

# PARENT NEWSLETTER



May 2023



# A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I am delighted to share with you that, following a two day interview process, governors have appointed me as permanent headteacher for Ysgol Nantgwyn. I feel incredibly fortunate to have this position and am very proud of what we have achieved as a whole team over the past six months. I am very excited about our next steps of development.

You will know that we had an Estyn visit shortly after Easter and the whole team approach was amazing. The outcomes are confidential until the report is published at the end of June but I will share the headlines and the whole report with you as soon as I am able to.

We have acted on pupil feedback and continued to develop the site in line with some of their requests. We now have recycling for paper, cardboard and plastic across the full site and will be adding food waste before the end of the school year. Our pupils are finalising the lunchtime arrangements and facilities having received hundreds of pieces of feedback from Nant pupils and we will be acting on that feedback during the summer. It has been really great for them to have the opportunity for them to lead change; they have done well so far and I am sure the end result will be something that will be gratefully received by all pupils and they will feel ownership of it having had the opportunity to give their views. I am still trying to set up a parent representative group to meet informally with me once per half term - if anyone has a spare hour once every other month, I'd be really grateful to hear from you. You can email me on [head@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:head@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)

Our Pantry continues to be open on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between 3 and 4pm. It is neither a food bank or a shop and possibly a bit confusing as such! You can make donations of items to it, you can bring something to swap for something else, you can make a cash contribution, you can take a few items if you are not able to make a contribution. All are welcome - it may be that you need a last ingredient for dinner and it is quicker to stop with us during pick up than stop again at a shop, you may have bought three packets of something and, having tried the first, want to donate the other two to the Pantry! Please try and pop your head in and have a chat with staff to see how you can engage.



We also, at any point in the year, are grateful for any donations of uniforms to add to those that we already have. We have a range of new and pre-loved uniform in great condition available to all. You can donate by dropping off in the blue bins in the foyer of either building and collect/choose by appointment with your school team. We will be starting to open the Gwyn hall on a once a month basis and laying out uniform for people to come and help themselves - perhaps consider doing this in the July event before purchasing anything new?

As a point of clarification, pupils of all ages are able to wear grey tailored shorts at any point during the year and summer uniform dresses are welcome. I'm afraid that any other type of shorts including sports shorts, jersey material shorts, cycling shorts, denim shorts are not considered part of school uniform and cannot be worn to school.

We are currently consulting on removing access for vehicles during break and lunchtimes so that pupils can move to different areas in the knowledge that they are safe to do so. Parents will still be able to access the site should they need to do so at these times but would need to park and come through the gates as a pedestrian. If you have any comments that you would like considered as part of this consultation, please send them to [head@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:head@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)

This term, our team will work together as pupils, staff and governors to self evaluate our priorities for improvement from this year and decide what our priorities for next year will be. Again, I would be really keen for parent representative involvement - you don't need to know anything about education or schools - your parent view is valuable to us. Get in touch with me at [head@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:head@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk) if you would be interested in a coffee, slice of cake and a walkaround the school as part of this group before the end of the year.

We have currently been consulting on uniform with a representative group of pupils. Pupils have expressed that they would like lower, middle and upper school to have the same uniform options, so that they have more to choose from e.g. a polo shirt could be worn in all school areas, that they would like to add a light blue shirt to the range and that trainers should be part of the uniforms long as they are plain black (with no other colour.) If you would like to any suggestions to our pupil opinions, please could you complete the following survey.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0ZYipmiVIBVvgn01rjmwWybFRrImW8wL0K9peTzQfE3fo1Q/vi ewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0ZYipmiVIBVvgn01rjmwWybFRrImW8wL0K9peTzQfE3fo1Q/vi ewform?usp=sf_link)

With warm wishes,

Ms Laura Morris  
Headteacher

## Newsletter focus item:

# Additional learning needs (ALN)

### What does additional learning needs mean?

Children and young people with ALN need extra support to learn. This would be because they:

- find it harder to learn than other children of the same age
- have a disability that means they cannot use, or find it difficult to use, facilities for learning

Some children and young people who need extra help in Ysgol Nantgwyn do not have an ALN. This may be children or young people who just need some help catching up.

The extra support given to children with ALN to help them learn is called additional learning provision (sometimes called ALP). This must be written into a support plan called an individual development plan (IDP).

Additional learning provision can be delivered by teachers or progress coaches. It can also be delivered by specialist services like a speech and language therapist or teachers of the deaf.

### What observations might a parent have?

You may find that your child finds it hard to keep up with their work in class and/or is falling behind their peers. They may find it difficult to communicate their thoughts and feelings and demonstrate frustration at home. If you have any concerns about your child's progress please contact us.



### What observations might a teacher have?

Our staff work with your child throughout the week and they will share any concerns that they have with our ALNCo, Mrs Helen Higgs. They may observe limited progress, lack of attentiveness or appropriate social skills that fall below that of their peers.

Please find a link below to RCT's access and inclusion page:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/SchoolsandLearning/AccessandInclusiontoEducation/AccessandInclusiontoEducation.aspx>

As a parent, you may be concerned about your child having  
**ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS**  
Getting support: a **step-by-step** guide

- 1. Speak to your child's teacher.**  
If you think that your child has Additional Learning Needs (ALN) talk to your child's teacher or ALN Coordinator (ALNCo).
- 2. Create an Individual Development Plan (IDP) together.**  
If the school agrees with you that your child has ALN, the school will work with you and your child to create an IDP.
- 3. Discuss any concerns with the school or local authority.**  
If the school does not agree that your child has ALN, or you are dissatisfied with your child's IDP, discuss it with the school or local authority.
- 4. You can have access to an advocate.**  
If the local authority agrees with the school but you are still unhappy, they can point you to independent advocacy services.
- 5. You have a right to appeal.**  
All children and young people and their parents or carers have the right to appeal against decisions to the Education Tribunal of Wales (ETW).

For further details and information  
Please SCAN the QR code and watch the video guide.

Logos at the bottom include: RCT Council, RCT Education, RCT Health, RCT Police, RCT Fire, RCT Transport, RCT Housing, RCT Social Services, RCT Adult Social Care, RCT Children's Services, RCT Learning, RCT Skills, RCT Employment, RCT Training, RCT Youth Services, RCT Leisure, RCT Sports, RCT Arts, RCT Music, RCT Dance, RCT Drama, RCT Theatre, RCT Film, RCT Media, RCT Journalism, RCT Photography, RCT Design, RCT Engineering, RCT Technology, RCT Computing, RCT Mathematics, RCT Science, RCT History, RCT Geography, RCT Languages, RCT Music, RCT Art, RCT Design, RCT Craft, RCT Textiles, RCT Woodwork, RCT Metalwork, RCT Ceramics, RCT Pottery, RCT Glass, RCT Jewellery, RCT Fashion, RCT Hairdressing, RCT Beauty, RCT Nail Technology, RCT Barbering, RCT Hairdressing, RCT Beauty, RCT Nail Technology, RCT Barbering, RCT Hairdressing, RCT Beauty, RCT Nail Technology, RCT Barbering.

## Supporting pupils' development in skills

Three cross curricular skills:

As a mandatory part of the Curriculum for Wales, pupils develop skills and knowledge in literacy (reading, writing and oracy), numeracy and digital competence (citizenship, interacting and collaborating, producing, data and computational thinking) across the whole breadth of the curriculum. These skills are mapped across all curriculum areas from nursery through to upper school so that pupils continue to develop and build upon existing skills.



### How parents can support the development of digital competence, literacy and numeracy at home?

#### Literacy:

To support your child's learning at home, you could encourage active reading and talking about any kind of text such as books, magazines or webpages. For example, you could ask your child what particular words mean or discuss the sequence of a story. You could even talk about words that you come across in everyday life. Hwb is also a really useful website to use where pupils can complete national test practice papers. All pupils should be encouraged to read for 20 minutes at least 3 times a week.

#### Numeracy:

In order to support your child, you can work on the following key areas:

- Times tables
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Money
- Temperature
- Measurement
- Percentages
- Fractions

Some idea to help with this could be:

- Totalling the price as you walk round the supermarket
- Calculating the change that will be left over from a £10 or £20 note
- Looking at the change in temperature over several days
- Times tables tests
- Identifying the fraction a pizza has been cut into
- Estimating the fraction or percentage of how much of a drink is left in a glass/bottle

If your child logs onto Hwb, clicks on 'Personalised Assessments', selects 'Familiarisation Assessments' and then chooses 'Numeracy (Procedural)', they can complete a few questions in the style of the test (please note, these are to familiarise with the system and will not be marked).

Your child will also be completing revision in school during their mathematics lessons, prior to the NNPT taking place.



## Digital competence

In order to develop digital competence skills, pupils first need to understand about computational thinking. This involves thinking like a computer. The best way to develop pupils' computational thinking skills is to present them with scenarios such as making a cup of tea or planning how they would get from one destination to another. A computer would need to have a significant amount of accurate detail in order to perform even the most basic of tasks. You can simplify as much as you want depending upon the pupil's age, for example asking "how would you tie your shoelaces?". The pupil will then take you through a set of ordered logical steps. E.g. Making a cup of tea.

1. Put 500ml of water in the kettle from the cold tap
2. Turn the kettle on and wait until boiling is complete
3. Get a mug with at least 200 ml capacity and add a tea bag
4. Pour the boiling water into the mug until it is 1cm before the top
5. Wait 30 seconds and remove tea bag with a teaspoon
6. Stir

You can add more detail such as adding milk or specifying the number of stirring rotations etc depending upon the age of the pupil.

### Links to the frameworks:

More information on each of the skills frameworks can be found on the following link:  
<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/cross-curricular-skills-frameworks>

### What if your child is not working at chronological age?

Your child's report will include information on where your child is working with regard to expectations for the chronological age through use of our assessment pathway points. You can contact your child's Caru Dysgu teacher, literacy teacher, mathematics teacher or STEM teacher for more information.





### **National Tests- literacy and numeracy**

All pupils from year 2 to year 9 complete national numeracy and literacy tests throughout the school year. These tests provide consistent, detailed information on each individual learner's development and progress in reading, procedural numeracy and reasoning. These tests are useful in ensuring that teachers, pupils and parents know key areas of strengths in these areas and also, areas where some extra support could be required.

These tests are online, personalised assessments completed through HWB, which selects questions based on the pupil's response to the previous question. If a pupil answers a question correctly, they will then get a more challenging question; if a pupil answers a question incorrectly, they will then get an easier question. Once pupils have sat their test they receive a standardised score. This will be shared with pupils during the last week of this academic year, and will then be communicated to parents during the first few weeks of the autumn term.

Pupils in year 7 to year 9 will be completing these tests again in the upcoming weeks for literacy and in the last 3 weeks of the summer term for numeracy. More information for parents about the national tests can be found on the following link.


<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/reading-and-numeracy-assessments/personalised-assessments-information-for-parents-and-carers/>

### **How do we know if your child is making progress?**

Termly pupil progress meetings take place for all year groups across the school. In the lead up to these meetings, your child's teachers will make a judgement on the current level that your child is working based on the Ysgol Nantgwyn pathway points. Key school team members then use this information to check that all pupils are making their expected progress and the next steps to support and challenge pupils are discussed via pupil progress meetings.

## 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, there will be two tasks per curriculum area per half term. 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 Parentmailed to parents at the same time so that you are aware of the expectations for your child.

CLASS: Year 3.			
These independent learning tasks should be completed by 28/10/22. All completed tasks will be rewarded with positive points.			
Mathematics and numeracy	English, literacy and communication	Science and technology	Ceru dysgu: Humanities
Learn your 2 and 3 times tables really well. Use these links to songs and use the link to the top marks hit the button game. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t9yEjKzU10">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t9yEjKzU10</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t9yEjKzU10">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t9yEjKzU10</a> <a href="https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/2d4x4/">https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/2d4x4/</a>	Read your favourite story and then write a review of the book. Who is the author? Who are the characters? What is your favourite part of the story and why? Why is this book your favourite story? What do you recommend your story to a friend? <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70aCq8Gak">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70aCq8Gak</a>	Can you use your recycling items from home and turn them into something else. (e.g. turning a milk bottle into a bird feeder) 	Choose a country from around the world and research facts about your chosen country's culture. Find out about the language people speak, traditional foods, the flag, national music and dance, national sport and the name of the capital city of your chosen country. You may choose your own way to present your research.
Cerudysgu: Expressive arts	Well-being	Languages: Welsh	Languages: Spanish
Look at the art work of Rhianon Roberts <a href="http://www.rhianonart.co.uk/">http://www.rhianonart.co.uk/</a> . Create your own art work in the style of Rhianon Roberts. You can be as creative as you can using materials of your choice.	Go on a sound walk around your local area... Listen carefully to all the different sounds you can hear and write them down on a piece of paper. Maybe try your walk at different times of the day are the sounds you hear different depending on the time of day it is?	Learn a Welsh song or poem and showcase it in class. Click on the link for some ideas. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw4v75G6R0K">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw4v75G6R0K</a>	Click on the link to practice talking about the weather in Spanish. You can draw little pictures of the different types of weather and with the Spanish weather words to go with your images. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FPLA_A0i8g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FPLA_A0i8g</a>

## The Brilliant Club

Over the spring term, 13 pupils across years 7 and 8 were selected to participate in the "Brilliant Club" run by The Scholars Programme. Throughout their time in the programme, the pupils had the opportunity to visit Bath University as part of their launch event where they undertook lectures on critical thinking and problem solving but also explored the university facilities to see what life is like as an undergraduate student.

Back in school, the pupils worked with their PhD tutor, Sarah, from Cardiff University to undertake and explore their topic of 'Disease Detectives'. Using Sarah's knowledge as a microbiologist, the pupils undertook sessions to learn about how to research for the information they need but also think critically about sources of information. They then undertook an assignment looking at Ebola and the effects this had on lives and how it was stopped. This then built up to their final mini dissertation in which they undertook the role of a pharmaceutical company who were creating a vaccine for malaria. The work produced was fantastic, exploring what malaria is, the causes of malaria and how it can be treated. I am extremely impressed by the high quality work that was produced with some pupils achieving a first class level assignment marked in line with undergraduate dissertations and with all pupils working extremely hard to produce the dissertation independently! Da iawn pawb, gwaith bendigedig!

This month, the pupils were rewarded with their graduation ceremony at the Carmarthen campus of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, where they got to tour the campus and ask challenging, but worthwhile, questions of the students who were facilitating the tours. During the graduation ceremony Anwen and Seren gave a detailed keynote address as successful scholars and explained to all in attendance what they learnt and how this has supported their ambition to attend university. The highlight of the day was the pupils donning their mortarboards and being able to have their photographs taken in the beautiful grounds of the campus as they will do in several years time as successful undergraduate students at their chosen university!

Mr Williams-Cross

Deputy head of middle school - years 7&8

## **Rights Respecting Schools**

At Ysgol Nantgwyn we are committed to becoming a fully accredited rights respecting. At present we have achieved our bronze award which shows our commitment to children's rights.

The UN Convention on the rights of the child is made up of 54 articles.

Each newsletter we will explore a different right.

### **Article 15 - Freedom of Association**

Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Article 15 is about the right of association which is having the opportunity to gather with others for different purposes.



### **Why is important that young people should have the opportunity to meet, spend time together and share ideas?**

- Joining groups or organisations can help us learn more about different issues.
- Meeting others helps us develop new skills: how to resolve issues, find ways to compromise, share, encourage, show support and empathy.
- It helps us to learn from and mix with a range of other people.
- We can learn a lot from other children and young people that helps to form our views and opinions about different things.
- By being with other people, we learn more about ourselves.
- People can be stronger together.
- Joining together as a group, we can bring about change.
- Young people have a right to participate and to be listened to and be heard.



## Dates for your diary

### Lower school

Open afternoon for parents of lower school pupils (nursery to year 3): **Monday 19th June, 2023**  
Parents are welcome to attend from 14:00 (gates opened at 13:50). Children can take parents on a tour of the building and there will be an opportunity to look through your child's books/learning journey for the year. Professional discussion will take place on parents evening on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 12th July 2023.

Moving up transition afternoon in Gwyn: **Monday 10th July, 2023**

Experience trips: Nursery, reception, year 1, 2 & 3: **Week beginning 22nd May, 2023**

Nursery parent assembly: **Tuesday 23rd May, 2023, 14:15**

Nursery, reception, year 1, 2 & 3 pupil reports: **Week beginning 3rd July, 2023**

Nursery, reception, year 1, 2 & 3 parents' evening: **Tuesday 11th & Wednesday 12th July, 2023**

End of year trips: **Weeks beginning, Monday 10th & 17th July**

Sports day plan A **Tuesday 4th July, 2023**

Sports day plan B **Tuesday 11th July, 2023 (just in case plan A date is too wet)**

### Middle school

Year 4 Curriculum experience **Tuesday 13th June, 2023**

Year 5 Curriculum experience to 'Big Pit' **Wednesday 14th June, 2023**

Year 6 Curriculum experience trip to 'The royal mint' **Monday 19th June, 2023**

Cluster transition day **Thursday 29th June, 2023**

Sports day plan A **Tuesday 4th July, 2023**

Cluster transition day and parent forum **Thursday 6th July**

Year 5 and 6 Llangrannog trip **Monday 3rd - 5th July, 2023**

Year 4 and 5 parents evening **Week beginning 3rd July**

Year 6 parents evening **Week beginning 10th July**

Moving up transition afternoon in Gwyn: **Monday 10th July, 2023**

Year 6 'Moving on up' day **Tuesday 11th July, 2023**

Sports day plan B **Tuesday 11th July, 2023 (just in case plan A date is too wet)**

End of year trips: **Weeks beginning, Monday 10th & 17th July**

### Upper school

Year 9 A band work experience **Tuesday 4th July**

Year 9 B band work experience **Tuesday 11th July**

Year 11 celebration breakfast **Monday 12th June**

Year 11 prom **Friday 30th June**

End of year trips: **Weeks beginning, Monday 10th & 17th July**

### Contact details

lowerschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk  
middleschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk  
upperschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk