



Alun School

2nd September 2009



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
Leadership and Management



ICT Mark



International
School Award



BASIC SKILLS
QUALITY MARK

alunschool.co.uk

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**Headteacher
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**Deputy Head
Mrs. J. Cooper**

**Assistant Heads
Mr. J. Colclough
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Mr. G. Evans**

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to welcome all students and their families back at the start of the new academic year, and provide an update on a number of developments in school.

If you have seen our school website, you will already be aware of the school gaining valuable recognition from two national organisations. Just prior to the end of last term we were assessed by BECTA for their prestigious ICT Mark, and were delighted to receive their approval. We are only the sixth secondary school in Wales to reach this very high standard for all aspects of our use and teaching of ICT, and I would like to place on record my appreciation of the work of a number of key personnel including Mr. Budgen, Head of Design and Information Technologies, who led our submission.

During the summer we were also pleased to hear that the school has reached the standard required to achieve Fairtrade status. This was an initiative approved by members of our School Council, and our thanks go to Miss McIntyre and her team who have been leading this work. I know that they will now be looking to move forward with our Fairtrade initiatives over the coming months.

You may also have seen reports in the press or on the website concerning the examination results of our students in public examinations. Full details will appear shortly in our annual examination bulletin, but the headlines were:

- Year 11 students achieved the best GCSE results in the school's history with almost three-quarters of the cohort reaching the Level 2 Threshold (achieving five or more A*-C grades)
- Year 13 students achieved the best Advanced Level results in the school's history with 27 individuals scoring at least three A grades

We now look forward to continuing to work hard on behalf of this year's candidates.

If you think a student (in any year group) may be entitled to claim free school meals this year, the current eligibility criteria is families claiming Child Tax Credit (without working Tax Credit and an annual income on or below £15,575), claiming Income Support, or claiming Job Seeker Allowance (income based). To apply, please contact the school office in person, by phone or by letter, and they will confidentially provide you with the application form and can also assist in its completion and return. Please note that credits for free school meals are now made electronically into our cashless catering system, thus ensuring total privacy for those students in receipt of the benefit.

Finally, this term we are introducing supervised study in the library from 8.00am until 5.00pm each day. We hope that this will prove popular, but please be aware that students wishing to stay after school will need to take and return a permission form signed by parents acknowledging that our responsibility for supervision ends promptly at 5.00pm.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. A. Jones – Headteacher

