

The ALN Transition Programme at St John Baptist (CiW) High School



By K. MacDonald ALNCo

We pride ourselves on the strong transition links we have with our feeder primary schools and Coleg y Cymoedd.

For pupils transferring to our school from primary, the process begins with the Open Evenings which are held annually for years 4 and 5.

Parents and pupils have the opportunity of visiting our school and speaking with Mrs K MacDonald ALNCo if they have any concerns about transition.

The next step in the process is the being informed by our primary feeder school about pupils with ALN who may transfer to us.

This process can begin as early as the January of the year of transfer (place is dependent upon meeting entry criteria). Once the places are finalized a data capture form is sent to all primary schools requesting details of any pupils with ALN and what support is needed.

Once KM knows about the pupil a meeting between parents and multi agencies if necessary is held and arrangements made for the pupil to receive extra visits at the school.

Extra visits usually take the form of the following building up gradually:

- A meeting with KM to put pupil and parents' mind at ease
- A tour of the school when it is quiet guided by ALN pupils
- A visit to a lesson with KM
- A lesson and staying for break and then building up to more lessons and lunch at the school.

Pupils are also provided with a Transition booklet where they can prepare themselves on facts about the school ie timings of the school day, a map, an example timetable, pictures of staff, the school prayer, the format of Eucharists etc

ALN pupils also attend a Transition Welcome Party which is organised by year 10 CoPE pupils. This is always a great success. The pupils organise food, activities and the year 6 pupils even have a photo booth and party bags!

ALN Transition Party



Transition to College



In year 10 there is an extensive Careers Programme and also many of the ALN pupils study ASDAN CoPE and Workskills. In ASDAN CoPE the pupils study module 8 in its entirety which is related to the world of work.

As part of this the pupils visit the College for a tour and speak to staff about College life.



Pupils write an Action Plan and look at the College Prospectus to find out what courses are available to them following year 11.

Also the pupils:

- are encouraged to visit again at Open Evenings
- are interviewed by the Careers Adviser about career aspirations and are given advice on how to achieve the next step in their education
- Have mock interviews
- Complete a CV and letter of application
- Investigate careers, qualifications needed, rate of pay etc
- Interview people about their job

Taster days and extra visits are then offered to the pupils at their chosen College.

Pupils with an IDP are advised by a specialist ALN Careers Adviser from year 9 in their transition Annual Review. Personnel from the relevant Colleges are then invited along to the reviews.

Through our strong links with the College, we can find out if the pupil has applied and take their place on the course.