

# PARENT NEWSLETTER



July 2023



# A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I can't quite believe that I am writing the final newsletter not just of the term but of the year! At the point I write this, we have pupils in London watching a show in the West End, pupils walking through the Gower as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award, pupils climbing through the long grassed garden in Gwyn building, pupils on inflatables and eating pizza using money that they have raised themselves, pupils on work experience...the list goes on. We are such a busy school and it is really important that we stop and reflect on how much we have to celebrate and this is the focus of this edition of the newsletter. Our wonderful Estyn report captures this positive position well. I hope you've had time to have a little look but there are some snapshots throughout this newsletter that capture some headlines too. Our pupil written pupil newsletter is also attached to this Parentmail so that you can hear some of our celebrations directly from the pupils.

None of what we do is done alone - every single person in #teamnantgwyn plays a pivotal role in the development of YN pupils - the pupils themselves, parents, staff, governors and the community so a huge thank you from me for everything that you do to support.

Thank you to the parents that have put themselves forward for the parents' forum. We will start with our first meeting in September. This will be a really positive step forward in increasing opportunities for parent voice to be incorporated in our plans going forward.

We have big plans for next year to increase the range of experiences for our pupils and will continue with our relentless focus on developing pupils' reading, their learning and their well-being. Activities to support continuation of reading through the summer holidays will come out to you via Parentmail - none of these need to be complicated or take a large amount of time - an audiobook on a car journey, the ingredients for recipes, learning song lyrics and singing them (or trying to!) together all helps to keep reading going.

You have already received a letter about arrangements for the start of the autumn term in September however we have attached this again for your attention. Please note, in particular, the financial support that is available for families in receipt of free school meals and how to register for them if you think you are eligible.

Thanks for your many suggestions of things to do over the summer holidays. You can find our list of things to do in our 'What's on this summer' guide. Please note that we do not endorse any of these activities but we hope that you find it useful for some ideas to try over the holidays.

On that note, I hope you have a wonderful summer holiday and that everyone takes time to rest, relax and enjoy doing the things that are important to them. We welcome pupils back to school at the normal time on Tuesday 5th September; we will be delighted to see them.

With warm wishes,

Ms Laura Morris  
Headteacher



## Newsletter focus item:

# Celebrations

## Rights Respecting Schools

This year Ysgol Nantgwyn achieved our Rights Respecting Schools bronze award. Together young people and the school community learn about children's rights, putting them into practice every day. In Rights Respecting Schools children's rights are promoted and realised, adults and children work towards this goal together.

There are four key areas of impact for children at a Rights Respecting school; well-being, participation, relationships and self-esteem.

- children are healthier and happier
- children feel safe
- children have better relationships
- children become active and involved in school life and the wider world

The difference that a Rights Respecting School makes goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the whole community. In November we will be assessed on our action plan against the silver award criteria and look forward to updating you on the outcome!



## Attendance celebrations

We have continued to promote good attendance across the school working with pupils and parents and the wider community in raising the profile of attendance throughout this academic year. Pupils have been rewarded with certificates and recognition throughout the year for high attendance, improved attendance and attendance as a whole class. Throughout this academic year pupils have won cinema vouchers, Amazon Echo Dots, afternoon tea and certificates in recognition of their efforts both individually and as a class. The summer term classes with the highest attendance are 2B in lower school, 4A in middle school and 9B in upper school. Our aspirations and our school attendance target remains high at 95%, all pupils who achieved 95% since September and above will receive recognition during the celebration assemblies.



## Head of school special recognition award

Congratulations to the following pupils who are fantastic roles models to their peers and have gone above and beyond for our school this year!

school	pupil name	reason
lower	Alys G (2B)	For having 100% attendance for the academic year and being a polite and respectful pupil within our community.
middle 4 to 6	Lloyd G-F (6A)	For being a positive leader and role model for all pupils.
middle 7 and 8	Anwen L (7C)	For always going above and beyond in everything she does.
upper	Alex J (10C)	For having 100% attendance for the academic year and for going above and beyond in all of his subjects every day. A model pupil!

## Faculty awards

The following pupils have been nominated by teachers for a faculty subject award. These pupils always demonstrate a commitment to their learning in the faculty area. Well done all!

year group	English, literacy and communication	life	languages and culture	mathematics and numeracy	STEM
nursery	Jackson J	Todd J	Jacob O	Oliver E	Aurora H
reception	Megan D-C	Emelia T	Harlan H	Noah M	Oscar C
1A	Noah L	Destan D	Romey W	Hollie-Ann R	Harris E
1B	Tristan M-S	Lowri S	Lilly-Rose B	Scarlett-Rae C-J	Leo-James L
2A	Archie H	Penny J	Skye P	Harper S	Kian L
2B	Alicia S	Alfred B-B	Israel R	Imogen D	Ethan D
3A	Hadli-Rose T	Samuel R	Megan S	Paisley T	Corey T
3B	Olivia S	Izzy D	Elliott T	Jax D	Reevah J
year 4	Olivia H	Chael	Charley W	Cassie H	Saffron
year 5	Criston D	Olivia D	Katie	Finley H	Ava-Belle
year 6	Lucy G	Kielun H	Emelia M	Riley A	Kara H
year 7	Dexter H	Harvey J	Hollie P	Nile W	Harvey J
year 8	Blake Mc	Isla J	Maddison W	Kim D	David O
year 9	Abigail B	Meg W	Art - Jake WWelsh - Kelsey B	Ollie R	Science - Brooke M and Abigail B ICT - Jacob E
year 10	Eli L	Rihanna R-M	Art - Ieuan W Welsh - Alex J	Alex J	Science - Eli L, Miya W and Jessica W Engineering - Sydney L

## Sports day celebrations!

Despite the weather not being on our side on two occasions, we finally managed to celebrate sports day 2023, and it turned out to be a HUGE success! The entire sports hall was decorated with colourful tops, flags, banners and bunting. All pupils took part in events such as the obstacle race, sprint race, bean bag balance, egg and spoon race and an in house relay race. Despite the change in circumstances with the weather, the pupils left the day with big smiles and plenty of stickers and awards! Sadly, the lack of capacity in the sports hall meant that parents were unable to attend. However, we hope that you enjoy viewing the photographs that we have shared via our Ysgol Nantgwyn Facebook page.

## The sports day results are in!

### Gwyn sports day

1st Place - Glyndwr (Blue) House - 294 points  
2nd Place - Branwen (Yellow) House - 217 points  
3rd Place - Llewellyn (Red) House - 210 points  
4th Place - Gelert (Green) House - 201 points

### Nant sports day

1st Place - Llewellyn (Red) House - 214 points  
2nd Place - Glyndwr (Blue) House - 175 points  
3rd Place - Gelert (Green) House - 162 points  
4th Place - Branwen (Yellow) House - 151 points

### Ysgol Nantgwyn overall winners

1st Place - Glyndwr (Blue) House - 469 points  
2nd Place - Llewellyn (Red) House - 424 points  
3rd Place - Branwen (Yellow) House - 368 points  
4th Place - Gelert (Green) House - 363 points



## Work experience - year 7, 8 and 9

It has been wonderful to (finally!) reinstate CWRE (Careers and Work Related Experiences) to our school calendar for the first time post-Covid this year. Year 7 all had the opportunity to work alongside staff as our first ever pupil receptionists. Year 8 had the opportunity to work with our younger pupils over in the Gwyn building, and year 9 have braved the real world of work with a whole week's external work experience.

Considering that we have not been able to provide these opportunities for more than two years, it has been such a privilege to see our pupils rise to the challenge and grasp these opportunities with both hands; making the most of every minute. We would like to say a huge well done to them all.

We would also like to thank year 9 parents/guardians in particular, for supporting our young people to source their external placements and for working with us to overcome any potential barriers. It was no mean feat to arrange over 140 placements, but we did it together and as a result, the pupils have had an experience that they will never forget.

We hope that we can build on this success next year so that we can pack even more experiences into the calendar in order for our pupils to benefit from raised aspirations, real life experiences and a renewed understanding of why it is important to have goals and a vision for the future.



## Pupil leadership team changes and lead pupil leaders announcement

All year 10 pupils have had the opportunity to apply to become Ysgol Nantgwyn lead pupils. Pupils have been given set criteria for the role, including leading by example, following school rules and wearing the correct uniform. Numerous pupils applied by submitting a letter and a 'vote for me' video, with some very creative applications! These videos were shown to the whole school during registration and peers voted for the pupils who they felt would be the best representatives in leading pupil voice activities and changing elements of the school. This group of pupils will be fundamental in the design of the pupil leadership for September and instrumental in its outlay and work from the outset.

## Estyn report

This term sees the publication of our Estyn report which we are delighted to share with you. This report gives a clear indication of how well we have developed to this point and our agreed next steps in terms of recommendations.

A really big thank you to all families for the part that you play in #teamnantgwyn every day. What we have managed to achieve here as a team of pupils, parents, staff, governors and the community supports our children well in being ready for their next steps in life and becoming wonderful young people. We hope you enjoy reading it.

The report can be accessed via the following [link](#) or by scanning the QR code.



At a very early age, pupils select stories independently from the book corner and discuss why they might like to choose a specific book. Older primary aged pupils read independently, confidently and with fluency.

- Estyn report 2023

Ysgol Nantgwyn provides strong care, support and guidance where pupils and families are supported to reduce any barriers to their learning.

- Estyn report 2023

There is a strong sense among pupils of being part of the school community. Across the school, nearly all pupils have very strong working relationships with adults and with each other.

- Estyn report 2023

Teachers and support staff throughout the school create and maintain positive working relationships with pupils. This is a notable feature of the school's provision.

- Estyn report 2023

## Uniform grants

Welsh Government now issue a 'school essentials grant' to cover uniform and school essentials. To check eligibility and more information can be found at <https://www.gov.wales/school-essentials-grant>

Unique codes for parents to apply directly were sent home with pupils on 13th and 14th July (please check your child's schoolbag). If you have not received this information by Tuesday 18th July, please contact us [finance@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:finance@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk) or main reception.

## Pre-loved uniform

We have a good stock of pre-loved uniform which has been checked and washed ready for anyone who may want to top-up uniform in readiness for September. Available from main reception.

## Pantry opening hours- summer holidays

The pantry will be open every Thursday morning 9.30am-10.30am if you need a helping hand or referral to the food bank.





## Parent governor vacancies

We have two parent governor vacancies starting from September 2023.

Our governors are a friendly group of about twenty people who have a genuine interest in the pupils of Ysgol Nantgwyn. Their role is to provide support but also be a critical friend to the staff. Our governors come from many different backgrounds and have a range of skills, expertise and experience; you may know a lot about education or nothing at all but undoubtedly you will be able to make a valuable contribution to the children of Ysgol Nantgwyn.

The level of time commitment is up to you. We meet three times a year as a full governing body for around an hour and a half. You may choose to be on some subcommittees eg finance, curriculum, human resources and you may choose to be a link governor for a part of our school improvement plan. We also offer governor open mornings and afternoons and invites to INSET days which are an opportunity for you to meet pupils, staff and other governors. From all of what you could do, you select the level of commitment you are able to make.

Further information is available at <https://www.governors.cymru/publications/2018/08/29/role-school-governor/> or by scanning the QR code.



Our Chairperson, Mr Keith Lewis, is available for a friendly, informal chat about the role.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Emma Coburn on [emma.coburn@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:emma.coburn@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)



## Reminder of start of term information

As we near the end of the school year, we wanted to share with you a few updates that we will be introducing from September so that you are able to plan accordingly. As always, school teams are available to answer any questions that you may have and their contact details are:

- Lower school [lowerschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:lowerschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)
- Middle school [middleschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:middleschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)
- Upper school [upperschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:upperschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)

The following information is in this letter:

- School prospectus
- Start of school in September
- Changes to communications with parents
- Static site at break and lunchtimes
- Emails
- Uniform updates
- School uniform grants
- School uniform swap shops
- Free school meals

### School prospectus

Our updated school prospectus can be accessed here with general information about the school.

<https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/about-us/prospectus>

Our school website has been fully updated and has lots of new information on there including school term dates for the next academic year.

<https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/>

### Start of school in September

Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 5th September after staff have an INSET day on Monday.

All pupils will start school at the normal school start time (<https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/parents-and-pupils/times-of-the-school-day> ). There will be plenty of staff available to support our new pupils finding the right place.

The dates of further INSET days will be shared with you at the start of September.

### Communications with parents

In response to parent feedback about multiple apps, from the start of September, we will stop using Parentmail to send parent communications. From this point, 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

We currently have around 80% of parents registered with this application and are therefore looking to increase this to 100%.



## **Static site at break and lunchtimes**

From the start of September, we will not be allowing any vehicles to access the Ysgol Nantgwyn site during break and lunch time. 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.

## **Emails**

Our email addresses will be changing at the start of September as we follow Welsh Government expectations to use Hwb. All individual staff emails that end with ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk will close. Parents will however be able to use the following email addresses to allow a changeover period:

lowschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

middleschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

upperschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

Updated 'Hwb' email addresses will be shared in September.

## **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, and 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.

Should a Nant pupil arrive at school wearing an item of clothing that is not school uniform, we will be in contact with parents to bring their uniform to school.

## **School uniform grants**

- Children whose families are on lower incomes and qualify for certain benefits can apply for a grant of:
- £125 per learner
- £200 for learners entering year 7 (to help with increased costs associated with starting secondary school)

All compulsory school years from reception to year 11 are now eligible.

Families are only entitled to claim once per child, per school year.

Further information is available here: <https://www.gov.wales/school-essentials-grant>

## **School uniform swap shop**

We have a significant amount of preloved and new school uniform available in Ysgol Nantgwyn. You are very welcome to swap items and/or donate a small amount in exchange for an item or take items. Uniforms are available via the Pantry or by arrangement with school teams. We also have 'pop up' events during the year.

The Pantry is open every Monday & Thursday 3-4pm, Tuesdays & Fridays 8.30-9.30am

Should you have any items that you are able to donate, please 'post' them in the blue bins in either Gwyn or Nant reception.

## **Free school meals**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get financial support eg universal credit, tax credits.

Free school meal legislation allows foster parents to claim free school meals. As long as a parent is eligible to claim free school meals, the child can get them. A child could potentially have four parents; two foster parents and two natural parents.

To find out more information and submit an application click here:

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

Should you require any support filling in the form, please contact your school team.

I hope that you find this information helpful in planning for September.



## Dates for your diary

### Lower school

Whole school return: Tuesday 5th September 2023  
Salford reading testing (new starters only): w/c: Monday 18th September 2023  
National testing (NRT's & NNT's): w/c: Monday 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd October  
School photos (all lower school): Thursday 5th October 2023  
Flu nasal vaccinations: Tuesday 10th October 2023  
Community event (details to be confirmed): Saturday 14th October 2023  
October half-term: Monday 30th Oct until Friday 3rd Nov 2023  
Remembrance Day within school: Friday 11th November 2023  
Experience trips (N-Y3): w/c: Monday 13th November 2023  
Year 3 parents assembly & open afternoon: Tuesday 21st November 2023  
Salford reading testing (all Gwyn pupils): w/c: Monday 4th December 2023  
Carols around the tree: Wednesday 14th December 2023  
Christmas concerts: Wed 21st & Thurs 22nd December 2023  
INSET day: Friday 22nd December 2023  
Whole school return: Monday 8th January 2024

### Middle school

Whole school return Tuesday 5th September 2023  
Year 7 CATS testing Week commencing 18th September 2023  
Salford reading testing (new starters only) Week commencing 18th September 2023  
Year 7 and 8 school photos Wednesday 19th September 2023  
Ysgol Nantgwyn open evening (years 4,5 and 6) Wednesday 27th September 2023

### Upper school

Year 11 information evening September Thursday 21st September 2023  
Year 10 information evening September Thursday 28th September 2023  
Past year 11 certificate evening Wednesday 6th November 2023

#### Contact details

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