

# YSGOL BRYN ALYN

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**Chair of Governors:** Mr D Edwards

## INTRODUCTION

Ysgol Bryn Alyn is a co-educational community comprehensive day school for pupils aged 11-16. Pupils are drawn primarily from 7 local primary/junior schools: Gwersyllt Junior, Ysgol Heulfan, St. Mary's Brymbo, Tanyfron C.P., Black Lane C.P, Pentre Broughton, Ysgol Penrhyn, New Broughton and Brynteg C.P. An increasing number of pupils opt for the school from other areas. The number on roll is presently 701. The school occupies purpose-built accommodation with specialist provision for science, design and technology, P.E., music, information technology and modern languages. Teaching is through the medium of English.

## THE MOVE FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Care for our pupils begins in the primary schools. The Year 7 Achievement Coordinator, Mrs L. Jones, visits the primary/junior schools attended by each pupil who will transfer to the school at the beginning of the new school year. During the visits the Year 6 pupils meet current Bryn Alyn pupils and find out about life in Bryn Alyn. They come to the school on a day visit and meet their tutors and the teachers who are going to teach them. All the pupils in Year 6 are involved in a range of transition activities across a number of curriculum areas.

## YEAR GROUPS

It is important that each pupil feels a sense of belonging. The school is divided into five year groups. Each year is led by an Achievement Coordinator who works closely with a team of form tutors. New pupils from the primary schools will be in Year 7 with their Achievement Coordinator Mrs L. Jones, who they will have already met through previous visits.

## FORM GROUPS

On entry into the school in September, incoming pupils are placed in form groups. Each of these groups is the responsibility of a form teacher and they also form the teaching groups for some subjects. Pupils needing extra help with English, Mathematics and Science will be taught in smaller groups. The Achievement Co-ordinator for Year 7, who arranges the groups, ensures that there is a balance in terms of gender and ability. We also ensure that a number of pupils from the same school are placed in each group. In this way, no pupil will be isolated from his or her previous school friends.

## YEAR HEADS (ACHIEVEMENT COORDINATORS)

The Achievement Coordinators are responsible for the oversight of the academic progress and welfare of pupils and discipline within their year. Regular meetings are held with Form Teachers to discuss any problems that may have arisen. Each member of the Leadership Group has oversight of a number of year groups and may be called in for their advice.



## **REPORTS AND PARENTS' EVENINGS**

All pupils will receive an annual full written report, issued in accordance with National Curriculum guidelines. This report will reflect your son/daughter's attendance, attainment and behaviour. A Parents' Evening is provided for each year group, where parents will have an opportunity to discuss in detail their son's/daughter's progress with the subject teachers. However, parents are most welcome to contact the school at any time to arrange an appointment to discuss a pupil's progress.

## **SCHOOL AIMS**

The Education Reform Act, 1988, specifies that a balanced and broadly based curriculum should be provided by schools which:-

*'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils in the schools and of society; and prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.'*

This means for the school that the following are important:

### **CARING**

To know our pupils as individuals with strengths, weaknesses, interests and ambitions.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

To have an orderly, caring and purposeful environment, and a sense of responsibility within it.

### **BEHAVIOUR**

To make sure that there is courteous behaviour and respect for the individual in the way that pupils behave.

### **OPPORTUNITY**

To value each pupil equally and to provide for all our pupils an entitlement to broad and balanced studies.

### **STANDARDS**

To encourage pupils to reach the highest possible standards in all that they do.

### **TEACHING**

To encourage high quality teaching, which stimulates the individual, and to promote the highest standard of teacher development.

### **PREPARATION**

To help prepare our pupils for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

### **MORAL AND PERSONAL VALUES**

To help foster a sense of individual worth and to give them an appreciation of the wide variety of attitudes and values within a multicultural society.

Our success as a school is based on the development, and subsequent maintenance, of an effective partnership between pupils, their parents and staff. A number of strategies have been developed to support this partnership, including the provision of newsletters and regular opportunities for parents to visit the school to fulfil their role as co-educators. We also place great emphasis on the use of the Personal Organiser, which provides a means of monitoring pupils' progress.

Further details relating to this partnership are set out within our Home School Agreement, which is issued on admission to the school.

## **The PTA**

The Parent Teacher Association meets regularly as a means of providing information about the school's activities. In addition to the support of school functions, the PTA organises social activities to raise funds for the school, including an annual Bingo Night.

The parents of all pupils are automatically members of the PTA. Further details are available from the Chairperson, Mr. W. Beddoes, at the school.

# THE SCHOOL DAY

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## TIMINGS

Warning bell	8.47 a.m.
Registration	8.50 - 9.00 a.m.
Lesson 1	9.00 - 9.50 a.m.
Lesson 2	9.50 - 10.40 a.m.
<i>Morning Break</i>	10.40 - 11.05 a.m.
Lesson 3	10.05 - 11.55 a.m.
Lesson 4	11.55 - 12.45 p.m.
<i>Lunch</i>	12.45 - 1.20 p.m.
Warning bell	1.18 p.m.
Registration/Assembly	1.20 - 1.40 p.m.
Lesson 5	1.40 - 2.30 p.m.
Lesson 6	2.30 - 3.20 p.m.

## LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

**Pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10** may not leave the site, unless they are required to return home for a meal. **Pupils in Year 11** may only leave the site with their parents' permission. Parents are reminded that they retain responsibility for their son's / daughter's safety and conduct whilst he/she is off site. All pupils who leave the site at lunchtime must carry a lunch pass, which must be available for inspection by staff. **In the interests of safety, parents are encouraged to withhold permission for their son/daughter to leave the site.**

## THE PERSONAL ORGANISER

A Personal Organiser is given to each pupil on entry to the school. It helps communication between home and school. Parents are asked to check and sign it each week.

If a pupil loses their organiser, a replacement can be bought.



## **CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY**

Information is available from the school

## **AFFILIATIONS WITH A PARTICULAR RELIGION OR RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**

There is no specific religious affiliation.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT ADMISSIONS**

Information is available from the school.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY / SCHOOL SECURITY**

The school takes the above most seriously. There is a designated Health and Safety Officer, Miss E. Williams, who reports to Governors on a termly basis. All visitors to the site are required to report to the School Office and to wear identification badges. Further details are available from the school.

## **ILLNESS IN SCHOOL**

If your child feels unwell in school, they should see the staff in the school office who will assess the pupil and decide on a course of action. The school has a number of qualified first aiders on site. It is important to your contact details up to date in case of emergency.

## **MOBILE PHONES**

The use of mobile phones is not permitted in school. If you wish your child to have a phone for emergency use it should be switched off. Any pupil seen using a phone will have it confiscated until the end of the day. If you need to contact your child please do so via the school office.

## **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

The school takes all reports of bullying very seriously. We investigate all incidents of bullying, no matter what form they take, and take appropriate action to respond discreetly and sensitively to both the needs of the victim and the bully.

## **CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS**

In the first instance, parents are invited to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns, or to register a complaint. Most issues can be resolved by contacting the appropriate Achievement Coordinator (Head of Year) who will endeavour to liaise with the Headteacher if necessary.

## **SCHOOL DATES**

2017-18

Term opens - Friday 1 September 2017 (Training day)

Half term closes - Friday 27 October 2017

Half term opens - Monday 6 November 2017

Term closes - Friday 22 December 2017

Term opens - Monday 8 January 2018 (Training day)

Half term closes - Friday 9 February 2018

Half term opens - Monday 19 February 2018

Term closes - Friday 23 March 2018

Term opens - Monday 9 April 2018 (Training day)

Half term closes - Friday 25 May 2018

Half term opens - Monday 4 June 2018

Training day—Friday 29 June 2018

Term closes - Friday 20 July 2018

## WHAT WE TEACH

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This is divided into two stages over the years 11 - 16

### KEY STAGE 3 (Ages 11 - 13) Years 7, 8 and 9

We teach the complete range of compulsory subjects and courses in order to comply with the National Curriculum. Our major aim is to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding of our pupils to form a sound basis for studies within KS4 and beyond.

**CORE SUBJECTS**      English                      Mathematics                      Science

#### FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

Art	Design Technology
Food and Textiles	Technology
French	Geography
History	Information Technology
Music	P.E
Personal & Social Education	Religious Education
Welsh	

### KEY STAGE 4 (Ages 14 - 16) Years 10 and 11

All pupils continue to study the complete range of subjects required by the National Curriculum. They also choose further courses of study to develop their own interests and abilities.

#### CORE SUBJECTS

English and English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science  
Religious Education  
P.E. (Statutory non-examination)  
Personal & Social Education (incorporating Preparation for Working Life)  
Welsh

#### CHOICES *Optional subjects drawn from:*

Arts: including Art, Music, Media Studies  
ICT, Business Studies  
Humanities: History, Geography, Religious Studies  
French, Welsh  
Design and Technology: Food Technology, Child Development, Resistant Materials  
P.E.  
C.O.P.E.  
XL Prince's Trust.

#### Skills Challenge Certificate

This qualification was introduced into our school curriculum in September 2016, and is studied by KS4 students. It is an overarching qualification based on the core curriculum, followed by all students and Options chosen to meet their individual needs.

#### 14—19 COLLEGE

A variety of extended choices in conjunction with Yale College and other providers.



## TEACHING METHODS

A variety of groupings are used, but setting is the most frequently employed method.

A variety of teaching styles are utilised, dependent on the subject, age and ability of the pupils, including teacher-led activities, individual and group work. The importance and use of personal research is continually underlined.

## CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

All pupils are continually assessed as part of normal classroom practice and in line with the National Curriculum assessment procedures.

In addition, class based tests or full internal examinations are set as necessary. In Year 11, pupils have the opportunity to sit examinations at G.C.S.E. level (General Certificate of Secondary Education) and at Entry Level. Parents are informed in advance of G.C.S.E. coursework requirements and the date by which pupils must complete work for assessment. Following consultation with parents and pupils, the school will decide on the examination subjects to be taken by each pupil.

### ***Subjects offered at G.C.S.E. level or equivalent include:***

Art and Design	English Language	ICT
Business Studies	English Literature	Mathematics
BTEC Personal & Social Development	English Media	Music
Child Development	Food Technology	Physical Education
Drama	French	Religious Studies
Design & Technology	Geography	Science
<i>(Resistant Materials)</i>	History	Welsh

The main examination board used is the WJEC (Welsh Joint Education Committee) but other examination boards are also used.

In addition to the courses we provide within school, there are several potential opportunities available in association with the Wrexham 14-19 option network. These are:

Performing Arts	Customer Service	Hair and Beauty
Economics	Hospitality / Catering	Engineering
Psychology	Public Services	Construction
Computing and Interactive Media	Animal Care	Spanish

## THE TEACHING OF WELSH

Ysgol Bryn Alyn recognises that the Welsh language and its related culture are of significance to schools in Wales. Therefore, the school follows and supports the procedures as laid down in the National Curriculum relating to the teaching of Welsh as a second language. The school also fosters the involvement of staff and pupils with Welsh culture through the Eisteddfod, the Urdd and Glan Llyn and generally encourages learning experiences which give pupils contact with our Welsh heritage. This supports, extends and enriches the entitlement each pupil in the school has to all aspects of the National Curriculum. All pupils in KS3 and KS4 follow a course in Welsh.

## ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Children who have learning or emotional / behavioural difficulties have an 'Additional Need'. This may also include pupils who have physical and/or sensory difficulties. The school aims to meet the needs of all pupils with Special Educational Needs, either throughout or at any time during their school career. Such pupils are given the greatest possible access to a broad and balanced education including the National Curriculum. Normally the needs of most pupils will be met in mainstream lessons, but occasionally pupils may be withdrawn to receive support. The knowledge, views and experience of parents are always sought so that there is the greatest possible degree of partnership between parents, children and the school. This support may extend to appropriate access arrangements for GCSEs and other assessments. The school staff also work closely with outside agencies to maximise the support available. Extra support for some pupils is provided by classroom assistants, in line with the statutory Individual Education Plans. For further information about the above please contact Miss Corfield.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Religious Education is taught as a separate subject to all pupils in years 7,8 and 9 and is part of their National Curriculum entitlement. In years 10 and 11 Religious Studies is offered as an examination subject. In addition, all pupils follow a statutory course in Religious Education. All courses follow guidelines laid down by the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Studies.

Collective worship is arranged through the school's assembly programme and during tutorial sessions.

## **RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT**

At the end of Year 11 all pupils will receive a document that records their achievements both in and out of school. It includes information about abilities in schoolwork, involvement in school life, out of school interests and activities, personal and social skills and work experience. The ROA seeks to show a balanced picture of a pupil's development over the previous two years. Pupils are given considerable responsibility for its preparation. The aim will be for pupils to take a more active part in their own learning. In Year 11 pupils use computer software as a means to further develop their responsibility for the finished document, which is presented to the pupil on his/her final day in school.

## **CAREERS GUIDANCE**

Making the right choice about careers is very important. Pupils are encouraged to use the website [www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com) to research their career ideas, option choices and job opportunities. A careers adviser from Careers Wales supports the school's careers curriculum, and every Year 11 pupil is offered an in depth interview to discuss his/her future. There is a comprehensive careers programme for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 as part of the curriculum. Additional careers information is also available in the school library.

## **SEX EDUCATION**

The school's policy on sex education, and the content of the course, has been reviewed and accepted by the Governing Body. Sex education is taught within a moral framework in the Personal and Social Education course, which is ongoing from Year 7 to Year 11. The programme is also supported and complemented in subject areas, particularly in Science and Child Development. The content of the course also fulfils National Curriculum requirements in areas such as Health Education. Details of the course are available in school. A parent may choose to withdraw his/her child from the elements of the sex education programme which are not part of the National Curriculum.

## **POLICY DOCUMENTS AND SCHEMES OF WORK**

Under the Education Act, parents have the right of access to all school policy documents and schemes of work. Please contact the Headteacher should you wish to see any of these documents. All policies will be available on the school website.

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

The all Wales Child Protection procedures make it clear that schools have an important role to play in the protection of children against abuse. This is confirmed by Local Safeguarding Children's board, which set the necessary action to be carried out by staff. Ysgol Bryn Alyn therefore has a duty to refer any concerns about the wellbeing of pupils to the Safeguarding and Support Department for further advice.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

All persons are of equal value. The policy applies equally to all who are connected with our school community: students, both pupils and adult learners, governors, staff, both teaching and non-teaching, visiting staff, including trainees.

The school is committed to equality of opportunity for all those listed above. In doing this we seek to ensure that each individual is able to achieve her/his potential as a student or employee. We are committed to ensuring that no one is treated more favourably or less favourably, either in a social or work context, on the basis of their gender, race, cultural background, age, disability, religious beliefs, marital status or sexual orientation. Each member of the school community has a responsibility to implement this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

# EXTENDING THE CURRICULUM

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The school provides a range of activities, organised to extend the curriculum, including

**Theatre visits to:** Theatr Clwyd • Ellesmere Port • Neptune Theatre, Liverpool • Liverpool Playhouse • The Lowry Centre • Manchester Opera House •

**History and Geography Field Trips to:** Bersham Ironworks • Krakow, Poland • Berlin, Germany • Caernarvon Castle • Styal Mill • The Black Country Museum • The Imperial War Museum, London • Llandudno •

**Outdoor Activities:** Dry Slope Skiing • Football Coaching • Tennis Clinics • Canoeing • Rock Climbing •

**Trips abroad:** Skiing in Andorra • Linguistic and cultural activities in Normandy •

**Language Courses** at Glanllyn •

**Science visits to:** Dinorwig Power Station • Catalyst at Widnes • London Natural History Museum • Blue Planet Aquarium • Techniquet •

**Art Visits to :** Tate Modern Gallery • Lady Lever Gallery • Chester Zoo •

## SPORT

The school aims to provide pupils in all years with access to competitive, creative, OAA and HRE activities from the KS3 Programme of Study in line with the National Curriculum for Wales. Within KS3 pupils experience a wide range of activities such as football, rugby, netball, badminton, swimming, gymnastics and Dance. During the summer term pupils take part in Athletic activities, Tennis, Rounders /Softball and Cricket. To promote Health and Wellbeing all pupils participate in a variety of Health Related activities which encourages them to focus on their own healthy lifestyle.

In KS4 the school provides one statutory PE lesson for all pupils but there is the opportunity for pupils to further their interest by choosing to take PE at examination level. Pupils who wish to study at this level will have three more lessons per week and this allows them to develop the theoretical and practical aspects of PE.

The school has extensive facilities including the Gwyn Evans Sports Hall, swimming pool, gymnasium, rugby and football playing fields, and a floodlit Multi Use Games Area. The school encourages pupils to take part in competitive team games for example Football, Rugby, Cricket, Tennis, Rounders and Netball. The school also promotes participation in other sporting activities such as Gymnastics and Athletics. Many of the pupils who compete in these activities have the opportunity to further represent Wrexham, North East Wales and Wales. There have been many pupils who have gained honours at these levels.

The 5x60 Programme which is supported by WAG and the SCFW is an initiative which allows a secondary school to offer an enhanced programme that compliments the curriculum as well as promote life long activities. This allows pupils to see sport beyond the school curriculum and develop not only new skills through other activities but encourages them to take on other roles within sport. Past pupils have developed their leadership skills as well as coaching roles through the opportunity that 5x60 has offered. The programme will also develop new and exciting ways of attracting pupils into physical activities who may not have discovered their area of interest.

## PUPIL VOICE

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) believes that all children and young people have the right to be safe, happy and healthy, and to develop their skills and potential through education.

In order that pupils can make such a contribution to society, they need to be engaged in the decision –making process of their schools and community. At Ysgol Bryn Alyn there are a number of groups that form our 'Pupil Voice'.





## ATTENDANCE

Parents have a legal duty to make sure that their children are properly educated. Regular attendance means that pupils should be in school from Monday to Friday during the hours of 8.50am - 3.20pm. If your child is ill and unable to attend, please ring the school office on 01978 720700 and ask to report the absence.

Please note that absence is not an automatic right but is granted at the discretion of the Headteacher. Holiday forms are available from your child's Achievement Coordinator; however we recommend that holidays are taken during the statutory holiday periods.

Absence is monitored very closely by the Pastoral Team and the Educational Social Worker based in school. We expect all pupils to achieve a minimum 95% attendance. We operate a first day contact system which is designed to improve irregular attendance.

Lateness is not acceptable and is carefully monitored. Late arrival to class causes unnecessary disruption to the learning of others. Students who are late twice in a week will be issued with an hour's detention after school.

## THE LIBRARY

The school library managed by Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Perrin, whose aim is to provide a comfortable working environment conducive to research, reading and quiet study.

The library can accommodate thirty pupils sitting at the tables, twelve at the soft seating areas and fifteen at the computer suite.

The library contains an up to date stock of books to support both curriculum needs and leisure reading.

There is also a variety of popular magazines and newspapers.

Pupils can visit the library during morning break and lunchtimes. New Year 7 pupils will be invited to a library induction session at the start of term where they can learn all about their library and what it can offer them. Pupils of all ages are encouraged to join various book clubs, quiz teams and often get to meet with visiting children's authors.

Teaching staff can also book their class into the library when they need to use our resources.

## MUSIC

The school has a thriving Music Department, the results of which can be seen and heard at regular concerts, workshops, School Eisteddfod and productions.

Instrumental lessons are delivered by peripatetic staff from the Wrexham Music Service. These include:

Drum kit	Guitar
Voice	Strings
Brass	Woodwind

We are one of the few secondary schools who still offer this service for free. A limited number of instruments are available from the school and county. However, once you've experienced some tuition in your chosen instrument, then it's recommended that you buy your own. Payment schemes are available to aid families with this.

Every year, pupils learning to play an instrument are given the opportunity to take external examinations. Each pupil will be expected to take part in the relevant school and County ensembles. These include choir, brass/strings and woodwind bands, a school Samba band and drum/guitar and keyboard club.

These excellent opportunities enable you to develop essential key skills such as communication, working with others and enhancing individual performance. It's an excellent way to settle in to your new environment and meet new friends.

The Music curriculum at Bryn Alyn looks at various topics, concentrating on composing, performing and appraising. Every pupil will gain instrumental and vocal skills through their music lessons, developing their communication skills and generally boosting their confidence - attributes which are highly valued in today's world of work.

We are proud of our busy and successful department, and in the words of a current pupil:

*"I really enjoy the samba and keyboard club. It makes Music fun and I've met loads of friends through it. I enjoy the lessons because we get to do loads of practical stuff! It's fab!!"*

## SCHOOL CLUBS and ACTIVITIES

Brass	Cello	Choir	Drum	Guitar	Keyboards	Singing	Violin	Woodwind
Football	Gymnastics	Netball	Rugby	Year 7 Science club	ICT catch up	Art		