

PARENT NEWSLETTER



September 2024



A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been such a positive start to the year at Nantgwyn for pupils and productive learning and experiences can be seen across the full school in a variety of different forms. All pupils in #teamnantgwyn are working hard to be ready, responsible and respectful at all times. We see this in the way that they come prepared to school, how they focus on their learning and how they conduct themselves, both in lessons and around the building, with their friends, peers and members of staff. It has been wonderful to see and hear lots of positive 'chat and charm' over the past couple of weeks and I hope you have been able to see this coming through in their ClassCharts feeds at the end of each day.

Our curriculum at Ysgol Nantgwyn is designed by our teachers, making reference to the 'What Matters' statements in the Curriculum For Wales. The biggest guiding principle of the Welsh curriculum at this stage is that we, as a school, make decisions about what learning is best for each and every individual pupil. This means that we can truly shape the learning to both the needs and the interests of our pupils. Over the past couple of years, this has seen teachers consulting with pupils about what they would like to learn and/or what their questions are within a given theme. We see different classes in the same year groups enquiring into different areas of focus and having different learning experiences, while all developing the same sets of skills and knowledge. Lots more information is available on our website through this link: <https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/curriculum-and-learning>

Our 'what are we learning' sheets will have come home for the term. Hopefully these will give you an insight into what pupils are learning in different areas of the curriculum. These are supplemented by our 'independent learning' grids for learning that pupils should complete at home. This part of their learning is so important for them in developing themselves as learners without the support of a teacher; we report on it and reward with positive points.

This newsletter features our pupil leadership team and details how they are elected and how they work to ensure that all pupils have a voice in the school and its development. We have found this to be such an important aspect of our work over the past couple of years. Their voice has informed how we develop aspects of school life, for example, getting additional seating and outdoor table tennis tables for pupils to use and what fundraising events we participate in as a school. We would very much like this to continue.

Working as team is paramount to the success of your child and over the last year we have successfully established a parent-forum who meet informally once a half term with school staff to learn about the school and also give a parent view on item that we are developing. More information can be found at <https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/about-us/parent-forum>. If you would be interested in being part of our parent forum group please contact your child's school team via the relevant email address below in this letter. We would be really keen to invite new parents to join the existing group; the views and opinions shared have been so helpful in shaping some of our new developments to make sure that they have the right focus with our children.

With warm wishes,

Ms Laura Morris
Headteacher



Introduction to pupil leadership team

Congratulations to the following year 11 pupils who were voted in by their peers across the 3-16 age groups to become the lead pupils for this academic year.

1. Arianwen Edwards
2. Bronwen Edwards
3. Ben Goddard
4. Callum Disley-Field
5. Laylah Jones
6. Abigail Brett

These pupils will lead the voice of the pupil body and will work with senior leaders to ensure that their school experience is positive and that we are shaping the school based on the needs and wants of the pupils. Form leaders are currently being elected throughout the school, they will meet with the lead pupils at regular intervals to discuss and canvas opinions on a range of topics and feedback to the wider school.



Attendance & punctuality expectations: attendance policy

As a new school year begins, we want to remind all our families of the importance of school attendance. We would like your support in setting the highest of expectations for your child's attendance for the coming year ahead, as you have a significant impact on your child's view of school and the importance of good attendance. Research indicates, when pupils attend school regularly, they are more likely to make friends, enjoy their learning, achieve better results, and increase their life chances. This is something we want for your child. As a result, our attendance target for your child(ren) is 95% or above this academic year.

We understand there can be genuine reasons for absence during the school year, and this target of 95% or above allows for 10-days of absence across the year for illness if needed.

While some medical appointments unavoidably need to take place during the school day, it would be beneficial for your child's learning that all non-emergency appointments are booked outside of school hours. Likewise, holidays during term time do create gaps in your child(ren) education, as they are missing important opportunities and experiences. So again, we politely request that all holidays are booked for the school holiday period.

You can use the ClassCharts app (further details below) so to report your child's absence from school – details on how to set up ClassCharts can be found below.

As a reminder, morning registration will take place at the start of school, that is 08.55 for lower school and 08.40 for middle and upper school. Any pupil arriving after this time will be marked as having an unauthorised absence (U code) unless there is an acceptable explanation i.e. school transport was delayed. Lateness across the school is monitored daily by school teams via ClassCharts. Parents can access live attendance figures on ClassCharts, this will include if their child is late. Attendance and engagement are closely monitored by both school teams and the attendance and engagement team. If no improvements are seen pupils will then follow a graduated response, which includes monitoring letters/periods, parental meetings and if required a fixed penalty notice.

Pupils, parents and carers are reminded that the local authority may issue a fixed penalty notice for persistent lateness after the close of the register in accordance with the local authority's code of conduct for the Issuing of Fixed Penalty Notice for non-school attendance.



ClassCharts - how to sign up reminder

We continue to use ClassCharts as the main method of communication with our families. Using the app allows us to send vital information to you, so to keep you up to date regarding what is happening here at Ysgol Nantgwyn – so it is essential that all families are signed up.

Within the app, you can report your child's absence from school, view and monitor their live attendance figures, together with any positive or negative points awarded in class. So, it is a fantastic way to see how your child's day has been. Finally, you will be able to view your child's timetable and support them in being ready, responsible, and organised for the school day ahead – this would promote positive conversations and engagements between parents/children over their learning journey with us here at Ysgol Nantgwyn.

To those families with children that were with us last year, you should have continued access to ClassCharts this year, so just log-in as normal. If you are experiencing any issues/problems logging in, please contact your child's school team, and a staff member will provide you with login details.

If your child has joined us in September, please could you download the parent app for ClassCharts and the follow the instructions below:

1. Open: www.classcharts.com/parent/login
2. Enter your email address
3. Choose 'I don't have an account yet'
4. Enter your parent code* and name – all pupils will be issued with a personal/unique
5. Choose a password
6. Click: log-in

Community governor vacancy

We have a vacancy for a community governor within the school. If you'd like more information or would like to apply, please contact headteacherN5@hwbcymru.net



Uniform:

Following pupil and parent consultation, our uniform policy has been updated over the last year. 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 were happy to support this movement however do ask that all pupils are in their chosen full uniform at all times.

- The full range of choices of the uniform range are 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 is no stipulation on the colour of socks. There is 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.

Equipment- Nant building:

It is important that pupils come prepared to school with their equipment everyday so that they can fully participate in their learning:

Pupils need to bring to school the following equipment:

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

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

- coloured pencils
- felt pens
- highlighters
- sticky notes

School website

Our school website has been fully updated and has lots of new information to support families with queries throughout the year.

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

Independent learning

At Ysgol Nantgwyn we call our homework independent learning. An independent learning grid is issued to all pupils via Seesaw or Google Classroom each half term, although some of the tasks on the grid may be weekly. This grid has also been sent to parents via ClassCharts.

Pupils are expected to complete all tasks. All independent learning tasks are designed to support pupils to develop, extend and enhance their learning in the classroom. It is vital that pupils complete these tasks to support them with their learning and so that they make the necessary progress. Please ask your child to complete all tasks this half term by 23.10.2024. All completed tasks will result in positive points and go towards their report.

A copy of the independent learning grids can also be on the Ysgol Nantgwyn webpage:

<https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/curriculum-and-learning/independent-learning>

Reading expectations

Reading is and remains a priority for all pupils in lower school. There is no doubt that literacy is the essential element in all pupils' development and opens the door to a brighter future. We here at Ysgol Nantgwyn are committed to developing fluent and confident readers and you as parents can support us in our journey for your child.

Lower school

Pupils need to be reading every night for approximately 20/30-minutes. For our youngest pupils, this could be a parent reading a book at bedtime, showing their child the words as they go. For our slightly older pupils, we send age-appropriate reading books home, some will need support with these, and others will be able to read more independently, but either way, we would encourage all to be reading out loud, just so you know they are reading the book in full. Thank you in advance for your support.

Middle school

Pupils in years 4 to 6 follow the Reading Eggs programme and should be completing this 5 times a week for 20 minutes, working through the levels and maps, along with completing the weekly assignments set by their teacher. Pupils should access the library area of the programme in addition to this and read a variety of books. Please contact your child's teacher if you need a reminder of your child's login details.

Nant building: Pupils in years 7 to 9 should spend 20 minutes, 4 times a week reading for pleasure. This can be a novel, magazine or any reading material that pupils enjoy.

PE Kit:

Contact details

lowschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
middleschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
upperschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

Excellence in financial education award

Ysgol Nantgwyn in Tonypandy has become accredited as a 'Centre of Excellence' in Financial Education by the national education charity Young Enterprise.

The centres of excellence accreditation is a whole-school improvement programme that identifies children and young people's learning needs, embeds good financial education practice into the curriculum, and equips teachers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to deliver practical and sustainable financial education.

Accredited centres of excellence provide young people with access to a meaningful financial education that has the potential to change their lives while simultaneously building financially capable communities.


Ysgol Nantgwyn joins a network of over 110 centres of excellence across England, Wales and Scotland. This network is committed to empowering young people to discover, develop and celebrate their skills and potential while positively impacting the communities they live in.

centre **of excellence** in Financial Education




PE Kit:

As a reminder Gwyn pupils will need to wear their PE kit to school as follows:



Faculty of Life - PE KIT WEEK 1 (Gwyn)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Year 1A Year 1B	Nursery Year 1B Year 2/3A - SM Year 2/3B - SM Year 2/3C - SM Year 4A - SM Year 4B - SM Year 5A - SM Year 5B - SM Year 6A - SM Year 6B - SM	Year 1A Year 2/3C Year 4A	Year 4B Year 5B Year 6A	Reception 1 Reception 2



Faculty of Life - PE KIT WEEK 2 (Gwyn)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Year 1A Year 1B Year 6B	Nursery Year 1B Year 2/3A - SM Year 2/3B - SM Year 2/3C - SM Year 4A - SM Year 4B - SM Year 5A - SM Year 5B - SM Year 6A - SM Year 6B - SM	Year 1A Year 2/3A	Year 23B Year 4A Year 4B Year 5A	Reception 1 Reception 2

Nant pupils will have received a timetable of when their well-being and PE lessons take place. Pupils should wear their school uniform to school and change in school for their PE lessons.