

Tuesday, 8 January 2019.

Thursday, 14 February 2019 13:28

Today was my first day in work since the start of the term. The day started off with pastoral, as all days do, where I made crumpets and tea/coffee for pupils who wanted them. I assisted two year 10 pupils in Maths, with fractions and percentages and then English, where they became restless and needed further encouragement but did little work on a short comprehension. Later that day I went with two other staff members and five KS4 pupils to Ty Morfa where they spoke to staff about skills and training and possible post 16 courses they could take after school such as bricklaying and plastering. After a short while they became hyperactive and started wondering around the building, climbing under chairs and using iPads inappropriately, we therefore did not stay much longer.

Monday, 25 February 2019 17:33



Wednesday,
9 January...

Wednesday, 9 January 2019.

Sunday, 24 February 2019 14:05

After pastoral today, I assisted with KS3, they were disruptive in their English lesson, playing loud noises on their phones and making rude remarks. I supported the teacher to calm them down as she was new to the school and has previously transferred from another site of the school. The boys were refusing to work, with one year 9 pupil standing on a stool to turn off the projector. Another two members of staff were called to support the situation until break time. When the pupils had calmed down, the teachers left and I stayed with them to watch riddle videos on the screen where they needed to solve different scenarios.

Tuesday, 15 January 2019.

Sunday, 24 February 2019 14:05

I went with KS4 today to 'A1 Guns' which is a farm where they participate in outdoor labours such as building decking, moving timber and clearing weeds and nettles from the pond area. I assisted a year 10 pupil in removing screws from wooden planks for them to be reused. I then went down to the pond to oversee another pupils work, as this is a weekly trip, he had made a lot of progress, so I helped to remove the nettles from the area and put them into a wheelbarrow. After carrying out these duties, the pupils have the choice to use the guns to shoot at targets in the shooting field. They are shown how to hold a use the guns safely, and then I oversaw the shooting.



Tuesday, 15
January 20...

Wednesday, 23 January 2019.

Sunday, 24 February 2019 14:05

I got into work slightly late today as the roads were icy and I had to take a different route. However, this also meant that other staff were late, along with all pupil taxis, because of this the day started later and routine was altered. This made the pupils more agitated, and eager to not do any school work. In these situations, it is important to keep pupils calm and prevent any explosive behaviours which leads to other pupils copying and becoming aggressive. Therefore, during break, myself and another staff member took two KS4 pupils for a walk into town, as we were unable to use a vehicle due to road safety. These trips get the boys out and encourages good social skills as they learn how to act appropriately in public.

Tuesday, 29 January 2019.

Sunday, 24 February 2019 14:05

Two KS4 pupils got sent home this morning due to aggressive behaviour and damage to school property. However, a KS3 pupil wanted to be sent home and was trying to get the attention of the class teacher who was sending KS4 pupils home. She instructed him to wait five minutes with other staff while she dealt with the situation, but instead he ran outside and threw a rock at the front door window the school, he was then also sent home. During this, another KS4 who was with the other two who were being sent home, he was infuriated that he had not also been sent home (he had not broken property or acted as violently), therefore he got a mug from a classroom and threw it down the corridor.



Wednesday,
23 January...

Wednesday, 30 January 2019.

Whilst I was playing chess with a year 9 pupil this morning, the fire alarm went off. My KS3 class, along with the rest of the school then began to make their way outside to the car park of the library next door (the fire assembly point). As I am assisting them over, I notice two KS4 pupils starting a fight in the road. Myself and three other members of staff walk towards them, at which point child A kicks child B and child B walks off down the street, hitting and bending the wing mirror of a teacher's car and smashing the car window of a neighbouring house resident. Other members of staff followed child B, whilst I knocked on the door of the car owner to explain the situation, at which point the rest of the staff escorted the rest of school back in as it had been child B who pressed the alarm.



Tuesday, 29
January 20...

Friday, 1 February 2019.

Sunday, 24 February 2019 14:05

I spend today with KS3, as it is a Friday, they went to Cymmer Leisure centre for an hour of swimming. They have an hour where the pool is closed to the public, the boys who choose to do swimming are able to join in the activities that the teachers and LSA's, like myself, run or they can have free time in the shallow end of the pool. Today they had swim races and practiced swimming under water and collecting a small weight from under the water. As female staff are not permitted to go into the pool and male are not required, today we were all on the sides, with a lifeguard on duty. I threw in the weights and also spent some time in by the shallow end encouraging a year 8 pupil who cannot swim to use various floats.

Tuesday, 12 February 2019.

Sunday, 24 February 2019 14:05

Yesterday I was not in work, however I was told the pupils found out that there is going to be a move regarding both pupils and staff, where KS3 are moving to a different site along with some staff members, including myself, and other KS4 pupils will be joining the ones already in this site with their

pupils will be joining the ones already in this site with their staff. This caused upset as the pupils are nervous about the changes. During second lesson today, we showed a KS3 class their new timetable and talked about any concerns they may have. I helped them to understand why these changes are happening and the benefits that could come from them, they seemed anxious and were reluctant to participate in much school work today.



Wednesday,
30 January...

Tuesday, 19 February 2019.

Sunday, 24 February 2019 14:05

I have been informed that over the last week every day has been busy, with various pupils acting out, since being told about the move. As I was walking out of the lunch hall today I could see a fight starting with two year 7's. I rush towards them and as a teacher holds one pupil, I hold another using team teach techniques, this is the first hold I have need to use. The pupil I had calmed down within five minutes went into class but the other needed to be held for roughly 20 minutes. At the end of the day, when the taxis arrived, two other year 7 pupils ran away from the building, requiring most of the staff, including myself to search the area and follow them both until both were brought back, again using team teach techniques, I assisted in finding and keeping eyes on them as well as keeping other member of staff informed using phones

other member of staff informed using phones.



Friday, 1
February 2...

Friday, 22 February 2019.

Sunday, 24 February 2019 14:05

Today was the last day of term before having a week break, because of the move, which will take place the first day after half term, there is a lot to be done. The day was mostly spent moving furniture and equipment between sites and sorting out classrooms, because of this, there were no lessons plans and the pupils were allowed free time to play games such as monopoly, pool, ping pong and riding bikes on the yard. I spend my time with the pupils keeping them from becoming bored or

my time with the pupils, keeping them from becoming bored or doing anything inappropriate, encouraging healthy attitudes towards each other. I spend the afternoon with some boys outside, ensuring that any on bikes had a helmet on and playing football and other ball games with them.

Meetings and Training

Sunday, 24 February 2019 20:19

Over the course of my time in my placement, I have attended many meetings, including daily start of the day and de-brief meetings as well as weekly extended meetings to have more in-depth discussions. During the morning meetings, our head of school or unit leader will go through the day and inform us of any exclusions, illnesses, visitors or meetings to be aware of. Staff also have the chance to ask any queries regarding the day ahead such as if the minibus is free to use, to ask other teachers their plans for the day to get an idea of routine or to ask one another for advice on anything.

De-brief meetings are carried out every afternoon, after the pupils have gone home. These meetings give staff the chance to disclose any concerns that have arisen during the day, if any, to inform each other of how well the day has been for various pupils or classes, to discuss possible

exclusions or situations that everyone should be aware of and to give suggestions on how situations may have been handled differently. This time can also be used to fill out any forms on to log onto Hwb, which is the school database where pupil files are kept such as history sheets. This is used often to ensure that information regarding the child, or incidents concerning them, are logged for future reference and I myself use this often. A recent example of this would be from this week, when I wrote on Child C's history sheet as I had concerns regarding his sleeping



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patterns as he had seemed extremely tired for the second instance and had told me that he had had no sleep whatsoever the night before.

As stated in my diary entries, the school have important upcoming changes in which KS3 and KS4 will be separated, KS3 will be moving to another site and all of KS4 will join together in the site I am currently working in. I am amongst the staff which will be moving buildings with KS3 pupils, because of this, our weekly extended meetings are separated, with KS3 staff going to our new site to plan for

the changes and KS4 staff doing the same. These meetings are every Tuesday and start straight after the de-brief meetings, continuing until four o'clock. We have had three of these meeting all together, the first was to discuss classes, such as which pupils should be placed together in the same class and where staff should also be placed. We discussed this based on relationships between the pupils as well as their relationships with staff, however, we also needed to judge this based on age, ability and needs. I strongly suggested moving one child from one class to the other as he has a higher ability and lower tolerance to distractions, therefore he would not suit being in the younger class, even though he is a younger pupil. During this, we also came to the decision that it would be best to have two pupils not placed in either class as their needs require more attention and they are currently too disruptive to lessons and therefore placing them into a class would not be fair on the others. These pupils will have one to one attention in a separate room with activities more directed to their specific needs



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February 2...

activities more directed to their specific needs.

Our second meeting was to discuss timetables, what lessons should be placed when, how many breaks to include, when we should have assemblies, golden time, swimming and so on. To do this, we needed to ensure we were abiding by the national curriculum for Wales, including all areas of learning and were not going against school policy and procedure for learning. We also discussed a plan of action for behaviours and new idea on dealing with challenging behaviour, to ensure that all members of staff were going by the same rules and we worked together for the best outcome. This included a reward system for good behaviour and ensuring bad behaviour is not rewarded as a bribery technique as it has done in the past, talking about possible consequences such as a phone home, when to exclude, taking away golden time and fun activities but also ensuring that when dealing with challenging behaviour, other pupils are not being deprived of attention and preventing other pupils from becoming worked up and joining in, which has also been an issue in the past.

Our third meeting for more about the dynamic and set up of the new building, where each class should be based, how to set up the rooms, which included ordering new sofas as they are a way of calming the pupils, specifically when team teach is being used. We also discussed options for spare room such as a music room, a quiet area, a communal room and how to set up the dining hall. All the factors can contribute into making a more comfortable

environment for the pupils where they feel safe, also

stimulating positive behaviours and promotes learning, abiding by risk assessments to limit any damage or dangers

of damage to property and environment.



Meetings
and Training



Tuesday, 8
January 20...



Tuesday, 12
February 2...