

Winter 2021-2nd Edition

YBA

Schools that work with us

Ysgol Heulfan, Gwersyllt

St Marys School, Brymbo

Ysgol Penrhyn - New broughton . CP

Brynteg C.P. School

Black lane School, Pentre Broughton

Ysgol Tanygron

Front Cover by Sonia Kukla Ysgol Heulfan



Learning French Together!



6W

"I look forward to French lessons. It's good to learn a new language."

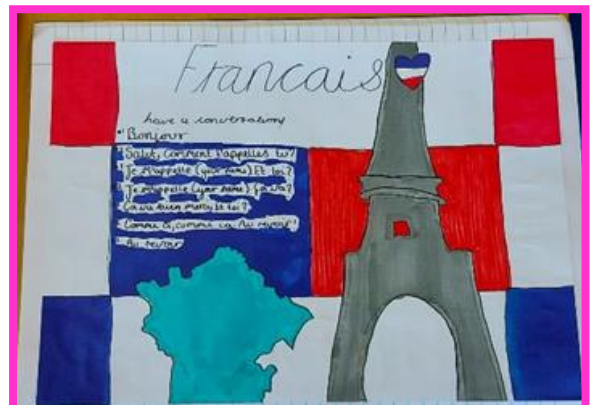
"It's lots of fun learning French. It is very exciting too!"



We are trialling a complete French course for children aged 7 to 11: www.frenchiefreddie.com



The lessons come with animated presentations led by a native speaker, flashcards, differentiated worksheets, posters to display and links to songs.





We adapted the Matiau Iaith to help us teach French language patterns. We thank Mrs L. Jones (Head of Year 7: YBA) for helping us!

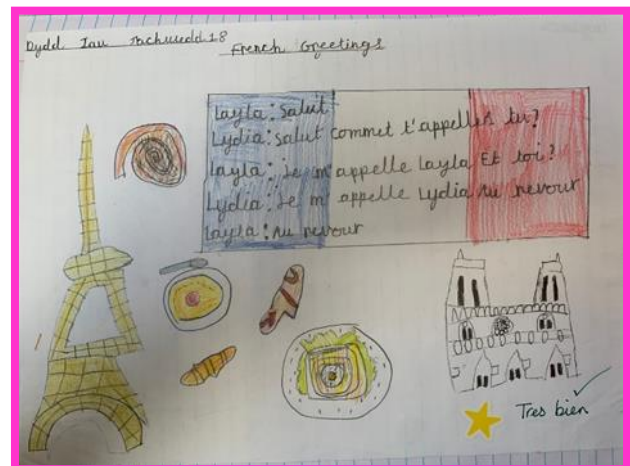
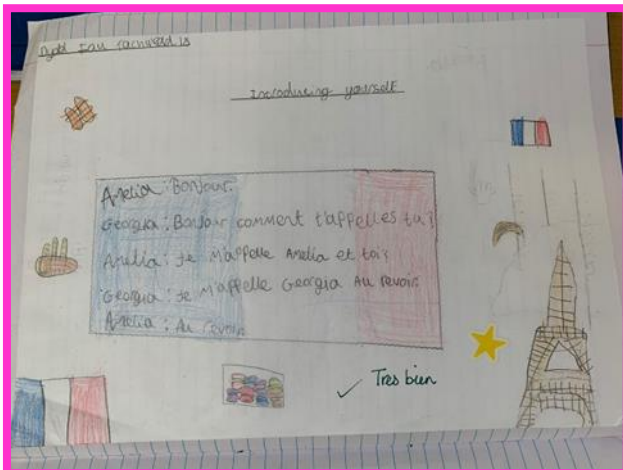


Please scan the QR code to see our amazing Year 6 children speaking in French and only after one lesson!

Très bien!



Miss Prydderch's class (Yrs 4 & 5) are having a lot of fun learning French together! Here is some of their work ...



Welcome

I am delighted to be able to present our second edition of our Bryn Alyn Cluster Newsletter. It has been wonderful to welcome all of our cluster primary schools up to Ysgol Bryn Alyn for our Transition Extravaganza which proved to be incredibly popular. All of our schools have had a very busy term and our stu-



dents have benefitted from the extensive opportunities offered to them. I hope you enjoy reading about all of the fantastic events that have taken place this term in our cluster.

Dream. Reach. Achieve.

Competition

This is our second Newsletter which includes news from YBA and all of its Primary School Cluster. The first one in July was very well received and thank you for all of your positive feedback.

Sonia Kukla was chosen by Mrs Slinn from all of the entries we received and as you can see by our Front Cover for December 2021 it is brilliant.

Do you think you can do as good as Sonia then why not send in your ideas.

It needs to show how you think we should all work together in our community, and the competition is open to anyone with a great idea.

So, send in ideas for the name of the front of the Newsletter. The next one will be for Easter and we already have an entry for the Summer edition.

Your design will be on the front cover of the Easter edition and your school will be on the first 2 pages and there will also be a prize awarded when the Newsletter is given out.

Send your entries to Mrs Dawn Beet, include your name, year group and school name

Email: mailbox@ysgolbrynalyn.wrexham.sch.uk

Post: Ysgol Bryn Alyn, Church Street, Gwersyllt, Wrexham, LL11 4HD



Estyn Report



On the 4th of November Mrs Slinn announced:

It gives us great pleasure to share with you the outcome of our last Estyn Monitoring Visit. I am sure you will agree that the report itself is amazing and testament to the fantastic work that all of our wonderful staff do at Ysgol Bryn Alyn. Our school has made phenomenal progress over the past few years, and this was recognised by Estyn in the verbal feedback along with all of the hard work and dedication of our staff. They were extremely complimentary of our students who really did us all proud. We are so very proud of our amazing school!



GRESFORD DISASTER MEMORIAL VISIT

Wednesday
22nd September 2021

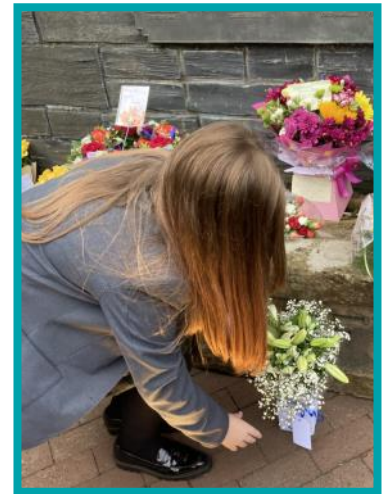


Mrs Slinn and Mr Griffiths took Jamie Wright Year 11, Ffion Wright and Ruby Williams both Year 7 to the Gresford Disaster Memorial Service.



Jamie Wright 11S and Ffion Wright 7Y their Great grandfather James Davies (Moss) was killed in the tragedy.

Ruby Williams 7G. Two of her great granddads worked in the mines and one was injured in this.



Remembrance Sunday 2021



Miss Corfield went with two of our pupils, Louie Williams and Tegan Roberts to lay a wreath at the Gwersyllt Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday



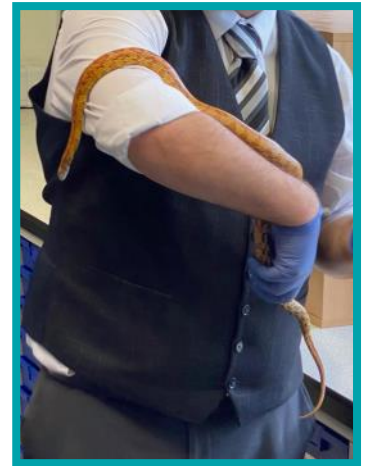
Mrs Slinn went with one of our Head Pupils Sophie Kocker and Deputy Chris Roberts to lay a wreath at the Wrexham Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday



Open Evening

What an Open Evening we had! Thank you to all the parents and pupils from our local primary schools who visited us. We loved seeing you all and sharing what YBA is REALLY like! From snakes to Spain, Samba drumming to Maths Mastery - we really do have it all!

Huge thank you to our dedicated staff and fabulous pupils. 'Shout out' to all the pupils who supported, especially our wonderful Prefect Team - we are very proud of you all!



Extravaganza Days



14th September 2021



We loved hosting some of our primary schools at our very first YBA Year 5 & 6 Extravaganza Day and the weather was kind to us too! Huge thank you to Brynteg CP, Penrhyn CP and Heulfan for coming down and getting so involved in all the activities. It was great to meet all the pupils and see their enthusiasm for the interactive tasks! From the Spanish Armada to Water Rockets - everyone enjoyed themselves



We had our second YBA Year 5 & 6 Extravaganza Day here at YBA. This time we welcomed St Mary's Brymbo, Black Lane, Gwersyllt CP and Tanyfron to our school. The weather was fabulous and we had a great morning with our Primary schools. Activities included Street Dance, Geography, Science, Team Building activities with PE, Coding in Maths, Spanish with Mr Brookes and language games with English. Massive 'shout-out' to our Year 5 & 6 pupils who came, their teachers for bringing and supervising them, our subject staff for their enthusiasm and effort and our wonderful Prefect Team for being fantastic role models to our future pupils!

23rd September 2021



Transition

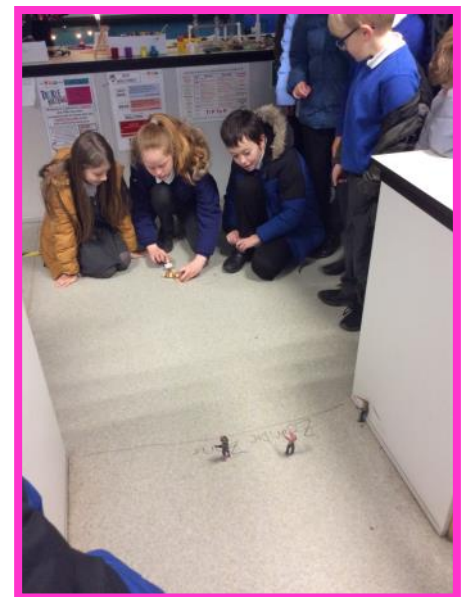


Science & Technology Faculty

We had 2 schools in for transition work this half term.

Brynteg School made stationary holders in the DT room.

Black Lane School built and tested catapults in Science.



Humanities Faculty

Year 7 pupils entered a competition for Inter Faith week in November where they had to hunt for a series of letters around school to decipher a message.

These are the winners:

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Joe Wright | Ellis Turnbull | Macey Hanmer | Sam Evans |
| Ella Jones | Daniel Jones | Phoebe Merritt | Lucy Aldred |
| Zoe Spiers-Elwin | Ava Davies | Ruby Gibson | Emily Colley |
| Jessica Roberts | Mollie Beer | Henry James | Mia Jones |
| Ruby Read | Abi Green | Owen Burke | Evie-Mai Henderson |

Well Done!

Expressive Arts



On the 21st October Mrs Evans-Lea from the Expressive Arts Faculty, hosted a Dance Enrichment Workshop for our GCSE Year 10 & 11 option groups as well as a selection of Year 9 pupils.

This was a fantastic full day of contemporary dance. The wonderful opportunity was facilitated by Translucent Professional Dance Company who specialise in the GCSE curriculum and teaching set routines in preparation for these external exams. The pupils danced superbly and as always, were a credit to YBA

Duke of Edinburgh

Today - we were absolutely thrilled to be presenting the first full Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards to some of our Year 11 pupils who have been working hard to complete all the aspects of this very prestigious award.

Cllr David Griffiths, our Chair of Governors, joined Mrs Slinn to present the awards. Each recipient received a special certificate and pin badge in recognition of this amazing achievement.

Huge well done to....

Chris Roberts Yr11

Trinity Jacobs Yr11

Sophie Kocker Yr11

Also Rebecca Watts, our Head Girl (Class of 2021) who returned to YBA for this special presentation. !



Erasmus

29th November 2021—3rd December 2021

Year 9 students worked with Drama practitioners as part of the Erasmus+ Programme. Throughout the week they developed a Theatre in Education Performance looking at the impact of the internet and social Media on society.

As part of the week YBA hosted teachers from France, who have been involved in the project in order to learn about how Drama approaches, specifically Theatre In Education, can be used to engage and educate their students about important issues in society. They were highly impressed with our school, the systems and our students. They are already looking forward to their return!



On the Friday Erasmus cast performed to students from Black Lane Primary School and a year 7 audience. Mrs Noon, leader of the project, was so proud of how our student Erasmus Team demonstrated our REACH Values throughout the week. What an amazing performance it was! We aim to tour this performance to all of our feeder Primary schools throughout the year... so watch this space!



School Council



The School Council members held an inaugural meeting today for our School Council 2021 - 2022.

The meeting was chaired by our Head Pupils and Deputy Head Pupils and attended by our Prefect Team and Year representatives, there were informative discussions, interesting and thought provoking opinions and, above all, healthy debates by the pupils.

We take the views of our pupil body very seriously and were very proud of the school council today for discussing issues ranging from charity work, activities at break and lunchtime, canteen arrangements, LGBTQ+ awareness and ESTYN feedback (our Head & Deputy Head pupils did meet the ESTYN HMI) - pupil voice, from the inspection week. This then followed with the Year 11 Prefect team discussing Prom plans for the end of this academic year. Lots of work to do - but with this group of pupils leading, it is an exciting time!

Thanks to Head Pupil, Sophie Kocker, who led this particular meeting with the support of the Head/Deputy Prefect team, including ensuring required administration was completed. Head Pupil Beau Williams will take the reins and

Mrs Slinn and Mrs Byrne with the newly elected school council

On the 3rd November the School Council Coordinator Mrs Byrne arranged for a representative of Parliament UK to come in and deliver a workshop with our School Council.



Junior NBA Competition

On the 23rd November eight players from Ysgol Bryn Alyn's basketball squad travelled down to Aberystwyth University to be drafted into Basketball Wales' first Junior NBA competition. To start the day they learned about USA's NBA basketball and the ideas behind starting a Junior NBA competition in Wales. After doing group work on skills for sport, respect in sport and leadership in sport the pupils went down to the University's sports centre and took part in various drills and skills sessions, lead by coaches from some of Basketball Wales' national teams. The day ended with schools from all over Wales congregating in the Great Hall to be selected to represent one of the NBA's clubs in the national competition. Ysgol Bryn Alyn have been drafted to represent Indiana Pacers in the national competition and will be receiving Pacer kit teams from North Wales before playing against other schools in the Northern Conference.



Mr Holden leads his extra-curricular basketball squad on a Thursday night.

Young Writers

Young Writers invited students to write a poem for their anthology Empowered which is aimed at helping students find and use their voices to express themselves through poetry.

The students have been awarded a certificate of merit for their poems which have also been chosen for publi-





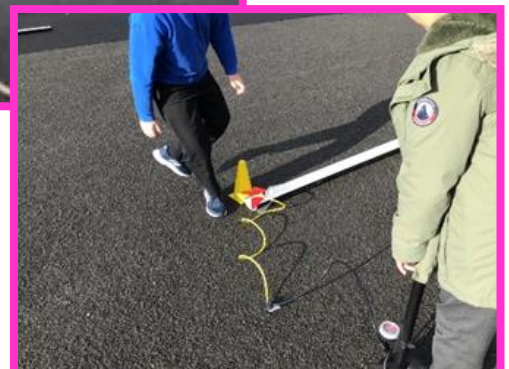
Financial Education



Pupils in year 1 and 2 received a money masterclass workshop from Principality Building Society and Xplore. The workshops used activities such as board games to teach life skills such as identifying money, costing and learning how to save. The workshops were an excellent introduction to saving money for Foundation Phase children. The carousel of hands on activities were engaging, fun and educational – from coin recognition to role-play working and using a building society. The children loved it!

Key Stage 2

The children across Key Stage 2 have been exploring the topic of 'Space'. They have been creating their own 'Lost in Space' transmissions and have used Green Screen to record these. They have investigated launching rockets using the equipment loaned from Ysgol Bryn Alyn – the children had





Royal Navy Visit

Tryfan and Yr Wyddfa (Years 4, 5 and 6) were very lucky and had a visit from Emily and Rob from the Royal Navy. During their visit, the children were shown a presentation about the Navy, the different jobs the Navy undertake, and the places they visit in the world. Being part of a team is very important in the Navy, so each class participated in a team building session. They also took part in an activity called 'Lost at Sea' where they had to work in small groups to decide what they would take with them if they were lost at sea – the children enjoyed this experience, which gave them an insight into the career.



Moel Hebog

Children in Moel Hebog (Reception and yr1), made some 'hedgehog' bread as part of their autumn topic. They learnt about where the ingredients come from and celebrated harvest. The children enjoyed tasting their bread and sharing it with family and friends.





November Science Week

Dosbarth Conwy it was edible art day and they made Mondrian style biscuits

Dosbarth Powis and Chirk made magic potions, and food including ice cream for their end of topic banquet.

Dosbarth Beaumaris investigated how far different vehicles travelled and how to brush their teeth.

Dosbarth Dinas Bran tried their hand at code breaking. They also measured noise in decibels using data loggers and adapting tubes to make the sound louder.

Dosbarth Harlech made lava lamps and now know the difference between baking soda and baking powder.



Gresford Sailing Club



The children were very nervous to start but soon got the hang of it.



They sailed in boats called Oppies and Hansa's. The Hansa's are especially designed for people with disabilities.



A fantastic opportunity which allowed the children to push themselves and reach new heights.





Eco-Readymix Competition



Eco-Readymix ran a school competition in the summer to design a logo for their mortar silos. They had an over whelming amount of entries with almost 500 designs from pupils and schools across Wrexham. They chose five winners whose drawings have been printed and put onto five of their mortar silos which will be on building sites all over the North West. We were delighted to find out that two of the successful winners were Annie Marubbi and Josh Woodward in year 4.



Members of staff from the company Eco-Readymix came to school and awarded them with art sets and certificates along with a £400 donation for the school. We are so proud of them!

E.R. Reilly Visit



Author E.R. Reilly visited our school and talked to the children about his work and gave them 'top-tips' for writing stories of their own.

When he returned to our school year 5 pupils shared some of their stories they had written with him. He was very impressed!



School Trips

It has been wonderful this term to be able to enjoy our school trips again.



Years 5 and 6 spent a wonderful day at the Grosvenor Estate Farm participating in the 'Climate Action Farm in a Box' project. This has helped pupils to understand what climate change means for farmers and for them. It was an experience which helped them make connections between their world and the farmer's world in a



Years 4, 5 and 6 children participated in a range of interactive activities based around safety on their trips to Dangerpoint in Holywell.



Year 1 and 2 children enjoyed workshops with staff from Principality Building Society and Xplore. They learnt about the value of money, how to earn money and looked at spending versus saving.



Investors in Families



Here at Gwersyllt CP we are delighted to announce that this half term the School were awarded the Investors in Families Award. We are very proud to receive this, particularly as we were awarded the highest level, which is Diamond.

Earlier this year the school won the lockdown award in this field. A huge thank you and round of applause for the school community and, in particular, Miss Thomas and Mrs O'Toole, who have worked

hard over a number of years to achieve this accolade for the school.

The award is for 'Strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity and well-being'.

The diamond award is particularly special as it shows a continued commitment to this goal over a sustained period of time. A huge thank you and well done to everyone involved, especially Mrs O'Toole and Miss Thomas who led this initiative from the front.

Since then, the school have had a number of people contact us to look over the good work going on. Diolch yn fawr iawn to all for your continued support..

ICT at Gwersyllt



There was much celebration this December as a Christmas gift came early and every pupil in KS2 finally had a device to work on as and when they please.

Each pupil from Year 3 upwards now has chrome book and the class a charging trolley. With the new curriculum in mind, this will allow for an increase in independent skills with pupils working on activities using the tools and skills they deem appropriate.

It has been a few weeks packed with digital skills. The pupils have had visitors in looking at coding. A skill they enjoyed so much that we have brought in some electronic boards and components of our own.

