individual. We know that every learner has their own potential and we are determined to help them to fulfil it. We aim to enable all learners to take part in exciting learning inside and outside the classroom, so that they can make rapid and sustained progress.

Our curriculum is designed to promote learning that is appropriate to learners' needs, abilities and interests. There is a strong focus on delivering the core curriculum effectively throughout the school, with all learners studying English, Maths, Science, Religious Education, Physical Education, Welsh and Personal, Social & Health Education at both KS3 and KS4. In addition, all learners will study the following specialist subjects at KS3: Design Technology, Art, Geography, History, ICT, Performing Arts and Modern Foreign Languages.

As learners move into Y10, the range of subjects expands considerably, allowing them to choose from a wide range of options. These include a full range of academic GCSEs, as well as practical courses for learners who are seeking a more vocational approach.

We provide our pupils with a curriculum which seeks to educate the 'whole person' and we strive to make it appropriate to pupils' needs, with teaching styles that develop positive attitudes to learning, the understanding of concepts and the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

Through our curriculum offer to all learners in all key stages, we aim to offer a range of experiences that will provide innovative and transformational opportunities for learning. The curriculum develops learners as independent, interdependent and confident learners.

All learners are individuals and we are committed to ensuring that any and all barriers to learning are identified and removed, allowing every learner to reach their full potential. Our curriculum model is based around both academic rigour and real life work based learning. The learning journey of each individual will be carefully constructed to suit the individual's preferred learning style and will involve the learner in planning that programme.



Our Facilities

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Our Faculties

ENGLISH

This is an exciting time for us at the English faculty with lots of new units of work and activities to get involved in.

Key Stage 3

There is an innovative scheme of work in place for Key Stage 3 learners. We feel that it not only covers the requirements of the National Curriculum and Literacy and Numeracy Framework, but it also encourages positive responses from all learners. Unit titles include 'Page to Screen', 'Me, Myself and I' and 'The World of Work'. These units mix traditional texts with modern technology and allow for a forward-thinking approach to English. We also offer additional activities such as theatre trips, writing competitions and visiting guest speakers.



Over the last few years, we have had visits from guest speakers including Jonathan Edwards, a local poet who won the 'Costa Book Awards 2014' in the poetry category. This was part funded by 'Literature Wales.' This year, year 9 learners have been given an opportunity to work with the Welsh poet Clare Potter to produce original pieces of work that form part of a new Sky Arts TV programme.

We have laptops and iPads available to further advance the quality of the learners' work. We also have a fantastic library with a wide range of books, magazines and online materials to read.

Key stage 4

At Key Stage 4, all learners will study for GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language. The course ensures that learners are inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.

GCSE English Literature provides a fantastic opportunity to study a Shakespeare text, develop an appreciation of Welsh poetry and explore a well-known and beloved classic novel and play.



GCSE Media Studies

Media Studies is a dynamic subject within the faculty that has consistently set high standards and where learners have achieved strong results. We cater for all learning styles and give learners an opportunity to work with outside agencies, who impart practical skills that can be applied to the world of work.

We offer a two-year GCSE, where the coursework portfolio is worth 40% and the examination is worth 60%. We cover a wide range of subject areas to reflect learners' interests.



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Abertillery Learning Community

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics faculty provide interactive learning experiences for learners of all abilities. During lessons, learners will learn lifelong maths skills to prepare them for the world of work.

The outreach team from Techniquest has visited Abertillery on several occasions, with KS3 learners taking part in problem solving exercises involving racing cars, theme parks and music events. Feeder primary schools have also taken part in Techniquest events organised at Abertillery Learning Community Secondary Campus. A number of learners take part in the annual UKMT challenge. We have had a number of learners take part in the regional finals of the team challenge held in Cardiff. With our connections to the University of South Wales in Glamorgan, more able learners have the opportunity to take part in the Royal Institution Mathematics Master Classes. Lectures were given by leading mathematicians and learners took part in problem solving activities.



Investing in the future

Over recent years we have seen a significant investment within the mathematics department. As part of a major refurbishment, all learners now have regular access to the latest iPad technology. Subject specific apps, access to the Maths Watch online resources and games aimed at improving mental strategies are just some of the benefits.

Key Stage 3

There is an innovative "Qualifications for Life" scheme of work in place for our Key Stage 3 learners. We feel that it not only covers the requirements of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework, but it also encourages positive responses from all learners. Our scheme of work allows the Mathematics department to place individual learners on a pathways that is tailored to their learning needs in order to develop independence and confidence inside and outside of the classroom

We have laptops and iPads available to further advance the quality of the learners' work. Show me and Kahoot are regularly in use to help engage and enthuse our learners.

Key stage 4

At Key Stage 4, all learners will study for GCSE Mathematics and the GCSE Mathematics Numeracy qualification. There will be an option of a three tiers entry and this will be determined by the students' progress in lessons and across their GCSE year. The course ensures that learners are able to access the "everyday" maths that will help them in later life as well as the more abstract Mathematics for those learners who desire a career in the field of Mathematics.

SCIENCE

As a Science Faculty, we offer a very supportive and positive learning environment, with high expectations of our learners and ourselves.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3 learners are encouraged to develop and build upon skills acquired in primary school. Literacy and numeracy are key factors which are reflected in our scheme of work. We ensure that all of our KS3 resources are continually developed to ensure learners are able to meet the highest standards.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 we offer triple award, double award and single applied science. It is our aim to ensure all learners fulfil their potential in at least one Science GCSE.

In addition to the regular curriculum, we ensure that learners enjoy a varied program of activities, designed to enhance their enjoyment of science and promote future careers:

We work closely with STEMNET to provide activities and external visits to promote careers in Science e.g. visits to GE Nantgarw.

Educational visits to the Evolution Gallery at the Welsh National Museum Cardiff, Techniquet and the Natural History Museum in London for KS4 learners.

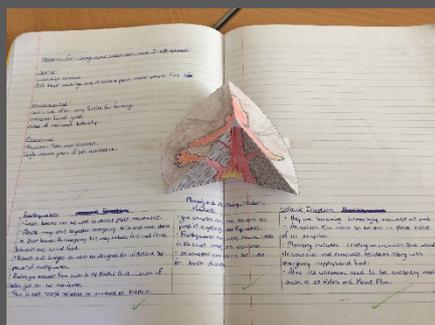
University taster trips to Cardiff University.



HUMANITIES

GEOGRAPHY

Geography is a dynamic, interesting and entirely relevant subject in our constantly changing world. Geography is a fascinating subject which is taught with all the enthusiasm and challenge that it deserves.



Key Stage 3

In Key stage 3 traditional topics such as population, migration and volcanoes are taught along areas such as tourism and ecosystems. These topics allow the learners to examine the world at a local, national and global scale.

Learners are then able to identify their place in the modern world and to start making links between the human and physical worlds. Literacy, numeracy and reflecting skills are embedded as foci in Geography lessons.

Key Stage 4

Key stage 4 follows the WJEC Specification. This is a new specification that focuses on the Geography of Wales and the wider world. The topics include rivers, climate change and living in active zones. There are two projects that take place in class as well as two traditional examinations.



HISTORY

History is a vibrant, dynamic and successful subject taught within the Humanities faculty at Abertillery Learning Community. History offers a supportive and reflective learning environment for all learners to ensure that they achieve their potential. History is usually a very popular option choice with learners in KS4 who consistently achieve strong results in GCSEs.

Key Stage 3

In years 7, 8 and 9, learners are taught a varied and engaging curriculum. They are taught History three times a fortnight. They will cover a wide range of topics from 1066 to modern day protests.

In year 7 learners will study, The coming of the Normans, castles, King John, Thomas Beckett and medieval life.

In year 8 learners will study The Tudors, Stuarts, Titanic and World War 1.

In year 9 learners will study Merthyr and the industrial revolution, slavery, Hitler and the Holocaust.

We ensure that we cover the national framework for literacy and numeracy and that our work is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners. We use ICT as appropriate to enhance learners learning.

Key Stage 4

We follow WJEC specification which consists of four units:

- 1) Depression, war and recovery in Wales and England 1930-1951, Wall Street crash, dole and the means test, effects of Blitz, rationing, evacuation, Winston Churchill and the NHS (25%).
- 2) Germany in transition, 1919-1947: the rise of Hitler and the Nazi party, Holocaust, Germany and World War 2, the Wall Street crash (25%).
- 3) Changes in crime and punishment, c.1500 to the present day (30%).
- 4) 2 pieces of controlled assessment on America (20%).



ARTS

ART

Art is extremely successful and dynamic subject within the Creative Arts faculty. Learners are encouraged to express themselves in a creative and independent way. Learning in Art provides ways of perceiving and understanding the world in a visual context, giving all learners the opportunity to question and explore the world around them. It provides access to the curriculum in an expressive and creative way irrespective of ability and learning style.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, learners study skills based projects through specified themes, which fulfil the National Curriculum strands of understanding, investigating and making.

In year 7, learners focus on 'The Environment'. In year 8, learners focus on 'Portraiture and Identity'. In year 9, learners focus on 'Personal Objects and Identity'.



Learners follow well-structured projects which provide opportunities to develop their skills in literacy and numeracy as well as working with different media such as pencil, paint, print, digital image making and 3D modelling.

Learners are given the opportunity to research a range of artists who use a diverse range of art materials and processes to create their artwork.

Learners create personal outcomes within the themes, inspired by the artists they have researched both in class and at home.



Key Stage 4 Art and Design

The course is fully differentiated and structured into coursework (60%) and an exam (40%). The course builds on the understanding, investigating and making skills developed during Key Stage 3.

Learners produce research in sketchbooks and on large pieces around a given theme. Research includes collecting information on artists, producing observation drawings, taking photographs and experimenting with a range of 2D and 3D materials. Collected research then culminates in a final outcome based on the strengths of the learner.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Design and Technology is part of the Creative Arts Faculty at Abertillery Learning Community and offers many different experiences for learners.

Key Stage 3

Food and Technology

Learners will learn the importance of working safely and hygienically while using a wide variety of equipment and ingredients. They will be aware of the importance of eating healthily and applying these rules when cooking.

Textiles

Learners will learn the importance of working safely while using a wide variety of textiles equipment and materials. Learners will undertake a variety of practical lessons so developing their skills and learn how to work as a team.

Resistant Materials

Learners will design and make products using a range of materials such as wood, metals and plastics. Learners will learn the importance of working safely while using a variety of different equipment. Learners will complete a range of different projects including designing and making a steady hand game, a key fob and jewellery.



Key Stage 4

Learners to complete controlled assessments that are worth up to 60% of the total GCSE mark. A written exam will be completed at the end of each course. All courses are really popular with learners and we are seeing an increase in uptake each year. Key Stage 4 courses include:

Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering
GCSE Health and Social Care
GCSE Product Design

We offer a range of extra-curricular workshops and activities including:

- GCSE revision catch up
- Workshops with STEM Cymru
- Career Wales competitions (Rotary Chef of the Year, Engineering Education Scheme Wales)
- Preparing, planning and cooking buffets in the community
- Level 2 Hygiene Certificates



PERFORMING ARTS

Drama and Music are popular subjects within the Creative Arts Faculty in the school and we are very lucky to have nurtured some very talented learners over the years. Traditionally our learners have very strong performance skills with an average of 78% of learners gaining A*-C in their Drama practical exams over the last few years.

In Music results are equally high with 71% achieving A*-C in 2017 at GCSE. The majority of these learners move on to study performing or music courses at college and a number of our past learners have gone on to forge careers in the industry or as teachers of Music or Drama.



Key Stage 3

In Drama, learners will explore a variety of different themes and learn acting techniques and develop confidence. They will learn techniques such as stage combat, study plays and learn how to create your own characters and performances. In Music, learners will have the exciting opportunity to play a variety of instruments, including keyboards, guitars, drums, and tuned / untuned percussion in the form of Samba! We also sing in lessons, and will learn a range of different styles of music. Learners will compose their own music using voices, instruments and computer software, getting a chance to be creative and show their musical imagination. Both subjects allow learners to be self-expressive and develop creative skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Key Stage 4

When selecting options in year 9, learners can opt to study GCSE Drama or Music over two years. In GCSE Music learners develop their performing skills, both solo and ensemble, and compose their own music. This exciting course aims to develop musical knowledge and skill ready for possible exciting careers in the Music field. The Drama GCSE will involve exploring a range of practical performance skills such as devising scripts and studying the work of theatre practitioners. Learners will be required to create a portfolio to support their practical work and will have the opportunity to see some live theatre. We have run trips every year to the West End and even organised backstage workshops with cast members! Both subjects equip learners with a variety of skills and the foundations needed to pursue further education in the industry.

Musicals/Shows

Each summer, learners can take part in the summer school musical. They can choose to audition for speaking and acting parts, or be part of the chorus. Everybody can get involved and perform in our impressive theatre. We put on our first joint ALC Christmas concert with the primary campuses last year. This was a fantastic event and served to prove the incredible talent we have across all campuses at ALC.



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Peripatetic Lessons

We have a team of dedicated teachers who come each week to teach individual or small group lessons in the following disciplines: piano, drums, guitar and voice. These lessons last for 20 minutes each week and take place during the school day.

In addition to the rehearsals that take place leading up to concerts and shows, we also have Voiceworks rehearsals and the school rock band.



LANGUAGES

Abertillery's Languages faculty encourages learners to express themselves in a fun, challenging and independent way. Learning in Languages provides ways of developing communication skills through reading writing and oracy, giving all learners the opportunity to learn about their own culture as well as others. All learners in KS3 and KS4 are encouraged to attend enrichment opportunities to develop their skills further, in preparation for studying their GCSE qualification.

We also offer a Language Ambassadors scheme, where learners have the opportunity to work and meet in small groups to practise their oracy. This hones their skills further, challenges their ability level and gives them a unique experience of using a variety of new skills.

WELSH

Key Stage 3

Learners follow programmes based on grammar and topics, with emphasis on the spoken language, reading and writing. This builds on Welsh learned in Key Stage 2 and aims to prepare learners for the new GCSE exams.

We have organised a residential weekend trip to the Urdd Centre in Llangrannog in February for the last three years and learners have thoroughly enjoyed this enriching experience.

Key Stage 4

All learners are entered for the new Welsh GCSE Full Course. The new GCSE focusses on three wide topics: Wales and the world, employment and youth.

SPANISH

Key Stage 3

Learners have two lessons a fortnight and follow a topics based programme with emphasis on the spoken language, reading and writing.

Listos 1 and 2 are used to support learning. A help sheet is provided to each learner with new vocabulary and structures to learn. Learners are given spelling quizzes and star homework to support learning of this exciting language.



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Abertillery Learning Community

ICT

Learners of today are living in a society where the study of ICT and Computing is more relevant than ever! Our faculty prepares learners to participate in a rapidly changing world in which business and social activities are increasingly transformed by access to varied and developing technologies.

Key Stage 3

We aim to ensure learners have the skills to manage their files on our computer network and interact safely with ICT. We develop their skills using Microsoft Office based and multimedia software packages, with a heavy focus on ensuring learners are ready to face a digital world.

Year 7 topics: File management, basic skills, desktop publishing, ICT theory, algorithms, game design, spreadsheets and databases.

Year 8 topics: Email, game design, Kodu Game Lab game developer, Photoshop, animation, image editing, spreadsheets and databases.

Year 9 topics: Python programming introduction, web design, web development, spreadsheets and databases.

Key Stage 4 – Information & Communication Technology GCSE

Assessment: 40% exam and 60% coursework

These courses combine essential theory with practical skills to equip learners for further study or to enter employment.

Unit 1 – Understanding ICT

Unit 2 – Solving problems with ICT

Unit 3 – ICT in organisations

Unit 4 – Developing multimedia ICT solutions

Key Stage 4 – Computer Science GCSE

Assessment: 50% written exam, 30% on-screen exam and 20% controlled assessment

Computer Science is about finding out how computers work and making them do things for you! In this course learners will solve problems using a computer, make computer games, build web pages using code and learn to count up to F! We will be using a variety of computer languages including HTML, Python, Java and Greenfoot. At the end of this course learners will be well prepared to continue with A Level Computing. This course is ideal for learners considering any kind of career in either computing or engineering.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A person's development is not complete without a healthy body and mind. Our aim is to provide our learners with a chance to play, discover and experience sport. Through sport, we believe that each child can learn essential life skills such as social interaction, responsibility, respect for others, conforming to rules, accepting consequences and overcoming problems.



Key Stage 3

Sports are taught on a half termly basis to ensure that each learner receives a broad and balanced curriculum. Throughout each year, KS3 learners will cover the four areas of activity from the National Curriculum, including football, rugby, hockey, netball, swimming, orienteering, dance and gymnastics.



Key Stage 4

Learners are afforded more choice in their PE lessons during years 10 and 11.

Learners have the option to choose GCSE Physical Education or BTEC Sport Leadership.

Extra-curricular programme

We offer a full and exciting extra-curricular programme with matches taking place each week in the main sports. There is also a strong 5 x 60 initiative, which includes an exciting range of additional clubs during lunch times and after school. We are fortunate to have a Welsh rugby participation hub officer who links the school with club rugby and promotes the sport to boys and girls.



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Abertillery Learning Community

WELSH BACCALAUREATE

The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification is a skills based qualification designed to provide learners with the skills and attributes most needed by employers.

Why is it so important?

The qualification will help learners to prepare for their future by developing skills, attributes and behaviours valued by post-16 educators and potential employers. The emphasis in the Welsh Baccalaureate is on applied learning i.e. acquiring and applying a range of transferable skills. Learners will develop skills in the context of purposeful tasks and appropriate knowledge and understanding.

The seven essential and employability skills are:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness



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Abertillery Learning Community

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

At ALC we work hard to create and maintain an inclusive and supportive environment on all of our campuses. Being an all through school ensures that relationships and links for transition from Primary to Secondary school are well developed and we have close links with those partner primary schools in our wider community. Secondary staff work carefully with the primary ALNCO to ensure that support, care and guidance is available to learners and their parents. Learners new to our school are assessed so that the most appropriate pathways and provision can be implemented. This may include, but is not limited to, one to one support; small group support; social and communication skills development. Similarly, information from primary schools helps us work with pupils in identifying the need for literacy and numeracy intervention schemes, along with a variety of other support programmes. In Year 7, learners learn in broadly mixed ability settings. The ALN team carefully ensures that all transition data is cascaded to teachers and from tutors.



The transition arrangements are tailored to ensure that pupils who might need more guidance in their move to our School are supported from the very beginning of the process, be this reception, Year 7 or at any stage throughout their school lives. Our experienced ALN team also work closely with a variety of external agencies which offer professional support and guidance where needed and ensure that all children are suitably looked after. The school operates within the guidelines of the current ALN code of practice for Wales.

Our ALN provision is split into two strands, Learning Support and mainstream provision. We have a 60 place Learning Support department which caters for students with more complex needs. Within the Learning Support department students follow a flexible curriculum that mirrors the mainstream curriculum.

In mainstream we cater for students with a range of Special Educational Needs, promoting inclusion for all.

Programmes / Interventions

As part of our inclusion policy and in order to promote maximum academic progress for our students, we offer a wide range of interventions.

Literacy

Numeracy

COMiT

Social skills

Handwriting

Support for pupils with ADHD

Speech and Language support

Spelling



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Abertillery Learning Community

Educational Psychology

ELSA

Homework Clubs

We offer a range of activities where learners with ALN are able to come along and meet new friends, learn new skills and have an opportunity to gain some independence. All activities are supervised by specialised LSA's. Some of the activities on offer are:

- ICT
- Arts and Crafts
- Games, videos and socialising

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (LEARNING RESOURCE BASE)

We host the Local Authority's Complex needs Learning Resource Base (LRB). The LRB provides a broad and differentiated curriculum. A dedicated literacy and numeracy team deliver programmes on a stage not age basis within Key Stage 3. Development of learner's attention, listening, playing, interaction and social skills are an integral part of the curriculum. Learners are supported to develop skills for life and opportunities within the curriculum are provided which include visits, gardening and cooking.



We encourage out door learning and have developed a garden area, small allotment, sensory garden, poly tunnel, reading circle and a barbeque area. We have also recently refurbished a room into a bed sit for learners to experience and learn independent living skills as they transition towards adulthood.

Programmes / Interventions

We offer a wide range of support and interventions to promote maximum academic progress for our learners:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Numicon
- Social skills
- Handwriting
- Success maker
- SEA
- ELSA
- Speech and language support
- Educational psychology



Secondary Campus Careers Education and Advice

At ALC we recognise that all learners are entitled to receive up to date careers information and advice as part of the school curriculum. Lessons are built in as part of the current PSE and Welsh Bacculaureate programmes of study and are designed to promote the Learning Outcomes of the Careers and the World of Work Framework. Learners need to know where they are now and where they aspire to be in the future, to know what is available in the world of work, to be able to make and implement decisions and know where to seek information and access guidance about career planning.

Careers information is provided for Key Stage 3 prior to choosing options and Key Stage 4 groups via Welsh Bacculaureate lessons. Learners are encouraged to access resources and research using the Internet. They are encouraged to use Careers Wales Online (www.careerswales.com) and passwords and logins are issued for each student in Year 9 and above. Information is also available from the Careers Section of the main school library at lunchtime.

All learners are entitled to seek careers advice from form tutors and the Careers Wales Gwent advisors.

Through our close working partnership with Careers Wales Gwent, a Careers Wales Gwent advisor is attached to the school and available for individual interviews with students. An advisor is also present at Years 9 Consultation Evenings to discuss careers related concerns. Parents can access further careers information by contacting the school or making an appointment with Careers Wales Gwent on Freephone 0800 028 9212.



General Information

Learner Voice

Learner Voice plays a significant role in both how our school is run and how it continues to develop. Learners elect representatives to sit on the Student Council who meet regularly with staff and external agencies to discuss school development. We elect our Head Boy and Head Girl who represent the school at a range of school and community events.



Digital learning



We believe that developing digital competency necessary for modern life is a curriculum responsibility at Abertillery Learning Community. We are fully equipped with computers, laptops and iPads. All learners in KS3 study ICT as part of their curriculum. Learners in KS4 take advantage of the facilities during their studies and many learners study ICT GCSE or Computer Science GCSE.

Learning Facilities

The school benefits from outstanding facilities. All of our teaching rooms are fully equipped for 21st Century learning, with many recently refurbished to extremely high standards. Our specialist facilities are also impressive. These include the use of Abertillery Leisure Centre, 3G pitch, Sports Hall, Drama Studio, dedicated Art & Design Technology suites, newly refurbished Science laboratories, Media studios, ICT and Catering facilities. Our Theatre is an excellent space for holding all sorts of events, including productions, musical shows and debating, due the top of the range sound and lighting systems. A modern learning base supports learners who benefit from additional specialist support, to fulfil their potential. This space is equipped with specialist classrooms, a sensory room and a Life Skills Centre.



Catering

Learners are not permitted to leave school at lunch-time. Our canteen provides an excellent range of quality food that complies with current guidance on Healthy Schools and provides appropriate nutrition for young people. The school also provides a dedicated space for those learners who wish to bring a healthy packed lunch to school.



Chillax

Funded by Children in Need, Chillax Breakfast and After School Club is open between 7:45am & 8:30am before school and 2:50pm - 4:30pm after school. Chillax is more than just tea and toast. Our club is a place where all young people can feel safe and welcome and is fully inclusive.



Young people love the fact that they can play, learn and relax.

"Having a full belly helps me concentrate more in class."

"I love being able to meet my friends before school and play pool."

"I like having breakfast before school starts and I am able to print off my homework."

"I like playing X-box with my friends after school."

The atmosphere is caring and supportive and can accommodate up to 40 young people.





Cymuned Addysgu Abertyleri

Abertillery Learning Community

Charging and Remissions Policy

Education is provided without compulsory charges to parents. Most activities are financed by the Learning Community with funds received from the Local Education Authority. There are, however, some valuable educational activities which we are not able to provide without seeking some financial support from parents. When arranging school trips and activities the Learning Community will do as much as is practicable to ensure that children and young people living in poverty are not unfairly disadvantaged. The Learning Community understands that cost pressures on families with low incomes or in serious financial hardship are significant and recognises the importance of balancing the education value of residential trips against their financial cost.

Equal Opportunities

ALC has an Equality Plan and is committed to taking positive steps to reduce any disadvantage experienced by individuals or groups. It wholeheartedly supports the statutory requirements laid down in the Equality Act 2010, which make it unlawful for an employer or an employee to discriminate or to treat an individual differently on the grounds of disability, gender, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. ALC also extends the same principle to marital status, religious beliefs, age (except when complying with statutory or other requirements) and sexual orientation.



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Abertillery Learning Community

Term Dates

School Term Dates 2018/2019

Date	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	03/09/2018	29/10/2018	02/11/2018	21/12/2018
Spring	07/01/2019	25/02/2019	01/03/2019	12/04/2019
Summer	29/04/2019	27/05/2019	31/05/2019	22/07/2019

School Term Dates 2019/2020

Date	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	02/09/2019	28/10/2019	01/11/2019	20/12/2019
Spring	06/01/2020	17/02/2020	21/02/2020	03/04/2020
Summer	20/04/2020	25/05/2020	29/05/2020	20/07/2020



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Abertillery Learning Community

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance at the Learning Community is a legal requirement and all parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their children attend the appropriate campus regularly and on time. Attendance is monitored closely and interventions are put in place where targets for attendance are not being met.

If a learner has a medical appointment, it is the parent's responsibility to provide appointment details at least a day in advance for the absence to be recorded. If a learner is absent owing to illness or family circumstances, a telephone call on the first day of absence is required by 9am, followed by a note sent with the child when he/she returns to school. It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school on the first day of absence. The school operates an answer phone service to report a child's absence from 7:30am-4pm (01495 355911 option 1 for Secondary Campus, then option 1 for attendance). An absence may be recorded as unauthorised if a note is not provided.

Our community is committed to ensure regular attendance at school is a priority which will in turn provide pupils with the best possible chances in life to succeed and to achieve their goals. Regular school attendance is essential for all children and young people. Failure to regularly attend can increase the risk of leaving school without any qualifications, and can also increase the likelihood of pupils being drawn into criminal and antisocial behaviour.

The Learning Community developed a comprehensive Attendance Policy that has been adopted by the Governing body. This policy is available on the ALC website should parents/carers require further information.

School Day - Secondary Campus

The school week at the secondary campus comprises of 25 one hour lessons; five one hour lessons a day. The day also incorporates registration and assembly times, break and lunch time. The school is open from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday for lessons and afterschool clubs. We are proud of the range of extracurricular activities on offer to students. Further details can be found on the secondary campus page of the school website.

07:45 – 8:45	Breakfast Club – Chillax
08:45 – 9:05	Tutor Time
9:05 – 10:05	Lesson 1
10:05 – 11:05	Lesson 2
11:05 – 11:20	Break
11:20 – 12:20	Lesson 3
12:20 – 13:20	Lesson 4
13:20 – 13:50	Lunch
13:50 – 14:50	Lesson 5
14:50	End of Day



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Abertillery Learning Community

Complaints Procedure regarding Curriculum Matters and Other School Issues

The Governing Body has developed a comprehensive complaints policy that is in line with the Welsh Government Complaints Procedures for School Governing Bodies in Wales. A copy is available at the School and also available to download from the school website (www.abertillery3-16.co.uk). Parents wishing to express a concern should do so in the first instance to the appropriate Head of Campus (01495 355911) who will make every effort to resolve the matter.



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Senior Leadership - Secondary Campus

Principal - Mr Jon Wilson

Vice Principal - Mrs Kate Olsen

Head of Campus Secondary - Mr Rhodri Thomas

Assistant Heads - Mrs Sam Vaughan and Mrs Menna White

Associate Head - Mrs Sarah Hegarty

Business Manager - Mrs Keri Jones

Finance and Data Manager - Ms Jodie Withers

Chair of Governors - Mrs June Havard

All of the colleagues detailed above can be contacted via the single school phone number (01495 355911) and by following the campus specific links or by emailing - info@abertillery3-16.co.uk

Abertillery Learning Community

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Raising Aspirations - Realising Potential - Securing Futures



Raising Aspirations - Realising Potential - Securing Futures

- Raising the aspirations of every member of our community
- Realising the potential of every learner in our community
- Securing the future of all the young people of Abertillery

