



# Governors' Annual Report To Parents 2023/24

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Well where has the year gone I'm here writing my Chair of Governor's report once more.

I did say in the past that we will see positive results and this has now been shown, but none of this would have happened without the dedication from everyone in the school led by Mrs Slinn and supported by our senior leadership team and certainly not forgetting every teacher and support staff who made this success possible. I must also not forget our wonderful pupils for working so hard, I also recognise our school Governing body who carried on giving their unwavering support, to me it demonstrates what can be achieved when everyone has one goal.

Finally, can I repeat my thanks to everyone and to also thank you for giving us the opportunity to educate your child and prepare them for whatever path they take in life.

Regards and keep safe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D J Griffiths', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr David J. Griffiths

Chair of Governors

Ysgol Bryn Alyn

# The Governing Body

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type of Governor</u>
Mrs Adele Slinn	Headteacher
Mr David Griffiths (Chair)	LA Governor
Mr Nigel Pilsbury (Deputy)	Community Governor
Ms Hayley Williams	Community Governor
Ms Linda Moore	Community Governor
Mr Bernie McCann	Community Governor
Cllr Dana Davies	Additional LA Governor
Cllr Beverley Parry-Jones	LA Governor
Mrs Sheelagh Jones	LA Governor
Cllr Jeremy Kent	LA Governor
Cllr Pete Howell	LA Governor
Mrs Karen Brown	Parent Governor
Mrs Charlotte Dixon	Parent Governor
Mrs Emma Williams	Parent Governor
Mr Mark Byrne	Parent Governor
Mrs Jo Ebrey	Teacher Governor
Mrs Katy Cottrell	Teacher Governor
Mrs Dawn Beet	Staff Governor
Jane Williams	Clerk to Governing Body

The Chair of the Governing Body can be contacted via the school on

[mailbox@ysgolbrynalyn.wrexham.sch.uk](mailto:mailbox@ysgolbrynalyn.wrexham.sch.uk)

The Clerk to the Governing Body can be contacted at Wrexham County Borough Council, 3rd Floor, Lambpit Street, Wrexham, LL11 1AR or by emailing [jane.williams@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:jane.williams@wrexham.gov.uk)

If any parent is interested in becoming a parent governor, please contact the school directly.

## Your right to request a meeting with the school's governing body

The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 removed the requirement for school governing bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents. Instead, new arrangements were introduced to enable parents to request up to 3 meetings in any school year with the governing body, on matters which are of concern to them. If parents wish to use their rights under the Act to hold a meeting, four conditions will need to be satisfied:

**1. Parents will need to raise a petition in support of holding a meeting.**

The parents of at least 30 registered pupils will need to sign the petition. If it is a paper petition, then a parent's written signature must be given as well as the name and class of each of their children who are registered pupils at the school. If the petition is in electronic format, the 'signature' required is the typed name of the parent plus the name and class of each child who is a registered pupil at the school and the email address of each parent who 'signs' the electronic petition.

**2. The meeting must be called to discuss matters which affect the school.**

The meeting cannot be called to discuss such matters as the progress of individual pupils, or to make a complaint against a member of the school's staff or governing body. The petition should contain brief details of the matter or matters to be discussed, and the reasons for calling the meeting. This information should be clearly displayed at the top of the petition, with parents' signatures appearing below.

**3. A maximum of 3 meetings can be held during the school year.**

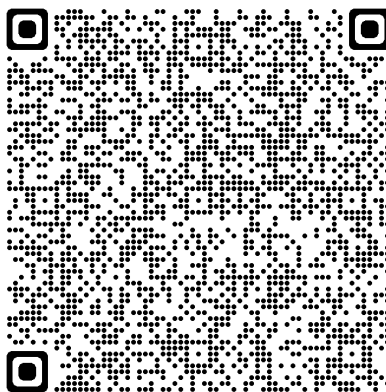
The law allows parents to use their rights to request up to 3 meetings with a school governing body during the school year.

**4. There must be at least 25 school days left in the school year.**

The law makes it a condition that at least 25 school days are left in the school year when the petition is received so that the meeting can be held. A "school day" means a day when the school is open to pupils: it does not include weekends, public holidays, school holidays or INSET days.

The address for service of a petition requesting a meeting with YBA's governing body is:  
Chair of Governors, Ysgol Bryn Alyn, Church Street, Wrexham, LL11 4HB

Further advice on how parents may go about requesting a meeting with a governing body is available on the Welsh Government's website by scanning the QR code.





# Vision for YBA

**YBA has uncompromising aspirations for every individual and for our school to be an exceptional and inspirational community of lifelong learners.**

Our values “DREAM, REACH, ACHIEVE” highlight our aim to ensure that students at YBA are provided with high-quality, ambitious learning experiences based on a broad and balanced curriculum to allow every student to achieve their dreams.

YBA prepares and motivates our students for a rapidly changing world by supporting them to become ambitious and capable learners, enterprising creative contributors and ethically informed citizens with a respect for our core values of **resilience, effort, aspiration, cooperation and honour**. Students experience success today and are prepared for tomorrow.

We believe that a happy child is a successful one. We provide a welcoming, happy, safe, and supportive learning environment in which everyone is valued, respected and all achievements are celebrated encouraging our students to be healthy and confident individuals. Our school empowers all students to embrace learning, achieve their personal best and build their emotional, social and physical well-being.

We strive to prepare all students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens ready to meet the challenges of the future. YBA is a student-centred organization delivering excellence in education. In partnership with families and the community, our goal is to create relevant learning opportunities for students — both inside and outside the classroom — that help them develop the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and character necessary to succeed in a technologically advanced world.

Our team is committed to our students, our communities, and each other. We believe that our cohesion and morale help us to achieve excellence in our school. **Our commitment to our students and our dedication to impacting their education through innovative methods makes us unique.**



# Vision for YBA

Ambitious capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives

Enterprising creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work

- High expectations and high challenge are common practice
- Staff are highly trained and motivated
- Metacognition and problem solving is evident in all learners
- Success criteria will be co-constructed
- All students are supported to have high aspirations through a career focussed culture.

- 100% of our students will achieve skilled employment or move onto higher level training
- Pupil voice drives changes within the school
- NCfW is embedded throughout the school
- Emerging technologies are used creatively and effectively to enhance learning
- A broad range of enrichment activities will be offered



- School Council and House system is embedded and supports cultivating a team ethos
- Local, National and Global issues are embedded into a continuously improved curriculum
- Strong links are formed with the community and our cluster primary schools
- Welsh Language and culture is celebrated

- Resilience and Independent learning is evident in all learners
- Bespoke curriculum allows all learners to succeed
- All students will be encouraged to achieve at least 96% attendance
- Emphasis is placed on cultural capital and character of all students

Ethically informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Healthy and confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members



# Links to the Community

## Feeder Schools:

- Gwersyllt Community Primary School
- Ysgol Heulfan
- Brynteg County Primary School
- St Mary's Aided Primary School, Brymbo
- Black Lane County Primary School
- Ysgol Tanyfron
- Ysgol Penrhyn, New Broughton



We have excellent relationships with our feeder schools and enjoy regular contact through curricular and pastoral links. We provide an enhanced transition programme for those pupils who need extra support and guidance with the transition to secondary school. We held Year 5/6 Extravaganza days in September 2023 to support the transition work. Here pupils from primary school took part in Faculty lead activities (including Spanish language activities, Street Dance, Rocket Launching and problem solving). It was a great opportunity for our pupils to meet some of our staff and take part in an event on the school grounds.

Feedback from our Primary cluster included...

### St Mary's, Brymbo

*'Just wanted to say how much the children enjoyed the Extravaganza at YBA. They came back full of enthusiasm for your place. The google classroom is handy way of sharing information and keeping in touch as the children are familiar with working that way in school, it is a great tool to help smooth transition.'*

### Black Lane CP

*'The pupils in year 5 and 6 recently attended an 'Extravaganza Day' and experienced outdoor activities within their bubbles. Although, they could not mix with other primaries, they met other pupils visually, at a distance. All of the pupils had an excellent day, and were very excited about going to YBA in the future.'*

*Black Lane also commented further on transition activities*

*'YBA ensure that our pupils are supported well with transition to secondary school. Our pupils feel connected and know who key members of staff are. They are well informed about key information and expectations of YBA and know they can talk about any questions they have at any time. Key information about the needs of individuals and their families is passed on so that provision can be put in place to support a smooth transition.'*



The Additional Learning Needs department ran an Afasic period during the summer term for pupils in Year 6 who require additional academic support. This time allowed pupils to come to YBA over a number of days and then into the CTD where we created 'butterflies of belonging' with notes of their hopes and dreams now displayed down our Expressive Arts corridor. It will serve as a reminder to them for their next 5 years.

We have continued to develop our links with the local community by producing a bi-annual 'cluster newsletter' in conjunction with the primary schools. The

newsletter includes news and events from the local resource centre, Alyn Waters Country Park and Gwyn Evans Sports Centre as well as the Primary Schools.

We have a strong following on our Website and Facebook

- [www.ysgolbrynalyn.co.uk](http://www.ysgolbrynalyn.co.uk)



# School Budget Usage 2023-2024

<b>Education Improvement Grant 2023-2024</b>			
<b>FINAL OUTTURN STATEMENT</b>			
<b>Expenditure &amp; Income Report</b>			
<b>For Period 01.04.23 -31.03.24</b>			
	Schools Budget 2023/24	Expenditure & Income to 31.03.2024	Balance as at 31.03.2024
Total Employees	28813	56006	-27193
Total Supplies	28432	5460	22971
Total Income	-55547	-55547	0
Total	1698	5919	-4222
<b>Pupil Development Grant 2023-24</b>			
<b>FINAL OUTTURN STATEMENT</b>			
<b>Expenditure &amp; Income Report</b>			
<b>For Period 01.04.23 -31.03.24</b>			
	Schools Budget 2023/24	Expenditure & Income to 31.03.2024	Balance as at 31.03.2024
Total Employees	145,789	166,565	- 20,776
Total Transport	1,816	22	1,794
Total Supplies	8,000	2,215	5,785
Total Support Services	-	1,400	- 1,400
Total Income	- 170,200	- 170,200	-
Total	- 14,595	0.94	- 14,596
<b>School Delegated Budget 2023-24</b>			
<b>FINAL OUTTURN STATEMENT</b>			
<b>Expenditure &amp; Income Report</b>			
<b>For Period 01.04.23 -31.03.24</b>			
	Schools Budget 2023/24	Expenditure & Income to 31.03.2024	Balance as at 31.03.2024
Total Employees	3,539,505	3,534,279	5,226
<b>Total Premises</b>	382,806	317,188	65,618
Total Transport	7,816	4,412	3,404
Total Supplies	263,291	198,595	64,696
Total 3rd Party Payment	112,128	16,461	95,667
Total Support Services	258,690	284,420	- 25,730
Total Income	- 679,341	- 1,137,794	458,453
Total	3,884,895	3,217,561	667,334

# Summary of Transactions

Form D

Ysgol Bryn Alyn

Summary of Transactions for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

	£		£
<b>Balances b/f (31/03/2023)</b>		<b>Payments - Deposit Account</b>	0.00
HSBC Deposit Account	20,457.78		
HSBC Current Account	26,012.10	<b>Payments School Current Account</b>	
Minus Opening Unpresented cheques as at 31/03/2023	207.48	Cheques 2023/24	64,602.37
Unpresented Cheques as at 31/03/2024	7797.50	Charges	136.15
Prior year receipts not banked at 31/3/23	1,009.04	Poland flights	1,224.06
		Transfers	27,586.12
		Turing - Istanbul BP & Poland	18,962.04
		Cheque expenditure not banked	7,797.50
<b>Total Opening Balance</b>	<b>55,068.94</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>120,308.24</b>
<b>Receipts Current Account</b>		<b>Balances b/f (31/3/2024)</b>	
AVOW	995.03	HSBC Deposit Account	20,820.56
CBSL Turing	15,078.40	HSBC Current Account	67,049.45
Deposits 2023/24	2,861.80		
Estyn	600	Income to be banked 2023/24	4,803.83
Chubb Travel insurance	131.71		
Glyndwr university	100.00		
Parent Pay 2023/24	53,992.59		
RAM Leisure	1,462.72		
Turing	68,979.60		
University of Chester	100.00		
WCBC	8,444.68		
Income to be banked 2023/24	4,803.83		
HSBC Deposit Account Income	362.78		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>157,913.14</b>	<b>Total Closing Balance</b>	<b>92,673.84</b>
<b>Reconciliation Total</b>	<b>212,982.08</b>	<b>Reconciliation Total</b>	<b>212,982.08</b>

I have examined the School Fund Account for 2023/24 together with all relevant supporting documents and have obtained all the necessary information and explanations relating to the fund.

I certify that the 2023/24 School Fund Account presents an accurate picture of the activities and transactions undertaken on behalf of the fund.

Auditor: *D Foulkes*  
 Deborah Foulkes Chartered Internal Auditor  
 18 the Hawthorns,  
 Acton,  
 Wrexham,  
 LL12 7BB.

Date: *4/12/2024*

Chair of the Governors:  
*D S Galt*

Date: *10/12/2024*

Headteachers signature: *[Signature]*

Date: *10/12/2024*



# Attendance

At Ysgol Bryn Alyn we are committed to providing a full and effective education to all pupils and we embrace the concept of equal opportunities for all.

For a child to reach his/her full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. The school works consistently towards a goal of 100% attendance for all children. Every opportunity is used to convey to pupils and their parents or carers the importance of regular and punctual attendance.

Attendance has been a challenge for both school and parents since the COVID pandemic. However, following Welsh Government guidance we work with parents to ensure the best possible attendance for all students.

Our target for attendance is 96% and our attendance officer is in daily contact with families for those pupils who do not attend school. We monitor pupil attendance each lesson and follow up on pupils who do not attend ensuring that both pupils and parents/carers are supported with targeted interventions where necessary.

We are delighted that our collaborative work with parents/carers is demonstrating a positive trend in YBA Attendance statistics. Communication is strong due to our EDULINK App where parents/carers can easily report absences. We continue to work with parents/carers to encourage medical appointments and holidays are taken during holiday time (where possible) altering our parent information to include the impact of absences on their child.

Information is regularly sent out to parents regarding attendance and the importance of it. Individual and group work to encourage 'belonging' at YBA is a focus for our Family Engagement Officer and our Youth Workers. Heads of Year work hard to engage with pupils who find attending school difficult and signpost appropriate interventions where needed.

From January 2024 we had a form time attendance focus, hoping to continue to foster excellent relationships in our community so that our pupils want to belong to us!

As an example of attendance work completed in 2023—2024, there was a specific focus on the year to date 80 – 90% pupils in January 2024. Form tutors were asked to mentor a small group of targeted pupils in their class and meet with them weekly. To focus the discussions, a google form was completed by the member of staff in collaboration with the pupil after each meeting.

Data outcomes from this focus

137 pupils were targeted by form tutors across the school. They have been discussing and monitoring the targeted pupil's attendance across two half terms.

Half term 3 = 96/137 pupils improved their % attendance (70%)

Of specific note, Year 10 tracking showed an 81% improvement across the targeted year group (only 6 did not improve and had valid reasons).

Overall for Year 10 attendance, the % gap between girls and boys in Year 10 narrowed by 0.6%

The pastoral team agreed that this focus should continue with the same targeted pupils for Half Term 4.

Half term 4 = 47/137 continued to improve their % attendance (66%)

Whole school attendance between January and May increased by 0.4% and unauthorised attendance dropped by 0.3%

Alongside this focus, our ESW delivered assemblies to all year groups about his role and why attendance to school is vital to their futures. The YBA attendance team sends out 'nudges' via EDULINK at 7am every morning to every pupil, helping to ensure a daily reminder of importance if attending school. Examples of the 7am attendance nudges...

Morning!  
 We are looking forward to seeing you today at YBA.  
 Sometimes it may be tempting to skip or stay home because you are tired or don't understand what is going on in class. However, missing a day only makes that worse because you aren't learning something that will help you understand a lesson later on. Be strong - you can do this! We believe in you.  
 Remember if you are struggling with anything, there is always someone at YBA ready to help and support you! Just ASK!  
 See you later  
 The YBA Attendance Team

Morning YBA'ers  
 Happy Wednesday! We are half way through this week. Don't forget Mrs Edwards and Mrs Hayes are in the canteen from 8am to give you a fantastic start to the day - tea, hot chocolate and toast anyone? Fuel your learning in the YBA canteen!  
 See you by 8.40am  
 The YBA attendance team

Happy Tuesday!  
 You need to be aiming for an attendance % of over 96% this academic year!  
 Remember if you have 90% attendance that means you have missed 4 weeks of learning, that correlates to 100 hours of lost learning!  
 Remember practise presence, it will be worth it!  
 See you by 8.40am  
 The YBA Attendance Team

Morning!  
 Happy Friday!  
 Well done if you have managed 100% attendance this week.  
 If you haven't managed that - then focus on next week. Being in school every day is so important for your wellbeing, never mind your potential academic achievements! Being in school means that you can socialise with your friends, ensure the best learning opportunities as well as being able to access wellbeing support if needed. Have a great weekend when it arrives at 3pm. See you at school at 8.40am  
 The YBA attendance team

Morning guys!  
 Getting to school on time really does matter. In this school year, if you are late every day by 10 minutes then you will have missed approximately 5 days from school which is 25 lessons. Remember too that a huge chunk of those lessons will be core subjects, Maths, English and Science. You will have given yourself a lot of work to do to ensure you catch up with your classmates. Think about those stress levels, is it worth it for 10 minutes? We look forward to seeing you in school by 8.40am  
 Moments DO matter, attendance counts!  
 The YBA Attendance Team

YBA was also involved in the ESTYN thematic review 'Improving attendance in secondary schools' - this was published in January 2024. We were one of 41 schools that engaged with the thematic review to help support improved attendance across Wales

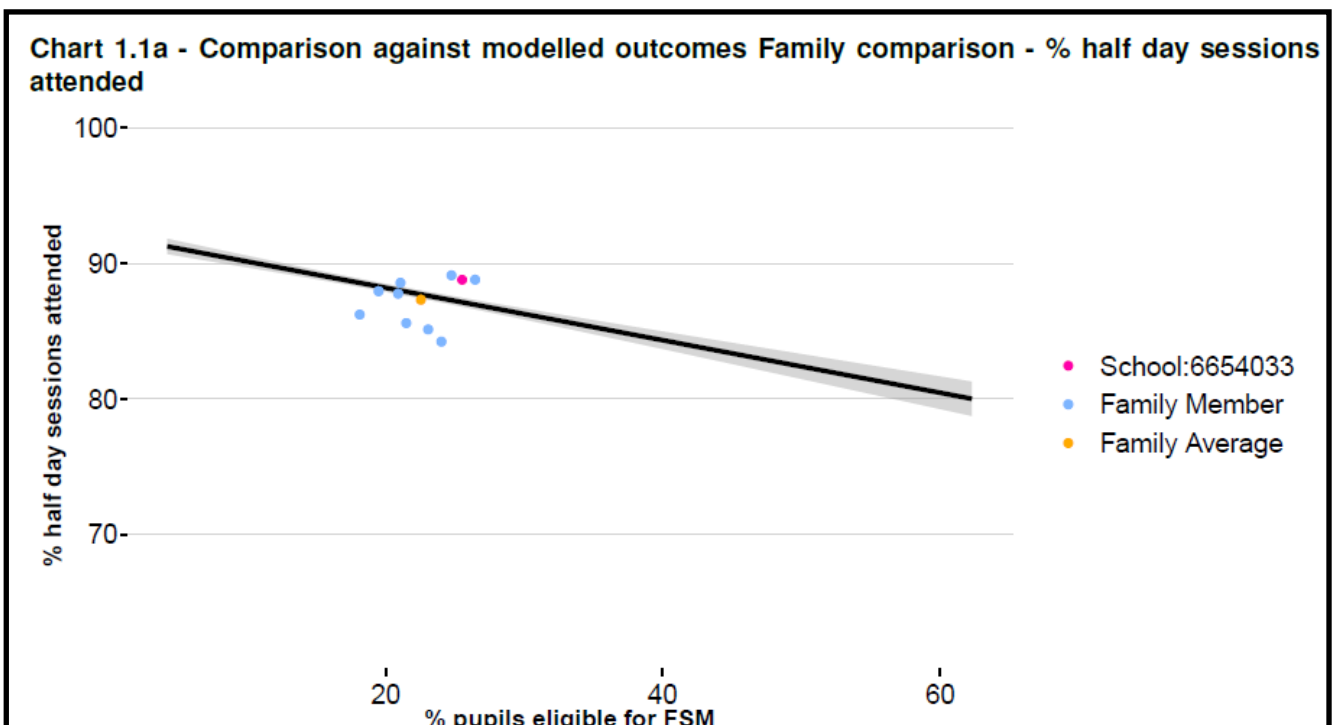
**DEWI Data Summary information (2023/24)**

YBA attendance is higher than modelled performance. Compared to our Family of Schools (FoS)

YBA FSM = 25.5%% (FoS Av – 22.5%)

YBA Attendance = **88.8%** (FoS Av – 87.3%)

Across our FoS, YBA is joint second for attendance.



# 100% Attendance

Pupils are awarded certificates half termly for achieving 100% attendance. If they go on to achieve 100% attendance at the end of a full term, then they are awarded a coloured 100% attendance badge and they are put into a prize draw. Improvement in attendance is also celebrated. We are also focusing on attendance improvers so that every pupil has the chance to achieve.



## Rewards

There are a number of awards that pupils can strive for over the academic year. These include teacher nominated 'Star Awards' for pupils working hard in their lessons (awarded every half term), Mrs Slinn gives out Headteacher Awards every half term for those pupils who are top of the leader board with Achievement Points. These are pupils who play an active part in our YBA community, demonstrating our REACH values and being an exemplary YBA citizen.

Our REACH Awards – are presented in Celebration assemblies at the end of the academic year. These awards are based on our REACH values and pupils are nominated by teaching staff, Heads of Year and SLT. We continue with our 'On Tour' REACH awards for all year groups. Heads of Year, some subject staff/form tutors and SLT 'dropped in' as a surprise to pupil homes to present them with their exemplary YBA award (check out our On Tour video on our YouTube channel by clicking here)

Resilience (HoY nominated),

Effort - 86 nominations

Aspiration 79 nominations

Co-operation 88 nominations

Honour (nominated by HoY and SLT).

268 pupils were nominated across all 5 categories in the academic year 2023 - 2024. All nominees

received a certificate and winners (those pupils with the most votes) received specially designed certificates, and YBA stationary, as our school minibus drove around the community in convoy. This 'alternative' reward ceremony continues to be well received by our YBA community and it is a fitting end for staff to thank our pupils for the effort they have put in.





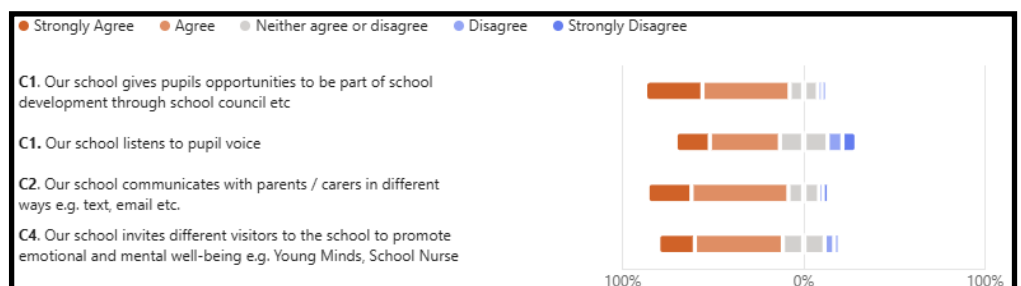
# Pupil Surveys

We continually strive to find out how our pupils are feeling about school, either verbally or through pupil questionnaires. During this academic year our pupils have completed the PASS survey. The success of young people's educational experience is heavily determined by the attitudes that they bring to their learning, their sense of aspiration and the feelings they have about their place in the broader social context of the school. The PASS diagnostic is multi-factorial measure of student attitudes to school, learning and success. Its robust nature enables the data it yields to be used as a means of establishing baselines and to support effective planning, implementation and evaluation of interventions at individual, group and whole school levels. This data is allowing Heads of Year to signpost relevant interventions for individuals. PASS supports YBA to

- Establish our students' perceptions of their school and learning experience;
- Help teaching staff, support staff and senior leaders to challenge their own assumptions about the school and its students;
- Respond to improvement needs as identified by the students;
- Inform teaching and learning strategies and intervention programmes to help raise standards of attainment and student well-being;
- Address challenging behaviour
- Address attendance issues through the identification of underlying factors as well identifying those most risk at of becoming alienated;
- Support emotionally vulnerable young people and those with possible mental health issues, to ensure those most at risk do not slip through the net;
- Provide an objective means for joint collaborative problem-solving, working with parents, carers and extended families, external agencies and other professionals supporting young people.

Pupils have also completed wellbeing surveys to continue to ensure that YBA is responding to pupil needs and has an opportunity to listen to individual pupil voice. See examples (right)

These help YBA to ensure that the appropriate actions are put in place for improvement, especially following the Statutory Framework from Welsh Government on Emotional Health and Wellbeing



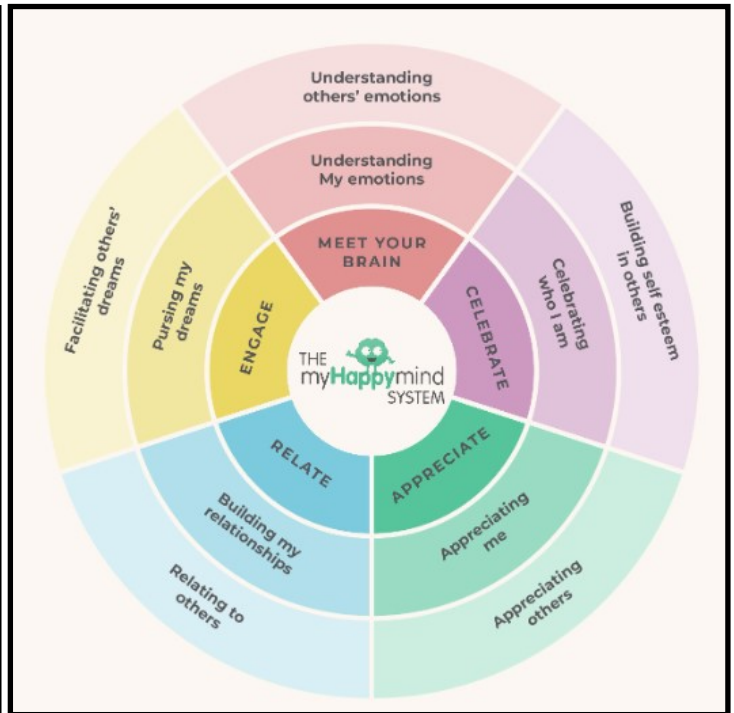
We are also a MyHappyMind School, having piloted this approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing with Year 7, focused on transition. The content has been delivered to Year 7 during form time as well as staff accessing the wellbeing support for them.

The myHappyMind Year 7 transition program is specifically designed to support children in their first year of secondary school and focuses on developing essential skills and perspectives to help them to thrive.

Grounded in the same principles and fundamental strategies as our NHS backed primary school program, the Year 7 transition program aims to support Secondary schools to enable their Year 7's to have the best transition possible.



The myHappyMind Year 7 transition program is structured over 5 modules each of which supports an area of our myHappyMind system.



## Pastoral Support

Ysgol Bryn Alyn prioritises the pastoral support of our pupils. Our Pastoral care begins with our form tutors in their dedicated time at the start of each day. This provides our pupils with clear routines to set them up for the day. Through Form Slides and assemblies, we continue to signpost

<p>Week: 2 (HT5)  <b>Dyddiad: 15th April to 19th April 2024</b></p>					
<p><b>Word of the Week</b>  <b>Promotion (football)</b>          In sports leagues, promotion and relegation is a process where teams can move up and down between multiple divisions arranged in a hierarchical structure, based on their performance over a season.</p>	<p><b>Know your Teas!</b>          Test out how well you know your teas with <a href="#">this</a> anagram quiz </p>	<p><b>Information – please note</b>  <a href="#">Change to Late gate system</a>  <a href="#">click here</a>  <a href="#">Change to First Aid Provision at YBA</a>  <a href="#">click here</a></p>	<p><b>It's Good To Talk</b>    <a href="#">Scan the QR code to access support!</a></p>	<p><b>Planner, Equipment, &amp; Uniform Check. Are you ready to learn?</b>  </p>	<p><b>Attendance &amp; B4L</b>          Record % attendance for last week.          Remember your aim for attendance is 96%          How are you doing with your B4L – your attitude to learning is key!          How many achievement points have you got?</p>
<p>  <b>dyrchafiad</b></p>	<p>Our Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee of the YBA school council is this week conducting some discussion with pupils about our mobile phone policy. In England, guidance has been issued by the Government regarding a ban of mobile phones in schools. Check out the sky news report about this. Click on the picture for the report and <a href="#">here</a> for the current policy.</p>	<p>  <b>GUIDANCE ON PHONES IN SCHOOLS</b></p>	<p><b>Watch the goals!</b>  </p>		
<p>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024    <b>NATIONAL TEA DAY</b></p>	<p>National Tea Day is more than simply a holiday. It's a movement providing opportunities for future generations of tea drinkers to understand and appreciate the world of tea. Founded in 2016, the date of April 21 was chosen because it was also Queen Elizabeth's birthday!</p>	<p><b>Quote of the week</b>          'Fearless in Devotion.... Rising to Promotion!'</p>	<p><b>Role models</b> Who are they? What makes them good role models?  </p>	<p>Reynolds and McElhenney are both successful actors.          Their involvement in Wrexham AFC is likely to inspire others to get involved in football, and it is also likely to help to raise the profile of the club both in the UK and around the world.  <b>Do you think they have achieved that?!</b></p>	
<p>  <b>WE ARE GOING UP!</b></p>					

our pupils to help and support from mindfulness exercises to aspirational role models

Many pupils know which member of staff / team of staff can help them or their friends with their emotional or mental well-being and there has been a significant increase (8%) in pupils feeling that school staff listen to their concerns and know how to support them when they need help. Many pupils now understand where they can go to for help as compared to a majority of pupils in the previ-





Many pupils recognise that YBA takes part in national and local priorities to promote EHWP. The pupil survey demonstrated a significant increase in 'our school listens to pupil voice' from 48% of pupils to 78% of pupils agreeing with this statement. The further development of our school council and sub-committees have heightened the role of pupil voice at YBA and widened the opportunities for the pupil body to be involved in the variety of committees that have been developed. Our continued focus on a Trauma Informed Approach in the school commu-

nity has helped staff to focus on building positive relationships. Due to the focus at YBA on a trauma informed approach and recognising that more qualified staff were needed to support this whole school drive, ensuring there was opportunity for pupils to access emotionally available adults, there are three newly qualified TiS Practitioners in school (in addition to our two from last academic year) who can support both staff and pupils. Timetabled interventions with this approach are now in place.



YBA continues to develop support for the school community's wellbeing through a large variety of interventions such as trained staff and outside agency involvement examples being 1-1 support from school counsellor, group therapy work with the Youth Workers (HACK, ERLAS and social skills workshops). Other interventions include Family Engagement Officer, counselling support, school nurse, TAC, ELSA support with Jayne Hughes to SLO intervention. We have been working closely with the MindTheGap team and piloted a 'new' mentoring approach (MindTheGap have previously only worked with 16-25 age group). The review of this new approach does state that all students have shown an increase in

confidence, measured by engagement in activities, direct student feedback, TEDx performance, reports from staff about student behaviour in the wider school. Most students display a sense of belonging within the group- measured by visible friendships forming, verbal feedback, behaviours and visual ownership of our space in school. Students also displayed an improved sense of self and each other. Parent feedback included *'The programme has been incredibly helpful with (Pupil) social anxiety and has provided an excellent outlet to help (pupil) manage and provide them with new coping techniques in their daily life'*.





YBA has had a very active Facebook page, where information from school is shared, useful sign-posting for local agencies can be seen and pupil/school successes can be shared.

**Ysgol Bryn Alyn** is 🤔 feeling thoughtful.  
Published by Dawn Beet  
· 10 October 2023 ·

Noswaith dda YBA'ers 🙌🙌🙌  
We have a focused form slide this week based on #WorldMentalHealthDay2023 which is today. Our SLO PC Reeves is also delivering assemblies this week (Year 7 assembly today is pictured below) about what constitutes a Hate Crime. Our enduring message to our community is always #kindnessmatters as everyone you meet may be fighting a battle you know nothing about. Look after each other!  
#teamyba #dreamreachachieve #reach #kindnessalways #kindness



**Reach out this World Mental Health Day**

**mind**  
0300 123 3393  
Open 9am-6pm weekdays

**SAMARITANS**  
116 123  
Always open


**CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY**  
0800 58 58 58  
Open 5pm - midnight

If you're in Wales:  
**CALL**  
0800 132 737  
Always open

If you're under 25:  
**THE MIX**  
0808 808 4994  
Open 4pm - 11pm weekdays

**Ysgol Bryn Alyn** is 😄 feeling fantastic.  
Published by Dawn Beet  
· 19 July ·

And so we come to the final part of our academic year 2023 - 2024...  
**WHO WERE THE WINNERS OF THE HOUSE CUP?**  
Here at YBA HQ there has been excitement building and pupils were involved in a VERY active 'last quiz during their form time this afternoon - winners will be announced on the first day back in September, with chocolate and early lunch passes up for grabs!! However, Mrs Slinn kept everyone guessing about the House Champions right up to the last minute and announced via zoom into all form classes, who the overall winner was! 🏆🏆🏆  
In reverse order...  
6th place with 24,518 points = MORGAN  
5th place with 25,238 points = CADWALADR  
4th place with 25,444 points = GWENLLIAN  
3rd place with 28,207 points = LLYWELYN  
2nd place with 28,310 points = CAMPBELL  
and the winners with 28,411 points were  
GLYNDWR House 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆  
Mrs Slinn invited the winners down to the front of school to be presented with the cup! There was great excitement! Well done to all house members this year for their involvement - remember, B1s in lessons are worth 5 house points, WOW cards are worth 10 house point and there are lots of ways to pick up extra points to get your house into contention for the house cup next year. Remember, this year's Gala Day points went into the mix too!  
Until next year, Mr Ransome will bask in the glory of his house, GLYNDWR, winning! 🌟🌟🌟  
The competition will begin again in September and there will be house leaders wishing to topple Mr Ransome and GLYNDWR house from their podium next year! (warning GLYNDWR, Mrs Ebrey's house, CAMPBELL are right behind you and there will be stiff competition between house leaders next academic year!)  
#teamyba #dreamreachachieve #reach #housepoints #housecup #competition #winners



**Ysgol Bryn Alyn**  
Published by Dawn Beet  
· 21 December 2023 ·

Noswaith dda YBA'ers 🙌🙌🙌  
What a great term! Well done to all our pupils for their efforts this term. Huge thank you to all our staff community for supporting the aspirations of our pupils too. We are a true team!  
We would like to wish our YBA community a fabulous Christmas and a very Happy New Year!  
We can't wait to see our pupil community back in our buildings on Tuesday 9th January 2024. Have a magical time!  
Enjoy our final efforts for 2023 - check out the link below 🎵🎵🎵 for the YBA staff version of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' 🎅🎄🎶 feeling festive.  
<https://youtu.be/ckzLyHEoW7I>  
#teamyba #dreamreachachieve #reach #christmas2023 #magical #schoolife #schoolholidays



YOUTUBE.COM  
Twas the 'YBA' Night Before Christmas

# Teaching and Learning



At YBA we use direct teaching combined with effective AFL and impactful live feedback to support our learners to make progress and develop the knowledge and skills required. Following initial modelling, pupils are given structured tasks to practise applying the new skills or knowledge, culminating in independent work.

At YBA we aim for all students to fully engage with the learning process. As leaders of learning in the classroom we strive to engage, motivate, support, direct and assess learners as they progress in their learning.

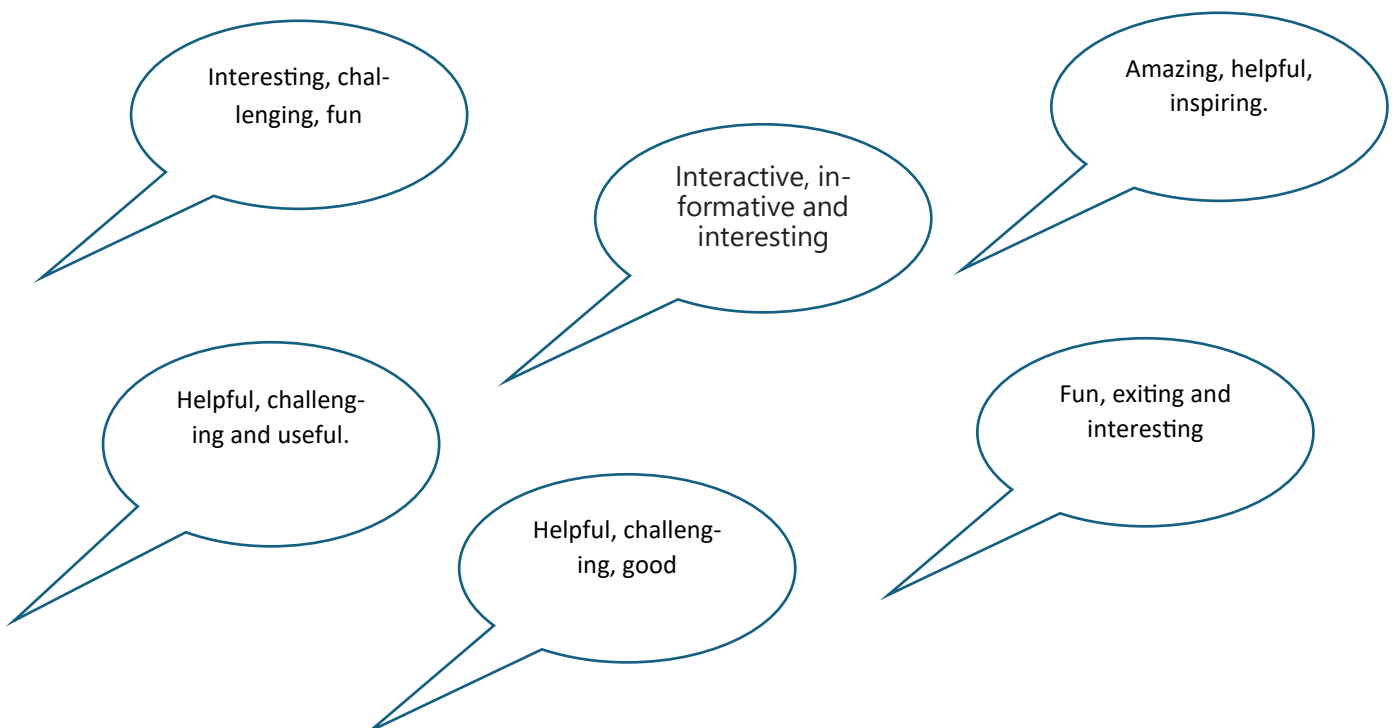
Learning at YBA is viewed as pupils' development of knowledge and skills which reflect the ever-changing demands of the local and the wider global community our pupils are part of. At YBA there is a continual focus on improving the quality of provision both in and outside the classroom which supports all learners to become:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world

healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The development of teaching and learning at YBA is supported by the T & L student committee to have conducted surveys to find out about pupils' thoughts on teaching and learning at YBA.

What do learners say about teaching and learning at YBA?



# Cwricwlwm Cymraeg

## How is Welsh Language and Culture promoted at YBA?

*In July 2024 the Welsh Government published the new Welsh Language and Education Bill, aimed at giving every child in Wales a fair opportunity to speak Welsh independently and confidently, whatever their background or schooling. This supports the Welsh Government's target of 70% of learners are able to speak Welsh when they leave school by 2050.*

YBA is an English-medium school which places community at the heart of everything it does. YBA is proud of its Welsh heritage and the benefits that learning Welsh can have for the future aspirations of our pupils. As a school we promote the benefits of being bi-lingual and celebrate key local and national events such as Gresford Disaster and St. David's Day. The Welsh Language and Culture within YBA is promoted by the Welsh Culture Student Committee.

At YBA our new curriculum for Wales has been carefully planned and each AOLE has clear links to Cynefin within each topic taught. For example, in Humanities pupils address key questions such as: Is Christianity still relevant in Wales today? Should Yr Wyddfa have changed its name? Welsh authors are promoted within English and key Welsh Artists are studied in Expressive Arts.

Our school is organised into six houses. Each house is represented by a key historical Welsh figure - Cadwaladr, Campbell, Glyndwr, Gwellian, Llywelyn and Morgan - Pupils and staff are assigned to a house to generate a sense of belonging to both YBA but also their Welsh heritage. Regular house competitions are run to promote collaboration and engagement with our local, national and international context.

Pupils at YBA understand the importance of learning Welsh, and its use is promoted throughout the school year through bi-lingual signage, all staff using agreed Welsh phrases within lessons, having AOLE Welsh Teaching Champions within each AOLE who use the target language of Welsh more frequently in their lessons. All pupils at YBA have the opportunity to learn Welsh, and Welsh Teachers at YBA provide an immersive experience within their classrooms with a clear focus on developing reading, writing, speaking and listening in Welsh. Our aim at YBA is that 80% of pupils leave YBA with a qualification in Welsh.

# **MAT Provision**

YBA has a strong ethos of learning and achievement and this is underpinned by our values of “DREAM, REACH, ACHIEVE”. As a school we recognise that each one of our learners has talents and skills which we aim to identify and nurture. It is our priority to develop the individual needs of all learners and an important extension of the aims, policies and ethos of the school is to recognise the needs of More Able and Talented learners and develop strategies for the identification, support and challenge of such learners.

At YBA we want all pupils to succeed and achieve their potential. At YBA we support MAT pupils through our:

- Curriculum Offer
- Challenging classroom based and home- learning activities.
- Extra-curricular opportunities
- YBA REACH Programme

In addition to the YBA Extra-curricular offering MAT pupils may be enrolled onto the SEREN Project or the Children's University Programme.

The Children's University Programme.

Year 7 MAT pupils were targeted to take part in the Children's University. This was an exciting scheme that encouraged and rewarded young people for

taking part in extracurricular and volunteering activities in their schools, their community and online, in order to raise aspirations, provide young people with new experiences, skills, friends and passions. It was run in partnership with Wrexham Glyndŵr University.



For 2023-2024 the SEREN offer included:

- A year 10 welcome event
- A series of online subject masterclasses for years 8 &9 delivered by Brilliant Club
- University visits for year 10 & 11
- Making the right A level choices for year 11 delivered by Cambridge University
- Seren medics year 10 in partnership with Wrexham Maelor Hospital
- Debating Club pilot continuation
- Subject workshops delivered by Think Maths, Xplore Science Centre, Shakespeare North
- Introduction to university for years 8&9
- Study Skills workshops
- Talk the Talk workshops
- In house masterclasses delivered by schools



# Healthy Schools

Sport and exercise have a major impact on many aspects of life. Sport can enhance community spirit, equality of opportunity, personal and social development and social integration.

At Ysgol Bryn Alyn, we aim to maximise the sporting opportunities for all our pupils through team sports and individual sporting activities.



During the autumn term pupils have/will experience the following activities: Football and rugby (boys only), netball (girls only), basketball, badminton, gymnastics, swimming and health related fitness (HRE).

## Wrexham Healthy Schools Scheme

The Healthy Schools Scheme is an integral part of Wrexham County Boroughs' Children and Young People's service, within Lifelong learning.

We are committed to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of children and young people through health promotion activity and programmes in Schools.

### What is a Healthy School?

A health promoting school is one which actively promotes and protects the physical, mental and social health and well being of its community through positive action by such means as policy, strategic planning and staff development with regard to its curriculum, ethos, physical environment and community relations.

Wrexham's Healthy Schools Scheme was launched in 2002, and is a member of the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes. The scheme was accredited by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2003. The Scheme is a partnership between Health and Education, which recognises that there are mutual benefits in young people's health and attainments to be gained.

The scheme demonstrates commitment to supporting and encouraging the growth and implementation of the Personal and Social Education (PSE) framework in schools, in addition to ensuring that national health priorities are considered in the daily life of the school for pupils, staff and the wider community.

### How are schools supported?

In Wrexham there is a team of officers dedicated to supporting schools in developing the healthy school scheme.

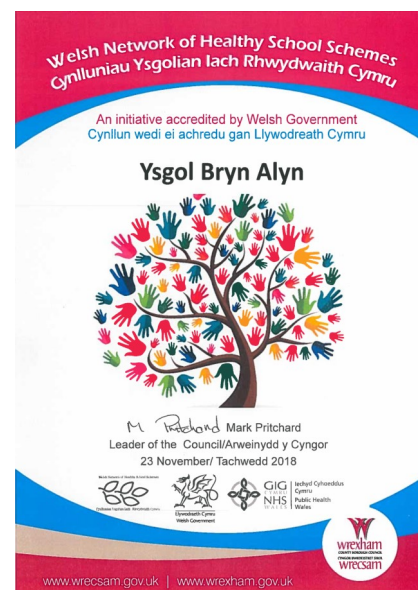
Schools are supported in developing actions to meet their identified needs, which are planned with clear achievement criteria and methods for monitoring and evaluation following the Ten Point Plan and working towards the National Quality Award. Local networking is facilitated between schools and health organisations and training opportunities are made available for staff.

Typically schools undertake an assessment annually and are accredited for each year of successful participation in the scheme. Schools are awarded their plaque/certificate at the annual celebration event.

Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes



Cynlluniau Ysgolion Iach - Rhwydwaith Cymru



The catering team at Ysgol Bryn Alyn provide a wide range of nutritionally balanced menu choices throughout the day for all our pupils, using basic wholesome ingredients. Our menus comply with the nutritional standards for school lunches set by the Welsh Government. We comply with the new regulations for allergens with allergen information at each till point.



There is a three week cycle menu which includes vegetarian choices; packed lunches are also available on request. There is a pre order facility which helps cut down waiting time for pupils.

## Additional Needs Provision

Ms Jasmin Morgan, the Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNco) and the Learning Support Team provide support for students with Additional Learning Needs.

Support is provided for pupils in mainstream lessons as well as small group and one-to-one provision. A wide variety of additional needs is catered for, ranging from medical, learning, speech and language, ASD, emotional and social difficulties.

The school works closely with other professionals such as the Educational Psychologist, Behaviour Support, Speech Therapists and the School Nurse to ensure that the individual needs of the pupils are met.

Regular review meetings are held, involving all parties concerned, to assess, monitor progress and establish new targets and individual plans.

We have excellent links with cluster Primary Schools to help ensure a smooth and successful transition for ALN pupils.

## Reports

Please be aware that parents/carers will receive 3 progress updates and 1 full report in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10. There will be 3 Year 11 progress updates, published at a slightly different time.

## School Uniform

All the pupils are required to wear a white shirt, YBA tie and YBA branded grey blazer alongside their tailored black trousers or a standard grey/green tartan school skirt, black socks and black or brown shoes. Year 11 have will have a slightly different tie and prefects are identified with a plain gold tie.



## Policies

The governors have been active in reviewing and improving policies throughout the academic

# Facilities at School

The toilets are cleaned daily. Additional toilet facilities are provided in the science block. Access to toilets is generally restricted to break and lunch time.

There are disabled toilet facilities in each area of the school.

## General Facilities

Fully stocked library

Canteen area

Conference facilities

Pastoral Hub

Achievement Centre

ALN specialist teaching facilities

## Specialist Facilities

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Gwyn Evans Sports Centre which includes a fully equipped Sports hall and swimming pool.

Rugby pitch

Football pitches

Multi Use Games Area

Tennis Courts

Gymnasium

Fully equipped Food Technology Room

### **Science and Technology**

6 Fully equipped Science Labs

4 State of the art computer rooms

Design and Technology room with CAD facilities

Access to numerous mobile digital devices

Access to school drones

Environmental garden

### **Expressive Arts**

Dance studio

Drama studio

Music practice rooms and Music teaching space

Access to peripatetic music lessons

Art studio

Fully equipped stage and auditorium for performances

# School Prospectus

See the latest version of our school prospectus on the website



## Important School Dates 2024/25

AUTUMN TERM	
Training Days (school closed to pupils)	Monday 2nd September 2024
Term Opens	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Autumn Half Term Close	Thursday 24th October 2024
Training Day (school closed to pupils)	Friday 25th October 2024
WINTER TERM	
Term Opens	Monday 4th November 2024
Winter Term Closes	Thursday 19th December 2024
Training Day (school closed to pupils)	Friday 20th December 2024
SPRING TERM	
Term Opens	Monday 6th January 2025
Spring Half Term Close	Thursday 20th February 2025
Training Day (school closed to pupils)	Friday 21st February 2025
Term Opens	Monday 3rd March 2025
Term Closes	Friday 11th April 2025
SUMMER TERM	
Training Day (school closed to pupils)	Monday 28th April 2025
Term Opens	Tuesday 29th April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025
Summer Half Term Close	Friday 23rd May 2025
Term Opens	Monday 2nd June 2025
Term Closes	Friday 18th July 2025

# **Parents Evening Dates 2024/25**

Year 7 Parents' Evening: Tutor

Thursday 10th October 2024

Year 7 Parents' Evening:

Thursday 10th April 2025

Year 8 Parents' Evening:

Thursday 12th December 2024

Year 9 Parents' Evening:

Thursday 6th February 2025

Year 10 Parents' Evening:

Thursday 27th March 2025

Year 11 Parents' Evening:

Thursday 16th January 2025

## **The School Day**

Morning Registration	8.40am—9.00am
Lesson 1	9.00am—10.00am
Lesson 2	10.00am—11.00am
Morning Break	11.00am—11.20am
Lesson 3	11.20am—12.20pm
Lesson 4	12.20pm—1.20pm
Lunch	1.20am—2.00pm
Lesson 5	2.00pm—3.00pm



# School Performance

SSSP (Summary of Secondary School Performance)

Will be available in January