

PARENT NEWSLETTER



January 2023



A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

We have had a really super start to the term with pupils returning in a very focused way to their learning. This, coupled with the progress that has been made across the school in terms of reading (we have had our highest ever results of the standards of pupils' reading) and greatly improved approaches to learning and behaviour in Nant building since the introduction of the new system, has meant that already we are seeing a pleasing level of progress for pupils.

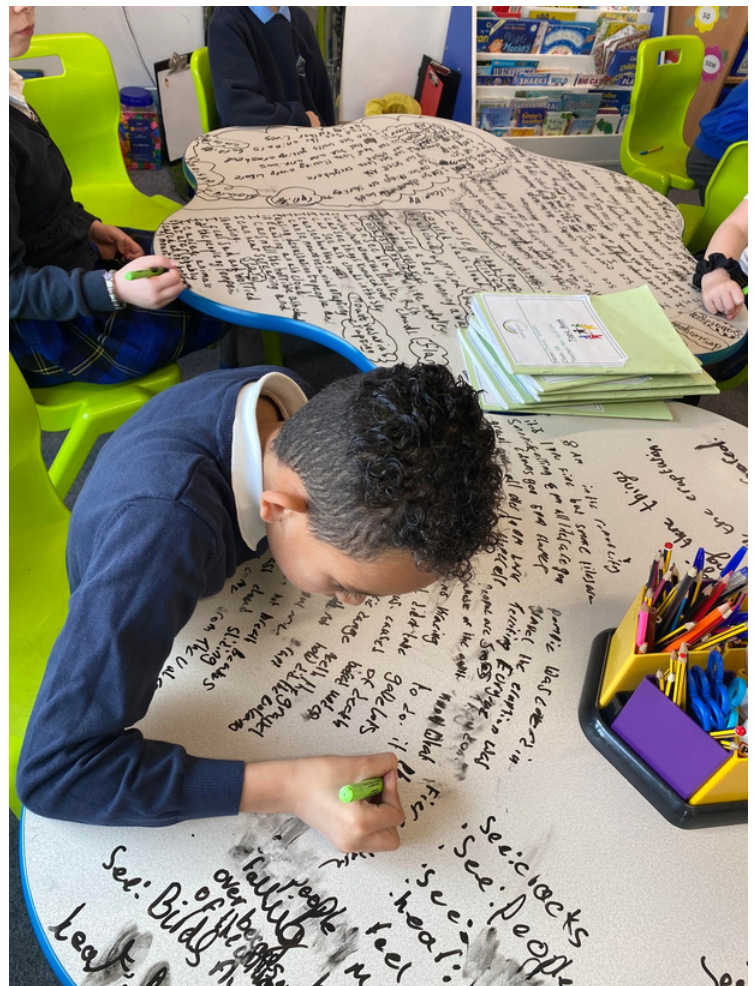
In nursery through to year 8, pupils have moved onto their new themes of learning. Many exciting immersion days have been happening to support pupils in thinking of their own questions to explore about the theme. From 'travel' in reception, 'discovery' in year 4, 'change' in year 6 and 'cynefin' in year 8 there is lots to keep pupils engaged over the coming months. Prepare yourself for some in depth conversations and possibly some tricky questions!

We are, over time, updating the website to include information that may be helpful to you as parents. To date, we have focused on the curriculum section to include information about the Curriculum for Wales, our mission statement, the four purposes as well as helpful signposts to qualification guides and past papers for the subjects that our year 10 and year 11 pupils are currently studying. As a parent of three children (18, 15 and 10), having this information to hand to be able to support them has been really useful. If there is anything that you would like further information on, please get in touch with us on the contact details at the bottom of this newsletter. I will draw your attention to other areas of the website that are updated as we go along.

This term, we are in full swing of learning across the school and this newsletter will hopefully inform you about your child's learning while in school with its focus on teaching, learning, experiences and assessment.

With warm wishes,

Ms Laura Morris
Headteacher



Newsletter focus item:

Teaching, learning and experiences

In all teaching and learning experiences at Ysgol Nantgwyn, our staff and pupils work within a framework we call the 9Ps. These are nine elements that your child will experience in all teaching and learning experiences.

Have a look at the table below to see what your child can expect from their teachers, and how your child can work within the 9Ps too.



| | Your child's teacher will... | Your child will... |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Positive relationships | work with them to build a positive learning relationship | actively try to build a positive learning relationship with staff and other pupils |
| Planning | have worked out the next steps for their class and planned the lesson accordingly | have reflected on their learning and decided on the approach that they will need to take in the next lesson |
| Pupil needs | take into account pupils' individual needs and support them to make progress in light of these | know how they learn best and tell their teacher this to allow them to support your child well |
| Pedagogy | ensure they use a variety of different teaching methods, tasks and activities | be open to a variety of tasks and learning strategies |
| Prompts | give your child feedback and ask them questions/give scenarios to develop their learning further | respond well to teacher when they ask questions or give feedback |
| Participation | ensure pupils are actively taking part in their lessons | actively take part in lessons and be open to new learning |
| Plenaries | ensure your child has regular opportunities to reflect on their learning and next steps and summarise their learning | reflect on their learning and next steps, and summarise their learning |
| Progress | ensure that pupils make as much progress as possible | ensure they make as much progress as possible |
| Proof | make sure pupils can justify their thinking and answers | consider their learning thoroughly and be able to say what they think as well as why they think it, giving a reason why |

Assessment - in school processes

We record teacher's assessments on our school systems four times a year and this allows us to check that all pupils are progressing well. After teachers have put their assessment information into our systems, we enter into a process of academic review; this is where we look at the progress of every single pupil and discuss their next steps in their learning. The outcomes of academic review go into our pupil progress meetings - these are attended by the headteacher and senior leadership team, teachers in the school, the chair and vice-chair of governors and we invite external partners including officers from the local authority and Central South Consortium. These meetings are to review, evaluate pupil progress and discuss next steps for groups of pupils.



Could you help?

If any families are having a clear out following Christmas, our expressive arts faculty would really appreciate any donations of two piece suits, waistcoats, formal hats or anything striped. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Assessment - pathway points and the rainbow road

We assess pupils against our Ysgol Nantgwyn pathway point system. This system runs from nursery all the way through to the end of year 11 and helps us to make decisions about where pupils are and what their next step is across the full range of the curriculum. Pathway points start at 0 and continue through to 10. Each is characterised by a set of knowledge and skills; we call these non-negotiables.

To make sure that all pupils are making at least good progress, we use a system called 'the rainbow road'. This looks at milestones in pupils' learning relative to the minimum national expectations. This system has been used at school and helps us to identify where pupils are doing really well in their learning and similarly, where further support is needed. It helps us to plan to make sure that all pupils' provision is right for them. 'The rainbow road' has been shared with all pupils and we return to these as we share assessment information. With this, we discuss how every pupils' attainment and progress is different but that the biggest factors that impact on these are attendance to school, approach to learning and completing independent learning.



We use our 0-10 pathway points as an assessment system at Ysgol Nantgwyn so that we know where pupils are and what their next steps could be.

Our pathway points are used for all pupils from nursery through to year 11.

Each pathway point has a set of skills and knowledge that characterise it. These are our non-negotiables...things that pupils need to know, things that they need to be able to do and learning opportunities that they need to experience.

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| 0a | 1a | 2a |
| 0b | 1b | 2b |
| 0c | 1c | 2c |

Each pathway point is split into three smaller steps. Pupils progress from c to b to a. An example is shown to the left.

When we write reports, we will tell you what pathway point your child is working towards achieving at the end of the school year. We will also give information about national expectations and where your child's learning is in relation to them.



ASSESSMENT AND PROGRESS

PATHWAY POINTS

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

We use pathway points from nursery to year 11 so that you know where you are and what your next steps could be.

A B C

THE RAINBOW ROAD

You will track your progress using the rainbow road. Your teachers will do this too.

FEEDBACK

You will have feedback every lesson.

You will have individual and whole class feedback regularly.

Use the feedback to improve your learning.

Full reports and interim reports - what does the information tell me?

Your child will receive two interim reports and one full report over the school year. These will be shared with you through parentmail.

The report information in an interim report will tell you what pathway point your child is expected to reach by the end of this year based on what they are currently demonstrating and how they are progressing against the non-negotiables. The report will also tell you whether this is in line with national expectations, or whether it is above or below. Further information about our pathway point system can also be found within the report.

Teachers assess your child continuously. At times, this could be a written test or assessment (for older pupils) but teachers also assess pupils more informally including by listening to the contributions that they make in class and with their group or person sat next to them, observing them play and learn, looking at the work that they have done during lessons, their conversations with them during the lesson and the answers that they write on mini whiteboards. All of this information is put together for the teacher to decide at which pathway point your child is working.

Your child's full report will include more detailed information from each of your child's teachers to tell you how your child is progressing in each subject area. Parent evenings follow each full report so that you can discuss the report in more detail.

Both interim and full reports will include information about your child's attendance so that you know whether or not your child is reaching their 95% attendance target and what they need to do to improve.



Independent learning

We call our homework independent learning and it is our expectation that all pupils complete this in line with the deadline. Independent learning tasks support and strengthen the learning that has taken place in class and, on occasions, is essential for helping to understand future learning. For nursery through to year 8, there will be one task per curriculum area per half term. For years 9 to 11, this increases in frequency. Pupils receive positive points for all tasks that they complete. Please could you encourage your child to complete these tasks? Sheets are emailed to pupils and sent via Parentmail to parents at the same time so that you are aware of the expectations for your child.

| CLASS: Year 6 | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| These independent learning tasks should be completed by 26/10/23. All completed tasks will be rewarded with positive points. | | | |
| Mathematics and numeracy Listen year 7 and 7 lessons each week. Use these links to help and see the site for big tasks of the future game. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d1y1p1p1p1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d1y1p1p1p1 | English: Writing and Communication Have your teacher show and read with a classmate of the book. Who is the author? What are the characters? What is your favourite part of the story and why? Why is this book your favourite story? Write a recommendation for your class to read it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d1y1p1p1p1 | Science and technology Can you see your recycling bins from home and have you got something else, e.g. turning a milk bottle into a bird feeder?  | Cerú dyga: Humanities Choose a country from around the world and research facts about your chosen country. Look out about the language spoken, traditional food, the flag, national music, and the national sport and the name of the capital city of your chosen country. You may choose your own map to present your research. |
| Cerú dyga: Expressive arts Look at the art work of Picasso, Matisse, Van Gogh, and others. Create your own art work in the style of Picasso, Matisse, Van Gogh, etc. You can be as creative as you can using materials of your choice. | Well-being Draw a card with words for your local area. Write carefully to all the different words you can hear and write them down in a poem of verse. Write the poem with all the words of the day and the words you have already learned depending on the time of day it is! | Languages: Irish Learn a word using a poem and translate it to Irish. Click on the links for more ideas. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d1y1p1p1p1 | Languages: Spanish Click on the link to practice talking about the weather in Spanish. You can also use pictures of the weather and write the Spanish words to go with your images. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d1y1p1p1p1 |

Attendance

Our school attendance is currently often less than 90%. This means that a significant amount of pupils are missing out on a significant part of their learning. All pupils should aim to attend school 95% of the time, or even better- 100% so as not to miss out on the exciting opportunities on offer!

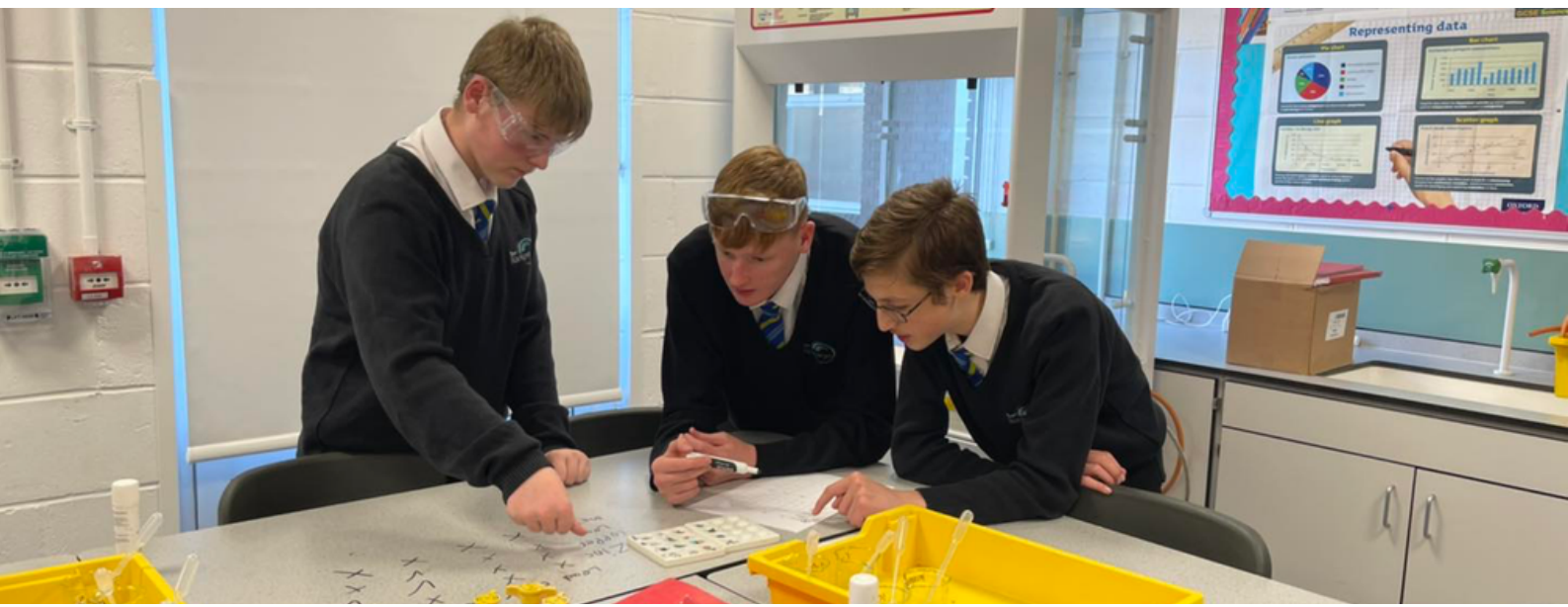
Currently, there are no restrictions on school attendance, there are no expectations for pupils to test for Covid and so all pupils should be in school every day unless they are seriously unwell.

If there are any concerns that are stopping your child from attending school, please contact their school team who will be happy to support you.

Should you have any queries about whether your child should or should not come to school, you can look to NHS Wales 111 for guidance.

We are also happy to discuss with you in the morning - you can reach us on 07926458084 from 07:15. Please keep trying if you don't get through straight away.

The infographic is a 2x4 grid of blue panels with white text and icons. The top row includes: 1) A silhouette of a person running with the text 'HIGH ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL GETS YOUR CHILD'S LIFE OFF TO A FLYING START!'; 2) A line graph with an upward arrow and the text 'INCREASING ATTENDANCE BY JUST 5% CAN DOUBLE THE CHANCES OF GAINING GOOD QUALIFICATIONS'; 3) A calendar icon with '10%' and the text 'MISSING TWO DAYS A MONTH MEANS A CHILD MISSES 10% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR'; 4) An open book icon with 'Improves reading' and 'Writing • MATHS SKILLS'. The bottom row includes: 5) A pie chart with 'IN' and 'OUT' and the text 'THERE ARE 175 DAYS A YEAR NOT SPENT IN SCHOOL (PLENTY OF TIME FOR SHOPPING, HOLIDAYS AND APPOINTMENTS!)'; 6) Icons for various subjects and the text '100s OF SUBJECTS | 1000s OF CLASSES ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES'; 7) A clock icon and the text 'TURNING UP JUST 5 MINUTES LATE EVERY DAY ADDS UP TO OVER 3 DAYS LOST IN THE YEAR!'; 8) A list of benefits: 'MORE SCHOOL = HIGHER GRADES, INCREASED CONFIDENCE, MORE FRIENDS, BRIGHTER FUTURE'. At the bottom, a large blue banner contains the text: 'Every day in school makes a difference to your child's future.'



Literacy

The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing and mental health.

Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word.

The BookTrust website includes lots of tips and advice to help children of different ages enjoy reading, as well as tips for encouraging children who don't like reading.

Here are some tips from BookTrust for sharing books with children.

- Ask your child to choose what they'd like to read. They'll feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves.
- If you can, turn off the TV, radio and computer. It's easier for both of you to enjoy the story without any other distractions.
- Take a look at the pictures. You don't just have to read the words on the page.
- Ask questions and talk about the book.
- Have fun! There's no right or wrong way to share a story.
- Encourage your child to read signs, instructions, packaging- it doesn't matter what they read as long as they are reading.

The following links are helpful for supporting children with their reading, scan the QR code to take you to the website:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/>



<https://libraries.wales/library-services-activities/children-families/supporting-childrens-reading/>

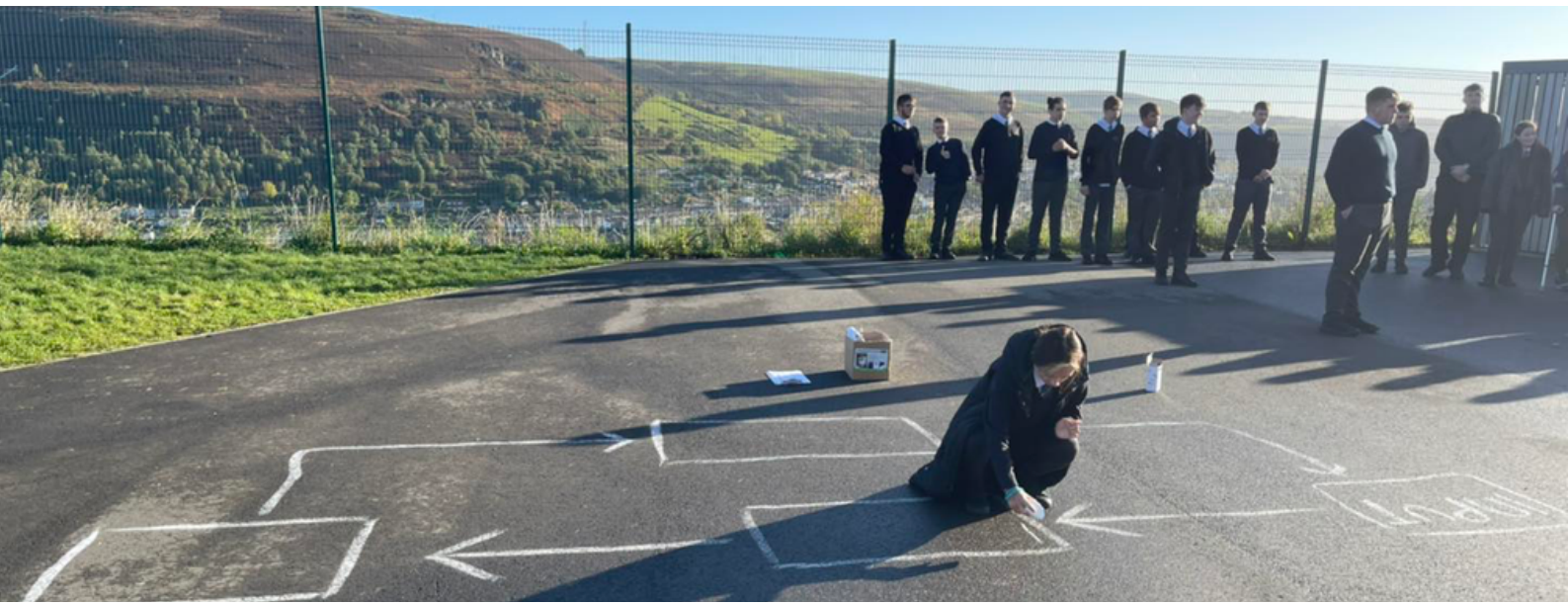


Library services:

The BorrowBox service has a wide range of e-books and e-audio books available for you to download onto your computer or most mobile devices to read and to listen to. There are English and Welsh language books, fiction and non-fiction, and books for adults and children. This is a free service and is a great resource to access 1000s of e-books.

To use this service you must be based in the UK and be a registered member at a participating Welsh library. If you are already a library member, you can borrow straight away. Just follow the RCT link below to sign up!

<https://rhondacynontaf.borrowbox.com/>



Dates for your diary

Whole School

Wednesday 1st March- St David's day celebrations

Friday 3rd March- World book day celebrations

Saturday 1st - 8th April - ski trip

Friday 26th May - INSET day

Friday 7th July - INSET day

Monday 24th July - INSET day

Lower school

Week of Monday 30th January - Nursery - year 3 experiences week (details via Parentmail shortly)

Tuesday 31st January, 14:15 - Year 1 parent assembly

Tuesday 14th February, 14:15 - Year 2 parent assembly

Tuesday 28th March, 14:15 - Reception parent assembly

Middle school

January 24th - Year 8 parents' evening

March 1st - Year 6 visit to the Senedd

March 7th - Year 5 military boot camp experience day

March 8th - Year 6 parent assembly

Upper school

January 18th-29th - Year 9 careers events

January 30th-February 3rd - Year 9 straw poll

February 7th - Year 11 parents' evening

Wednesday 15th March- Year 9 parents' evening

March 2nd -March 5th Disney visit

Contact details

lowerschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

middleschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

upperschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

SPRING TERM



Lower school

| NAME OF CLUB | DAY | STAFF | COLLECT FROM | YEAR GROUPS |
|---|------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Creative Play | Wednesday | Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Roberts | Gwyn hall | year 1 to 3 |
| Discover & Do! STEM club | Tuesday | Mrs Garley and Mrs Richards | Gwyn hall | nursery- year 2 |
| Reading Eggs | Tuesday | Mrs Boulton Mrs Wilkins | Gwyn hall | reception - year 3 |
| Multisports | Tuesday | Mr Griffiths | Gwyn hall | years 1, 2 and 3 |
| Variety club | Wednesday | Mrs Jones and Mrs Schorschinski | Gwyn hall | nursery- year 3 |
| Netball | Thursday | Mrs Waithaka | Gwyn hall | years 2 and 3 |
| Painting club | Wednesday | Mrs Basini-James and Mrs Potheary | Gwyn hall | nursery- year 3 |
| Let's Explore! International dance | Wednesday | Mrs Elford and Mrs Gilder | Gwyn hall | years 2 and 3 |
| Construction Club | Tuesday | Miss Dowling Mrs Price | Gwyn hall | reception - year 2 |
| Board games | Wednesday | Mrs Baker and Miss Burrough | Gwyn hall | nursery- year 1 |
| ZUMBA | Tuesday | Mrs D. Davies | Gwyn hall | reception - year 6 |

Middle school

| NAME OF CLUB | DAY | STAFF | COLLECT FROM | YEAR GROUPS |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Rugby | Wednesday | Mr Smith and Mr Robinson | Gwyn hall | years 5 and 6 |
| Chess club | Tuesday | Mrs Lewis | Gwyn hall | years 6, 7 and 8 |
| STEM | Tuesday | Mrs Francis and Mrs Waldie | Gwyn hall | years 4, 5 and 6 |
| ZUMBA | Tuesday | Mrs D. Davies | Gwyn hall | reception - year 6 |
| Drama Club | Thursday | Mrs Pearce | Gwyn hall | years 6 to 9 |
| Choir | Thursday (lunchtime) | Mrs Pearce | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Table Tennis Club | Wednesday | Mr Stanton and Mrs Holmes | Gwyn hall | years 4, 5 and 6 |
| Fun fitness Club | Wednesday | Mrs Waithaka and Mrs Prosser | Gwyn hall | years 4 to 6 |
| Languages | Wednesday | Miss Mein | Gwyn hall | years 4 to 8 |
| Arts & Crafts | Thursday | Miss S. Davies | Gwyn hall | years 7 to 11 |
| Drama club | Thursday | Mrs Pearce | Front of Nant building years 7 to 9 and Gwyn hall year 6 | years 6 to 9 |
| Gym club | Wednesday | Mrs Jenkins | Front of Nant building | years 7 and 8 |
| ICT (revision) | Tuesday/ Wednesday | STEM faculty | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Gaming club | Tuesday | YEPS | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| DJ club | Wednesday | YEPS | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Cooking | Wednesday | YEPS | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Dancing (various types) | Wednesday | Miss P. Jones | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Urdd club | Wednesday | Mrs Thomas and Mrs Williams | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Academic mentoring | Thursday | Miss S. Davies | Front of Nant building | years 7 and 8 |
| Mathematics club | Tuesday | Maths faculty | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |

Middle school

| NAME OF CLUB | DAY | STAFF | COLLECT FROM | YEAR GROUPS |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Running club cross country | Wednesday | Mr Evans | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Football | Tuesday | Mr Maharg and Sporting Marvels | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Netball | Tuesday | Miss Sturmev | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Badminton | Monday (lunch time) | Mr Maharg | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Table tennis | Tuesday (lunch time) | Mr Maharg | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Basketball | Wednesday (lunch time) | Mr Maharg | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Gym club | Thursday (lunch time) | Mr Maharg | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Biology independent learning | Tuesday | Mrs Richings and Mr Evans | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Physics independent learning | Wednesday | Mrs Punter and Miss O'Reilly | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Chemistry independent learning | Thursday | Mrs Daley | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Choir | Thursday (lunchtime) | Mrs Pearce | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| DT (revision) | Thursday | Science faculty | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |

Upper school

| NAME OF CLUB | DAY | STAFF | COLLECT FROM | YEAR GROUPS |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Running club cross country | Wednesday | Mr Evans | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| English literature workshop | Tuesday | Miss James | Front of Nant building | year 10 |
| English language workshop | Wednesday | Miss James | Front of Nant building | year 11 |
| Football | Tuesday | Mr Maharg and Sporting Marvels | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Netball | Tuesday | Miss Sturmey | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Badminton | Monday (lunch time) | Mr Maharg | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Table tennis | Tuesday (lunch time) | Mr Maharg | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Basketball | Wednesday (lunch time) | Mr Maharg | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Gym club | Thursday (lunch time) | Mr Maharg | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Biology independent learning | Tuesday | Mrs Richings and Mr Evans | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Physics independent learning | Wednesday | Mrs Punter and Miss O'Reilly | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Chemistry independent learning | Thursday | Mrs Daley | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Coursework support : Life | Friday | Mrs Velasco and Mrs Carey | Front of Nant building | years 10 and 11 |
| Coursework support: Life | Tuesday - Friday (lunch time) | Mrs Velasco and Mrs Carey | N/A | years 10 and 11 |
| Drama Club | Thursday | Mrs Pearce | Front of Nant building | years 6 to 9 |
| Choir | Thursday (lunch time) | Mrs Pearce | N/A | years 7 to 11 |
| Culture club | Tuesday | Mr Duran | Front of Nant building | years 9 to 11 |
| DT (revision) | Thursday | STEM faculty | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |

| NAME OF CLUB | DAY | STAFF | COLLECT FROM | YEAR GROUPS |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| ICT (revision) | Tuesday/ Wednesday | STEM faculty | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Gaming club | Tuesday | YEPS | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| DJ club | Wednesday | YEPS | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Cooking | Wednesday | YEPS | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Dancing (various types) | Wednesday | Miss P. Jones | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Urdd club | Wednesday | Mrs Thomas and Mrs Williams | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Gym club | Tuesday | Miss Jacobs | Front of Nant building | years 9 to 11 |
| Football (girls) | Wednesday | Miss Jacobs | Front of Nant building | year 9 |
| Mathematics club | Tuesday | Maths faculty | Front of Nant building | years 7 to 11 |
| Geography | Wednesday | Mrs Higgs | Front of Nant building | year 11 |
| GCSE Physical Education | Thursday | Mr Davies | Front of Nant building | year 11 |
| Chat and charm club | Friday (lunch time) | Mrs Pearce | N/A | year 9 |

How to book

Clubs can be booked via a form on the Parentmail booking app. Parents will receive a form for each child as the club programme differs throughout the school. Select the club that you want by ticking the box on the appropriate day. At the bottom of the form it is important to complete the contact details and for Gwyn pupils whether they are being collected or permitted to walk home. After the indicated deadline for clubs selection, you will receive an email if your child has been allocated a place for their selected club. All clubs have a maximum number and club places are given on a first come first serve basis.

All Gwyn pupils who are collected will be released from the Gwyn Hall at the end of the club, 4pm. Those pupils allowed to walk home will be released from site at the end of the club at 4pm. Nant pupils will all be released from Nant pupil entrance at 4pm.

