

UPPER SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



Upper school



A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to Ysgol Nantgwyn!

I am incredibly proud to welcome you to Ysgol Nantgwyn. We are a strong team of pupils, parents, staff and governors who work together to ensure that each child is well supported and challenged to be their very best every lesson and every day so that, when they leave us, they have the best outcomes and qualifications possible, have had a broad and varied range of experiences and are wonderful human beings. We believe that these three things allow every person to be successful at whatever they decide is their next step in life.

We have three core values and we believe that when we are ready, respectful and responsible everything is possible.

We are determined that every child experiences a creative and innovative curriculum that is adapted to their needs. This is achieved through a relentless focus on ensuring highly effective learning, teaching and experiences. Our staff create a warm, stimulating environment where knowing children as individuals is central to ensuring that we can enable them to flourish.

Our five year record of academic performance at GCSE is very strong, placing us in the top performing school within our 'family'. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils. Their grit, resilience, creativity and energy is demonstrated every single day.

With warm wishes,

Ms Laura Morris
Headteacher

#teamnantgwyn



What is a through school?

Often, one of the biggest questions we get asked is what is a through school and how do they work? The answer is that through schools are many, many different things! There are around thirty across Wales now and they all differ significantly in terms of their physical layout and whether they are even on the same site, the staffing structure, the operations across a school, what proportion of the school is ages 3-11 and what proportion is 11-16.

We consider ourselves to be one school. We are on one site and ages 3-11 and 11-16 are educated in buildings that are next to each other. We have three values across the school; that we are ready, responsible and respectful. When we hold these three values, anything is possible.

All of our 'systems' are the same across the full school and, while it took a little while to develop and embed this, it really works well. While we currently have lower (nursery to year 3), middle (years 4 to 8) and upper (years 9 to 11), our staff are truly one team. Our professional learning is very collaborative and we learn from each other across the full 13 year continuum and all curriculum areas. Some of our teachers teach pupils across the full continuum, some teach only in lower, some teach across years 6-11, some teach years 6 and 7 - most of our teachers teach different year groups every year or every couple of years.



Key staff

Head of upper school:

Mrs Louise Williams

Deputy head of upper school:

Mr Adrian Evans

Raising standards lead:

Miss Claire Jacobs

Vision, ethos and values

Children join us on their own personal journey and our role as a school is to nurture their talent. We will widen their aspirations and enable each child to thrive. We will do this within a motivating, supportive and respectful environment that allows them to develop into mature, confident and successful young adults.

Our school embraces three values and, when we do, everything is possible:

- To be ready
- To be respectful
- To be responsible

Contact details

upperschool@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

01443 436171

The curriculum

In upper school, pupils start to explore more discrete subject disciplines and their curriculum encompasses the following:

- Mathematics and numeracy
- Enterprise and financial education
- English literature
- English language
- Humanities (including, but not limited to, geography, history, religion, values and ethics, health and social care)
- Well-being
- Biology, chemistry and physics
- Information technology
- Design technology
- Welsh
- Spanish
- Expressive arts (including, but not limited to, art, drama and music)

Pupils take their options in year 9 in order to start their qualification courses at the start of year 10. The options process includes several stages and starts in the autumn term with:

- Careers talks in all curriculum areas.
- Exploring Careers Wales resources including questionnaires about what careers may suit particular individual preferences.
- Pupil consultation about their aspirations for future careers and possible links for qualifications.
- Pupil and parents information.
- A 'straw' poll where a large number of qualifications are put out for pupils to indicate their preferences.
- Formation of the option blocks.
- Parents' evening for year 9 pupils with careers and option information.
- Individual interviews with form tutors and pupils to submit options.
- Confirmation of options.

All year 10 and year 11 pupils will study the following curriculum areas/qualifications:

- Mathematics
- Mathematics - numeracy
- English language
- English literature
- Skills challenge certificate
- Enterprise
- Financial education
- Well-being
- Biology, chemistry and physics
- Pupils will also study three options. Please note that options change year to year, depending on the choices of the pupils.



Current options blocks -option blocks and qualifications change every year according to demand from pupils.

Year 10 September 2024

Blue block	Yellow block	Grey block
Health and social care and childcare Engineering Photography Childcare-work experience	Sport Art, craft and design Business studies Digital technology Childcare-work experience	Drama Physical education (PE) Business studies Food and nutrition Childcare-work experience

Year 11 September 2024

Blue block	Yellow block	Grey block
Health and social care and childcare Music performance Digital technology History Engineering	Photography Spanish Food and nutrition Business studies Digital technology	Engineering Drama Physical education (PE) Art, craft and design Business studies

Independent learning

We call our homework independent learning. Independent learning tasks support and strengthen the learning that has taken place in class. Pupils are set one task per curriculum area per half term. It is the expectation that pupils complete all tasks set. Pupils receive positive points for all tasks that they complete. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete these tasks - sheets are emailed to parents and uploaded to Google Classroom virtual platform at the same time so that everyone is aware of the tasks set. As pupils move through upper school the lengths of independent tasks will increase and pupils will also be expected to complete more independent revision.

The library area in Nant building is open every lunch time and after school on a Tuesday to Thursday to support pupils with their learning.

Google Classroom

Pupils use Hwb and 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 Hwb and Google Classroom from their form tutor.

School lunches

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. Year 10 and 11 have access to their own cafffi area.

Year 10 and 11 pupils are permitted to leave site on a lunch time, subject to a net zero behaviour points, good attendance and with parental permission and year 9 may leave site on a Friday.

Meals at Ysgol Nantgwyn are catered for by the Local Authority. Further information can be found on their website: [click here](#)



The cost for a school set meal is £3.00 per day.

Ysgol Nantgwyn uses a completely cashless system. Ysgol Nantgwyn uses 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 ([click here](#)). 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.

A copy of the current school menu can be found on the RCT council website



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

The school day

Breakfast club drop off	08:00-08:10
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





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).

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.

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.

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.

Well-being and safeguarding

The role of well-being is to ensure we support our young people's health, well-being and mental health needs as well as offering a robust well-being curriculum model. Pupils have access to a wide range of support within the school including a well-being breakfast club, focussed curriculum activities, staff support, our safe haven provision and a range of external agencies.

Our curriculum encompasses a progression of pathway points from nursery to year 11 based around the 5 statements of 'what matters' from the Curriculum for Wales :

- Developing physical health and well-being has lifelong benefits.
- How we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being.
- Our decision-making impacts on the quality of our lives and the lives of others.
- How we engage with social influences shapes who we are and affects our health and well-being.
- Healthy relationships are fundamental to our well-being.

Extra-curricular clubs

We offer a broad range of extra-curricular clubs after school, please see the table below for some examples:

NAME OF CLUB	DAY	COLLECT FROM	YEAR GROUPS
Running club cross country	Wednesday	Front of Nant building	years 7 to 11
Football	Tuesday	Front of Nant building	years 7 to 11
Netball	Tuesday	Front of Nant building	years 7 to 11
Badminton	Monday (lunch time)	N/A	years 7 to 11
Table tennis	Tuesday (lunch time)	N/A	years 7 to 11

Mobile phones

Mobile phones may be in school but they must not be seen or heard.

“Out of sight is alright” - “On display - taken away”

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used or seen on the school site at any time unless permitted by a member of staff (this includes break and lunch times). All pupils must not under any circumstances take a mobile phone into a room or other area where examinations are being held. Any portable device such as airpods / headphones / smart watches should not be used or visible whilst moving around the school site. This does not include those pupils who require the use of electronic devices as an essential tool for their learning or safety

Uniform

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.

Footwear

- Any fully black sensible footwear. No additional colours are permitted on footwear.
- Crocs, high heels, flip flops are examples of footwear that is not sensible for the school environment.

*Summer uniform can include tailored grey shorts, summer gingham navy or blue dress, white polo shirt.

** Badged items are no longer required (Cardigans, sweaters and polo shirts). The uniform must match the same style as our badged items however.

PE

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



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



ALN (additional learning needs)

The Welsh Government aims to transform the expectations, experiences and outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs. To do so, they have developed the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act, which will transform the separate systems for Special Educational Needs (SEN) in schools. Ysgol Nantgwyn, like all schools in Wales, have implemented the ALN Act.

Children and young people with additional learning needs have a difficulty or disability that means they need extra support, or find it harder to learn than other children and young people of the same age, or have a disability that means they cannot use the local school or college.

Ysgol Nantgwyn is dedicated to inclusive practices and offers a continuum of provision to meet individual pupils' needs. Pupils with Additional Learning Needs are taught in mainstream classes and in mixed ability classes where they may receive additional support from our coaches. The class teacher will be fully aware of any additional learning needs within the class and will differentiate accordingly. Pupils will access support in class or through withdrawal sessions, depending on their difficulty and/or the intervention needed.

Ysgol Nantgwyn is committed to ensuring equal treatment of its employees, pupils and any others involved in the school community with any form of disability. We will ensure that disabled people are not treated any less favourably in any procedures, practice or service delivery. A copy of our accessibility plan can be found on the school website in the policies section.

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 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.

Absences should be reported via the Class Charts app. Medical evidence is required to authorise absences. You will receive details of your child's ID and password for Class Charts when they join the school.



Reporting absences

1. Download the Classcharts app.
2. Contact the school to request a username and password ID.
3. Register your device with the code from school.

School applications to Ysgol Nantgwyn can be made via the RCT council website:

[click here](#)

Frequently asked questions



How do I access Ysgol Nantgwyn?

You will be able to access the site via two entrances, they are: -

- The main Gwyn gates via the Parc Gellifaelog estate by foot or by car.
- The main Nant gates via Llewellyn Street.

How can I support my child at home?

'What we are learning' sheets are emailed to parents each term so that parents are aware of what pupils are learning about and how to support learning at home. Independent learning sheets are emailed to parents and uploaded to Google Classroom virtual platform each half term, at the same time, so that everyone is aware of the tasks set.

What should my child wear to school?

We encourage all pupils to wear our school uniform with pride. Parents of pupils in incorrect uniform will be contacted to bring the correct uniform items to school.

When should I keep my child at home?

We would like all children to attend school all of the time and we would encourage you to bring your child to school every day that they are well enough to attend. Currently there are no expectations for pupils to test and/or self isolate due to COVID.

How will I be updated about what my child is doing?

You will receive monthly newsletters and important other updates via Classcharts. If you are not already signed up for this, you will receive a link in the first week of the new term and I encourage you to sign up as soon as possible. The app for this can be downloaded to your phone and/or other devices.

Frequently asked questions



How do I pay for school trips?

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. 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.

[Click here](#)



What equipment will my child need?

Pupils will need to bring to school the following equipment to school everyday: a blue/ black writing pen, a spare pen, a green pen, pencils, a ruler, a rubber, a protractor, a scientific calculator, a note book and a reading book/ reading material. Parents may also want to purchase but they are not compulsory: coloured pencils, felt pens, highlighters and sticky notes.

Arriving on-site

If arriving by car, you will need to do so via Llewellyn Street for the Nant building. We operate a one way system and a maximum speed of 5 miles per hour at all times. The gates to site open at 08:35 in the morning and 14:55 in the afternoon - please do not arrive at site before this as it causes congestion through the local streets.

Is my child entitled to free school transport?

Please contact RCT local authority for more details.

[click here](#)



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.

name: _____ **class:** _____

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.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used or seen on the school site at any time unless permitted by a member of staff (this includes break and lunch times).

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.

Mobile phones (Nant building)

Ensure that your child does not use or have their mobile phone or electronic device on display on school site.

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

Mobile phones (Nant building)

Ensure that I do not use or have my mobile phone or electronic device on display on school site.

Signed: