

YEAR 7

TRANSITION INFORMATION



September 2023



INTRODUCTION

Dear parents and pupils,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child into year 7 at Ysgol Nantgwyn. We hope pupils have enjoyed the induction days and the Transition Thursday sessions and that they have provided a glimpse of life at Ysgol Nantgwyn. We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting all pupils as one new cohort.

We understand that the transition from year 6 into year 7 can bring a variety of changes and challenges for all pupils, however we hope that your child's experiences to date would have given a positive insight into Ysgol Nantgwyn and how year 7 will look and feel. It is our priority to ensure that all pupils are supported to progress to year 7 with confidence. We have been working closely with our year 6 teachers at Ysgol Nantgwyn and at our cluster primary schools to ensure that we gather all of the necessary information to make the transition for all pupils as smooth as possible. We will consider the needs, talents, interests and friendship groups of every pupil to ensure that they are as happy as possible when they start with us in September.

One of our key areas of focus for all of our children at Nantgwyn is ensuring that all children are working at or at least very much toward their chronological reading age, this will be a key priority across all of our teaching and we will work with you and all our pupils to ensure this vital ingredient for future success is the cornerstone of their future achievement. Reading for pleasure over the holidays, in whatever format that will be, will be a great part of this and we would encourage this wherever possible please. Ideas and suggestion can be found at <https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk/>

We have created this transition pack to provide you with any information that pupils and parents may need for their start into year 7 in September. In addition, we will write to you nearer to the summer holidays with the exact start dates and times along with class information.

We would also encourage pupils and parents to visit our school webpage to find out more information about our school. <https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/>

Should you have any questions regarding transition, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the team via email- middleschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk We look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Very best wishes,

Ms Morris
Headteacher

Mr Stanton
Assistant Headteacher



Year 7 key staff:

Ms Morris- headteacher

Mr Evans- deputy headteacher and designated safeguarding officer

Miss Mein- deputy headteacher

Mr Stanton- assistant headteacher and head of middle school

Mrs Higgs- assistant headteacher, head of pupil support (ALNCO)

Mr Cross- deputy head of middle school

Mrs Holmes- deputy head of middle school

Miss Woodbridge- raising standards leader

Mrs Davies- year 7 progress coach

A wide range of staff will be working with year 7 pupils, however key year 7 staff can be found above.



“

I am so impressed at how my child has settled in. He smiles in the morning and is keen to get to school. Thank you to all staff helping and teaching year 7.

Year 7 Parent

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Uniform

Following a number of discussions about uniform throughout the year and, having now received several hundreds of responses to our recent survey on this matter, we have discussed and agreed to make some changes to our uniform for September 2023 onwards. All pupils consulted wanted to continue to have a distinct school identity however they wanted to try to exercise more of their individual identity by having some more choices. We are happy to support this movement however do ask that all pupils are in their chosen full uniform at all times from September.

The key changes we are making are as follows:

- The full range of choices will be available to all pupils across lower, middle and upper school.
- Pupils may wear trainers that are fully black and have a fully black sole. No additional colours on footwear are allowed. For example, no coloured writing or slogans, no white soles.
- There will be no stipulation on the colour of socks.
- There will be no stipulation on the colour of bags.

There will be no requirement to have badged items however this is fully acceptable for those that wish to do so. Iron on badges are also available from local stockists.

The uniform from September is therefore as follows for pupils of all ages:

Bottoms

Choose from grey tailored shorts, culottes, trousers, skirt, pinafore or Nantgwyn tartan skirt or pinafore.

Leggings, jeans, sportswear are not permitted.

Tops

Choose from a white or royal blue polo t shirt or a white shirt or blouse. Where a white cotton shirt is worn, it must be accompanied by a Nantgwyn tie.

Choose from a plain and unbranded royal blue or navy sweatshirt, a royal blue or navy cardigan, or a navy v neck knitted jumper.

A navy blazer may be worn if a pupil so wishes.

Hoodies are not permitted. Branded sweatshirts are not permitted.

Footwear

Any fully black sensible footwear including plain black trainers with black soles. No additional colours are permitted on footwear.

Crocs, high heels, flip flops are examples of footwear that is not sensible for the school environment.

PE

- Black or navy shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings
- Royal blue or white t-shirt
- Optional royal blue quarter zip sweatshirt
- Trainers

Pupils should bring their PE kit to school with them when they have PE on their timetable and should change into their PE kit in school at the start of the PE lesson.

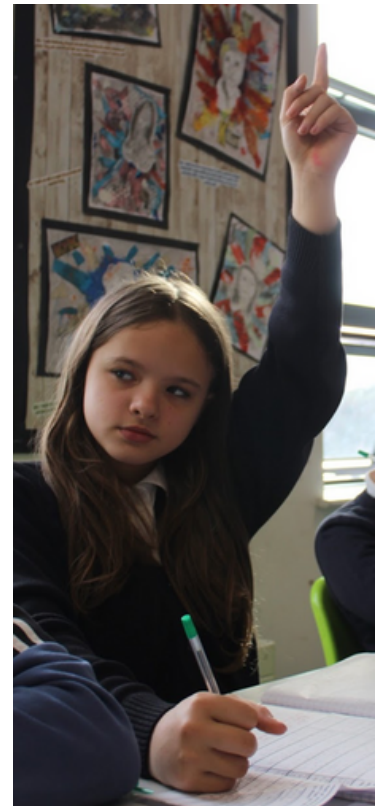
Equipment

Pupils will need to bring to school the following equipment:

- blue/ black writing pen
- spare pen
- a green pen
- pencils
- ruler
- rubber
- protractor
- scientific calculator
- a note book
- a reading book/ reading material

Parents may also want to purchase but they are not compulsory:

- coloured pencils
- felt pens
- highlighters
- sticky notes



Google Classroom

Pupils use Google Classroom as part of a blended learning approach. Pupils will be set tasks by their teachers and should upload their work to this area. Pupils will receive their account details for Google Classroom from their form tutor.



YSGOL NANTGWYN: OUR CURRICULUM

VISION

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, our curriculum vision is based around our school statement; 'when we are ready, respectful and responsible, everything is possible'. It takes into account our school population and their needs and helps them to be ready to respond to the demands of our world and be responsible and respectful in doing so. To support this, it is informed by our local, regional, national and global context. The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum ensures that all pupils gain good knowledge and skills through a range of learning experiences so that they make good progress from nursery to year 11 and are ready to be successful in their chosen pathway when they leave school.

OUR CURRICULUM

The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum is designed to take account of the needs of all pupils and offers a broad and balanced range of experiences for all pupils. We recognise that pupils are individuals and therefore the way in which they experience the curriculum may differ. Our curriculum is iterative in its development and provides opportunities for pupils to inform and lead their learning. It provides opportunities for pupils to have meaningful learning experiences, to consider themselves and others and the part they can play in their local community as well as the wider world. The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum presents pupils with a range of big questions, gives them the opportunity to ask questions and enables their development of knowledge and skills in the exploration of possible answers through a variety of learning experiences. Our staff will carefully listen to our pupils and ensure that their thoughts, views and needs inform their learning.

Through consultation with pupils, parents, staff and governors, we have agreed that our curriculum will place increased emphasis on the following identified needs:

- Understanding their responsibilities and rights
- Respecting the rights and needs of others
- Thinking creatively to solve problems
- Sharing ideas and emotions in a variety of ways
- Setting goals
- Speaking and listening to others effectively
- Building up and applying knowledge
- Forming good relationships based on trust and mutual respect
- Building mental and emotional well-being

AREAS OF LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

Our curriculum will provide learning which encompasses six areas of learning and experience. These are:

- Language, literacy and communication
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Expressive arts
- Humanities
- Health and well-being
- Science and technology

Each area of learning and experience has a set of 'what matters' statements. Staff use these statements and the concepts within them to design and plan the learning for pupils. These statements support pupils to make good progress by developing the skills and knowledge gained from their learning experiences from nursery through to year 11.

Our curriculum ensures that pupils learn about diversity, human rights and the rights of the child, relationships and sexuality education (RSE), Welsh and religion, values and ethics (RVE).

FOUR PURPOSES

Our curriculum will be designed, developed and delivered with the four purposes at the centre to ensure that pupils 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.

CROSS CURRICULAR

Our pupils will develop skills and knowledge relating to literacy (oracy, reading and writing), numeracy (including reasoning) and digital competence across the full breadth of the curriculum.

DESIGN

Our curriculum design has been informed by our pupils, parents, governors and community members and staff as well as our cluster schools and external partners. Our design has centred around ensuring an inclusive, progressive curriculum that meets the needs of our pupils to ensure that they have the very best experience at school and are ready to succeed in the opportunities and challenges that will present throughout their life.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will continue to be part of our daily teaching and learning as pupils and teachers use information from time spent with pupils to plan the next steps in each individual pupils' learning. As part of this process, pupils will engage with feedback from teachers about their learning so that they know how well they are doing and what they can do to improve and progress. Ysgol Nantgwyn will review the progress of each individual pupil regularly across the year and use this information to plan for individuals and groups to ensure that all make at least good progress and are well supported in doing so. We will report to pupils and parents about progress and approach to learning at regular points in the year.

REVIEW

The Ysgol Nantgwyn curriculum will go through a process of iterative evaluation and development to ensure that all pupils are experiencing the very quality of provision that we can provide. We will work with a range of people to gather a range of information from many different activities that include pupils, parents and teachers to inform our evaluations and planning for development. These evaluations will sit as part of our robust monitoring and evaluation work.

The school day



school starts	08.40
registration	08:40- 08:55
lesson 1	08:55-09:45
lesson 2	09:45-10:35
break	10:35-10:55
lesson 3	10:55- 11:45
lesson 4	11:45-12:35
lunch	12:35- 13:25
lesson 5	13.25-14:05
lesson 6	14:15-15:05
end of day	15.05
after school clubs	15.05-16.00

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. 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.

Attendance

At Ysgol Nantgwyn we expect all pupils to have 95% or more attendance. When children attend school consistently they are more likely to do well with their studies but also build strong relationships and feel connected with the school community. It also demonstrates reliability which will help prepare children for life beyond education and looks positive to future employers.

Attendance to school- How can parents help?

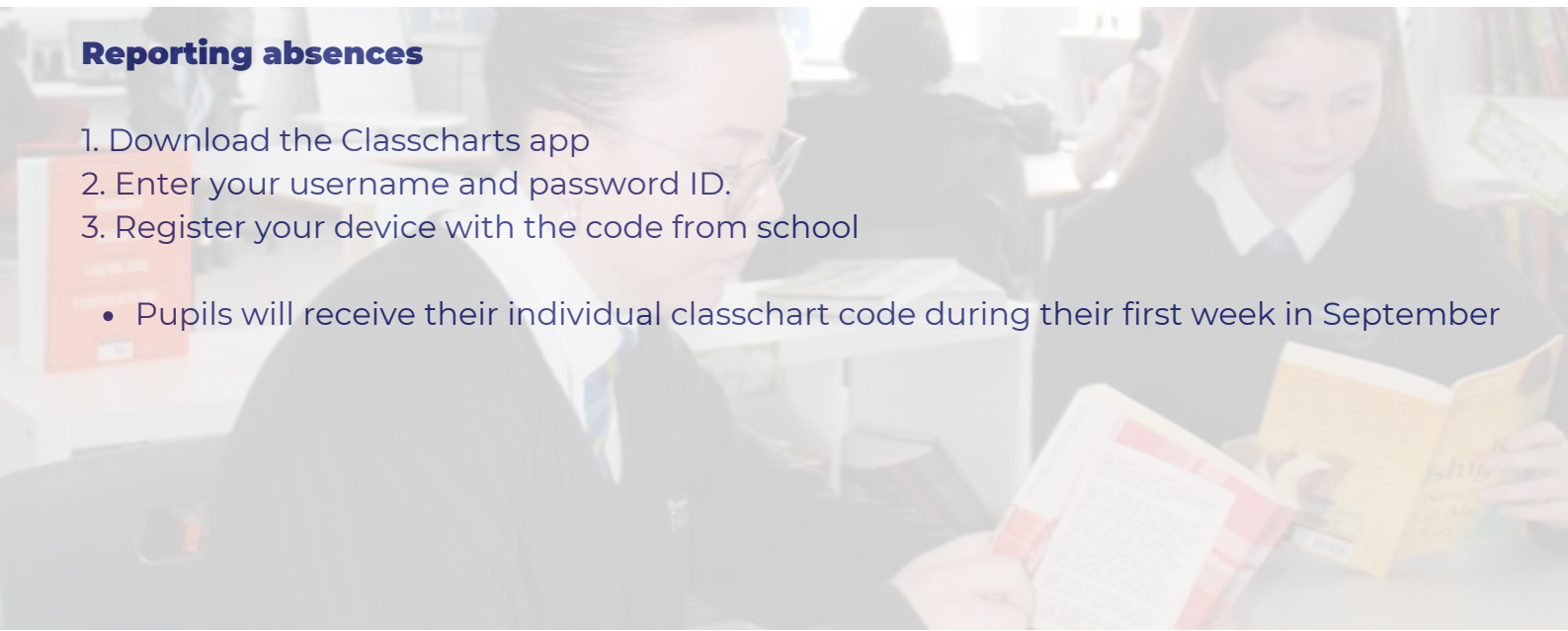
- Make school attendance a priority and talk about the importance of attending school every day.
- Ensure that your child attends school on time so that they do not miss their morning mark.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework, packing their bag the night before and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.
- Talk to your child's school team if they have any worries or anxieties about school- these can quite often be resolved easily.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from the school, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.

Unauthorised absences

It is vitally important that your child's absence is reported to us on the first day of absence and each subsequent day of absence unless there has been medical authorisation for a period of absence granted on day one. Reasons for not attending school should be specific rather than 'unwell.' Please can parents use the Class Charts app to report absence. It is very quick and easy to do this. If you are unsure or do not have your login details, please contact your child's relevant school team who will be happy to help. Medical evidence is required to authorise absences.

Reporting absences

1. Download the Classcharts app
 2. Enter your username and password ID.
 3. Register your device with the code from school
- Pupils will receive their individual classchart code during their first week in September



School Meals

Year 7 pupils are expected to stay onsite during lunchtime. Pupils can purchase a variety of snacks and meals before school, during break time and at lunch time. Water stations are situated around the school to provide pupils with free water. Pupils are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school to fill up throughout the day.

Meals at Ysgol Nantgwyn will be catered for by the Local Authority. Further information can be found on their website:

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

The cost for a school set meal for years 7 to 11 is £2.80 per day.

Ysgol Nantgwyn uses a completely cashless system. Ysgol Nantgwyn use the Local Authority Online Payment System for parents and carers can make secure payments for lunch money and school activities with no transaction fees. Please set up an account directly with RCT on their website (details below) and over the summer your child's unique 10 digit reference number for the catering service will be sent to you during the first week of September for new pupils (existing Ysgol Nantgwyn pupils' codes will remain the same). New pupils will still be able to receive lunches whilst they are waiting to receive their code for the first week. It is suggested that all pupils bring a packed lunch on their first day.

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

Unfortunately pupils cannot purchase food if their account does not have credit.



Free School Meals

Pupils who are eligible for free school meals in year 6 will continue to receive free school meals, unless the circumstances of the families have changed, Ysgol Nantgwyn will automatically receive this information from the Local Authority. If you feel that your circumstances have changed over the summer, please apply via the RCT website.

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

Uniform grants

Welsh Government issue all pupils eligible for free school meals in year 7 with a uniform grant, details on how to apply can be found below. Welsh Government will contact families with this information throughout July and August. Please contact middleschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk if you require any further details.

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ChildrenandFamilies/ParentandFamilySupport/Financialsupportforfamilies/PDGAccessGrant202122ForSeptember2021yeargroups.aspx>

Online Payments

Ysgol Nantgwyn uses a completely cashless system. Ysgol Nantgwyn use the Local Authority Online Payment System for parents and carers can make secure payments for school lunch money and school activities with no transaction fees. Example activities for online payments could be a school trip, a revision guide, music lessons or any reason you may have to pay money to the school. Please set up an account directly with RCT on their website (details below) and over the summer your child's unique 10 digit reference number for the catering service will be sent to you during the first week of September for new pupils (Existing Ysgol Nantgwyn pupils' codes will remain the same). New pupils will still be able to receive lunches whilst they are waiting to receive their code for the first week. It is suggested that all pupils bring a packed lunch on their first day.

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

Transport

The RCT Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) will be liaising with school staff to arrange for the delivery of school travel packs, ready for issue to the Year 7 intake. Pupils' transport information packs will be sent out to home addresses and further information can be found on the RCT Council website:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/SchoolandCollegeTransport/SchoolandCollegeTransport.aspx>

Static site at break and lunchtimes

From the start of September, we will not be allowing any vehicles to access the Ysgol Nantgwyn site. This is so that the car park does not have any moving vehicles while there is a high volume of pupils crossing to get from the building to the 3G/MUGA and vice versa.

Should you need to collect your child during these times, please get in touch to make arrangements with us.

Communications with parents

From the start of September, and in response to parent feedback about multiple apps, we will stop using Parentmail to send parent communications. From the start of September, we will be using ClassCharts to:

- Send communications and messages to parents
- Allow parents to report pupil absences
- Allow parents to see their child's current attendance
- Allow parents to see their child's current behaviour points
- Allow parents to see their child's timetable

Parents will receive a sign up code for their child's account in September.

Dates for your diary

Start of term: Tuesday 5th September- all pupils.

Contact details

middleschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, we recognise each child as an individual and work relentlessly to challenge and support them to make at least good progress in their learning, develop into an amazing person who is able to face the challenges and celebrate their successes throughout their lives and contribute to making Ysgol Nantgwyn a nice place to be where all enjoy their time. A close partnership between the school, parents and the child is essential if together, working as a team, we are to achieve this. It is therefore an expectation that all pupils and parents who wish their children to attend Ysgol Nantgwyn sign up to our home-school agreement.

school

Values and vision

To establish a positive culture based on being ready, respectful and responsible.
To promote a rights respecting culture.
To value each pupil as an individual with individual needs and talents.
To celebrate individual achievements.

Curriculum and learning

To provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which challenges pupils to make at least good progress in their learning.
To keep you and your child informed about progress and approach in school, as well as their termly curriculum.
To set appropriate independent learning for pupils.

Well-being

To promote a rights respecting culture.
To have high expectations for each pupil relating to their learning, attitude and their approach in school.
To promote excellent attendance and punctuality.
To provide a safe and secure learning environment.
To ask for and welcome parental input and respond to your questions or concerns as quickly as possible.
To allow children safe and secure use of the internet through a combination of site filtering, supervision and by fostering a responsible attitude in all pupils, in partnership with parents.

Signed:

L. Morris

parents

Values and vision

Positively support your child to be ready, respectful and responsible at all times.
Positively support your child to be the best version of themselves.
Encourage your child to display good chat and charm.

Curriculum and learning

Encourage your child to actively take part in their learning.
Attend parent/teacher meetings to discuss your child's progress.
Support your child with independent learning that is set, including reading, ensuring that this is completed on time.
Support the school in ensuring that pupils attend school prepared with correct equipment everyday.

Well-being

To support the school in promoting a rights respecting culture.
Support the school's policies including those on learning, behaviour, attendance and uniform.
Ensure that your child attends school every day on time, unless there is a good reason for absence (e.g. illness). Notify the school by Classcharts in the event of absence.
Keep us informed of up to date information of where to contact you in case of emergency.
Promptly inform the school of any concerns or problems that may affect your child's learning, behaviour or happiness at school.
Support the school in the teaching of safe and secure internet use at home.

Signed:

pupil

Values and vision

Be ready, respectful and responsible at all times.
Understand my rights as a child.
Show that I am willing to be the 'best me' at all times.
Ensure that I display good chat and charm.

Curriculum and learning

Undertake my responsibilities in the 9Ps of teaching and learning so that I get the most out of every lesson.
Be committed to developing myself in respect of the four purposes of the curriculum.
Give my opinions respectfully, form my own views and challenge myself to make positive changes in school, the community and today's world.
Bring the correct equipment each day.
Complete all of my independent learning activities on time.

Well-being

Understand my rights as a child.
To have high expectations for myself with regard to my learning, attitude and behaviour.
Accept responsibility for my actions.
Accept, in accordance with net zero, that I must be respectful, ready and responsible when representing Ysgol Nantgwyn in the local community at lunchtimes or on sporting fixtures.
Attend school everyday and on time, unless I have a good reason not to be in school.
Ensure that I know my 'go to' person in school and ask for support if I have any concerns or worries.
Use the internet safely.

Signed: