

PARENT NEWSLETTER



November 2025



A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

At Nantgwyn, we place great importance on pupil leadership and pupil voice within our school. As a school community, we are committed to ensuring every child feels valued, heard, and empowered—both in their learning and in shaping the wider life of the school and, over time, we are providing further forums and opportunities to be able to take account of this so that together we all work towards our three aims that pupils:

- Achieve the very best outcomes and have the best experiences
- Become and be amazing human beings
- Work together to have a nice day, every day

Pupil leadership offers children meaningful opportunities to take on responsibilities, work collaboratively, and contribute to positive change. These experiences help pupils develop confidence, communication skills, and a strong sense of belonging. When children take ownership of school initiatives, they not only grow as individuals but also strengthen our culture of teamwork and respect. Our form leaders, elected by others in their classes, have the role of regularly asking questions and feeding this into the Pupil Leadership Team meetings. Our Pupil Leadership Team has developed areas that they want to focus on and an action plan of what they intend to do and how they will know if they are making a difference. Our pupils have written one of the priorities in the whole school improvement plan as well – a priority about strengthening a sense of belonging within and across Nantgwyn and all staff have actions to develop this area and recognise its importance.

Equally important is our commitment to listening carefully to pupil voice. Children's thoughts and opinions are vital in helping us continually improve. Through regular surveys, class discussions, suggestion boxes, and leadership forums, pupils share ideas about their learning, their well-being, and the environment around them. Their perspectives often bring fresh insight and inspire practical improvements—reminding us that our pupils are among our most thoughtful and constructive partners. Our aim is to ensure every child understands that their voice matters. When pupils feel heard, they develop greater self-esteem, resilience, and motivation. They become more engaged in their learning and more willing to contribute to the school community. Most importantly, they learn that they can make a difference.

We are grateful for your continued support in encouraging your children to take pride in these roles and to speak confidently about their ideas. Together, we can nurture responsible, compassionate young people who are ready to lead and ready to listen.

Warm wishes,
Laura Morris
Headteacher



Main focus item:

Feedback.

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, feedback is more than just comments on a page—it's a powerful tool that helps us grow, improve, and succeed.

Why do we give feedback?

To help us improve

Feedback highlights what we're doing well and what we can work on. Whether it's a teacher's note on a piece of writing or a peer's suggestion during group work, it guides us toward better outcomes.

To encourage reflection

When we receive feedback, we're encouraged to think about our learning. What strategies worked? What could we do differently next time? This reflection builds independence and resilience.

To celebrate progress

Feedback isn't just about fixing mistakes—it's also about celebrating achievements. Recognising effort and progress motivates us to keep going and aim higher.

To set clear goals

Constructive feedback helps us understand our next steps. It turns vague ideas like "do better" into specific actions like "use more evidence in your answers"

To build confidence

Knowing that someone has taken the time to read our work and offer advice shows that our learning matters. This builds confidence and a sense of pride and motivation in what we do.

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, we believe feedback should be timely, purposeful. It's not about pointing out flaws—it's about helping each other become the best learners we can be.

What does feedback at Ysgol Nantgwyn look like?

It is the expectation that each individual pupil will receive regular verbal feedback from staff (teachers and progress coaches). This feedback should be given about pieces of work that have been completed and also learning that is in progress. Feedback should reflect what the pupil is doing well and, most importantly, what they can do to improve going forward. There should be opportunities in the lesson for pupils to act on the feedback that has been given.

This could be 'live' marking alongside some verbal feedback.

As a result of the implementation of feedback, when a pupil is asked the question, "do you receive regular verbal feedback in class and does this help you to improve your work?", they should answer yes and be able to provide details and examples.

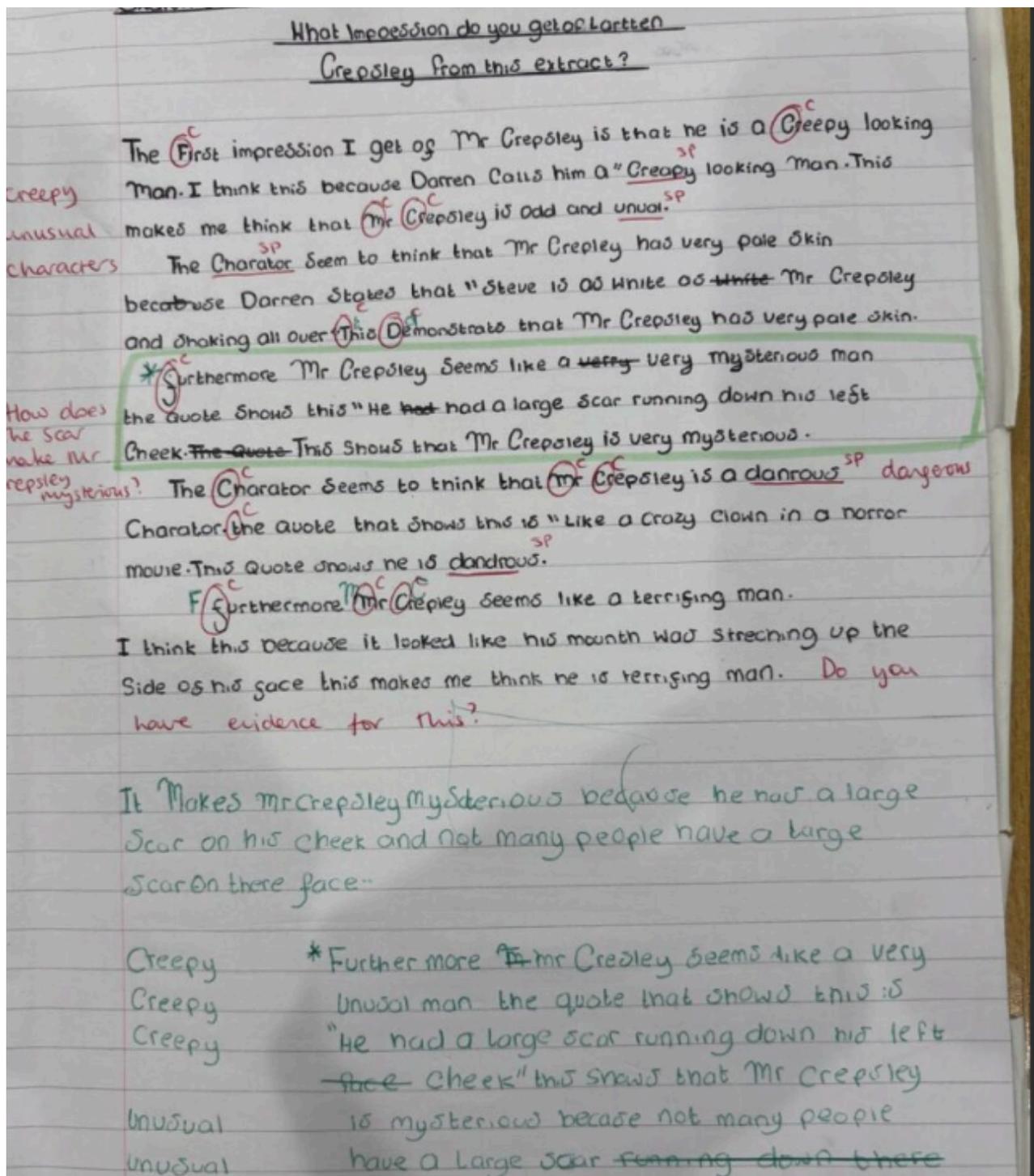
Examples of verbal feedback could include:

- A discussion about something the pupil has misunderstood and what the correct understanding is
- Working together through a more challenging question.
- Asking a probing question which will support the pupil to progress their knowledge/skills/experience.
- Talking through a non-negotiable and whether the pupil has achieved it; why, if so. If they haven't achieved it, what they need to do to progress towards it.
- Peer feedback.



Feedback at Ysgol Nantgwyn.

'Below is an example of Feedback given to a year 9 pupil in a literacy lesson and the pupil's response in green to show how they have improved their answer based on the feedback given by their teacher.



In Nant building, all pupils take their books home daily and in Gwyn building, pupils bring their books home once a term to share with parents. We would encourage parents to discuss the feedback that their child is receiving at home.

What we have been doing!

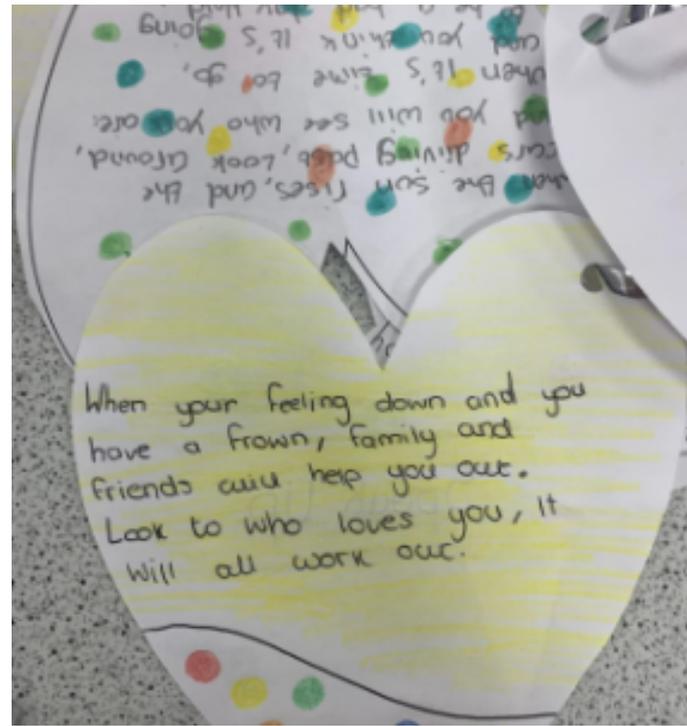
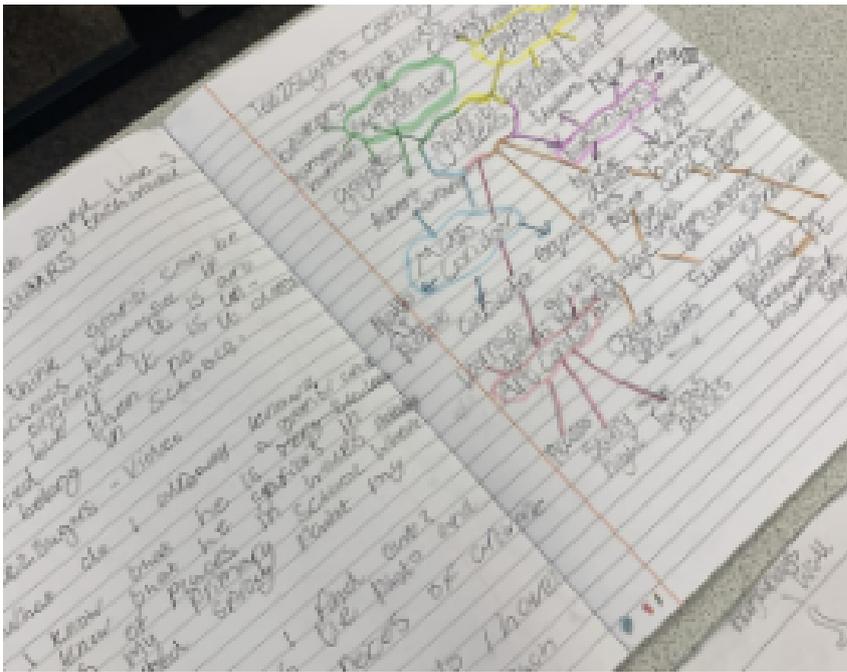
Pupils in year 1 have been exploring their creative skills and have been exploring new ideas to making meaningful connections. Pupils have been using their imaginations through a range of art activities and created some fabulous Frida Kahlo inspired art pieces.



In year 2 pupils have been busy using their number skills in creative ways, comparing numbers using the crocodile mouth to find which is larger and smaller. 'The crocodile always wants to eat the largest number!'

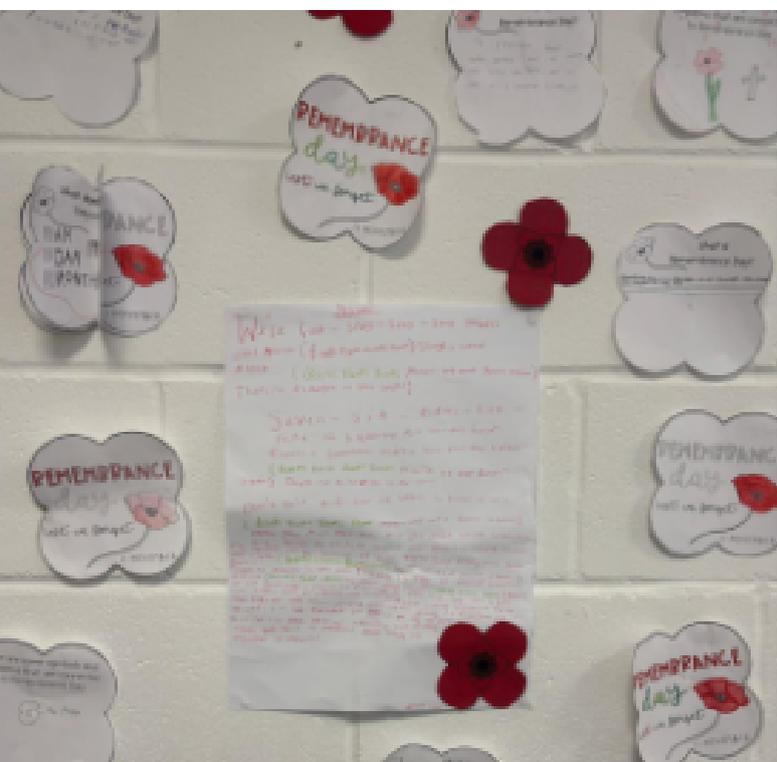


What we have been doing!



This November has been a vibrant and creative month in our English classrooms. Year 9 pupils have immersed themselves in our graffiti scheme of learning, exploring ambitious vocabulary such as aesthetic, gentrification and subversive, while debating the nuances between graffiti, vandalism and street art. They have researched influential graffiti artists and taken inspiration from local graffiti artist Tee2Sugars as they developed persuasive writing skills and designed their own mural concepts, complete with thoughtful artistic statements.

Alongside this, pupils produced some truly lovely creative work for Children in Need. After listening closely to the lyrics of Tom Fletcher's Thread of Hope, they analysed the language and crafted their own heartfelt verses, showcasing both empathy and imagination.



In recent humanities lessons, pupils have been thoughtfully reflecting on the significance of Remembrance Day and why it continues to play an important role in our lives today. Pupils shared their own interpretations of symbols such as the poppy and examined the values of courage, sacrifice, and community. Their learning has encouraged empathy, gratitude, and a deeper understanding of the importance of remembering those who served and the lessons history offers for our future.

What we have been doing!

Year 8 pupils have begun an exciting series of sessions exploring careers in law, giving them a first-hand insight into legal thinking and debate. They recently took part in an engaging workshop led by practising lawyers, who guided them through how to build strong arguments and present evidence effectively. Pupils then put their skills to the test in a lively class debate on the famous question: Are Jaffa Cakes a cake or a biscuit? After presenting their cases, the lawyers offered constructive feedback on the pupils' reasoning, delivery, and use of evidence. The session concluded with a discussion of the real court ruling, helping pupils understand how legal decisions are reached and inspiring many to consider future pathways in the legal profession.

All pupils in Years 7–11 are currently taking part in the SHRN survey, which helps the school gather valuable insights into students' health, well-being, and school experiences. Their responses will support us in understanding how best to improve our provision and ensure that every pupil feels supported, safe, and able to thrive. We appreciate the pupils' engagement in this important initiative and look forward to using the findings to continue strengthening our school community.

Pupils in Nant building have begun taking part in workshops led by Fearless Crimestoppers, giving them the opportunity to learn about crime prevention, community safety, and the importance of speaking up. The sessions have helped pupils understand how to recognise risky situations, make informed choices, and access support safely and anonymously when needed. Through interactive activities and real-life scenarios, pupils have been encouraged to think critically about their role in keeping themselves and others safe. These workshops form an important part of our wider commitment to promoting responsibility, confidence, and well-being across the school.



Y RHWYDWAITH YMCHWIL
IECHYD MEWN YSGOLION
SCHOOL HEALTH
RESEARCH NETWORK

SHRN website

Ysgol Nantgwyn / Ysgol Nantgwyn

Croeso i Arolwg Iechyd a Lles Myfyrwr 2025

I MEWN

Welcome to the Student Health and Wellbeing Survey 2025

CONTINUE

Mae'r arolwg hwn yn cael ei weinyddu gan Ipsos ar ran Rhwydwaith Ymchwil Iechyd mewn Ysgolion, a chaff ei gynorthwyo gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

This survey is being administered by Ipsos on behalf of the School Health Research Network and is supported by Welsh Government.

What we have been doing!

Girls' football has gone from strength to strength this term. Our year 7/8 team finished 1st place in their recent RSR 6-a-side tournament, with our year 9/10 team securing an impressive 2nd place. With both teams placing in the top two, they have now qualified for the RCT finals, to be played before Christmas. Well done to all involved!



The well-being team took 38 pupils from years 5–10 to Cardiff City Stadium to watch Wales' impressive 7–1 victory over North Macedonia in their latest World Cup Qualifier, securing a play-off spot. This was Craig Bellamy's side's highest winning scoreline to date. Our pupils were in full voice throughout the match—especially the Gwyn group, who managed to give Mr Maharg and Mr Owen a headache before kick-off even began!

In science lessons in year 8 pupils made models of DNA structures using paper and sweets.



Reading corner!

Learning to read is one of the most important skills your child will learn and like most parents you are probably looking for ways to encourage your child to read more- at any age!

Some of our top tips:

Here are some top tips for reading for learning:

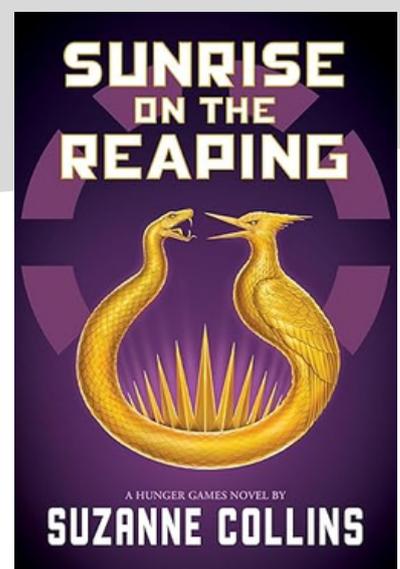
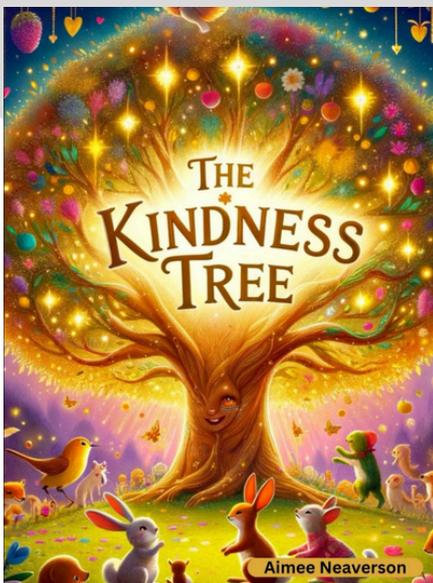
To improve your reading, preview the text by looking at titles, headings, and summaries before you start. While reading, actively engage by asking questions, taking notes, and summarising key points in your own words. To improve comprehension, reread confusing sections, use a dictionary for unknown words, and reduce distractions to stay focused

Our pupil reading recommendations:

Lower school: The Kindness Tree by Aimee Neaverson

Middle school: Dragonborn by Struan Murray

Upper school: Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins



Pupil leadership team (PLT) update:



The Pupil Leadership Team

This month has been a very productive and exciting one for the pupil leadership team. They began with our Halloween school disco, which they organised and ran successfully. This included arranging prizes and certificates for standout costumes, best disco dance moves and so much more. They also met with the Headteacher and the Governing Body to discuss ideas and share recent work from the form discussions across the school. In addition, they supported the Poppy Appeal by selling poppies throughout the school. Most recently, they have organised two non-school uniform days: one to raise money for additional pupil experiences and another in support of Children in Need. To support and boost attendance, PLT have also run a successful cake sale, raising valuable funds to support future pupil experiences. In their first sale, over £70 was raised to support our pupils! The pupil leadership team are now getting excited for Christmas and planning of their Christmas disco, which they hope will be a great event for everyone. Overall, it has been a busy and rewarding month for our team.

Attendance reminders:

Attendance to school is essential. School attendance is important because it directly affects a pupil's academic attainment, social and emotional well-being, and future opportunities, including employment.

Consistent attendance helps pupils learn effectively, access necessary support, build relationships, and develop good habits for life, with research showing a strong link between missing school and lower educational outcomes.

Every pupil should be aiming for an attendance target of at least 95% to reach their full potential

Pupil absences should be reported via the Classcharts app.

<https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/parents-and-pupils/classcharts-attendance-reporting>

The infographic is divided into several sections with icons and text:

- Top Left:** Icon of a superhero flying. Text: "HIGH ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL GETS YOUR CHILD'S LIFE OFF TO A FLYING START!"
- Top Middle:** Icon of a line graph with an upward arrow. Text: "INCREASING ATTENDANCE BY JUST 5% CAN DOUBLE THE CHANCES OF GAINING GOOD QUALIFICATIONS"
- Top Right:** Icon of a calendar with "10%" written on it. Text: "MISSING TWO DAYS A MONTH MEANS A CHILD MISSES 10% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR"
- Far Right:** Icon of an open book. Text: "GOOD ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL Improves reading Writing + MATHS SKILLS"
- Middle Left:** Icon of a clock face with "IN" and "OUT" written on it. Text: "THERE ARE 175 DAYS A YEAR NOT SPENT IN SCHOOL PLENTY OF TIME FOR SHOPPING, HOLIDAYS AND APPOINTMENTS!"
- Middle Middle:** Icons of a pencil, a graduation cap, a key, a speech bubble, a musical note, a soccer ball, a person, and a Wi-Fi symbol. Text: "100s OF SUBJECTS | 1000s OF CLASSES ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES"
- Middle Right:** Icon of a clock face. Text: "TURNING UP JUST 5 MINUTES LATE EVERY DAY ADDS UP TO OVER 3 DAYS LOST IN THE YEAR!"
- Bottom Right:** Icon of a rocket, a person, and a lightbulb. Text: "MORE SCHOOL = HIGHER GRADES INCREASED CONFIDENCE MORE FRIENDS BRIGHTER FUTURE"

Bottom Section: Large white text on a dark blue background: "Every day in school makes a difference to your child's future."

Uniform:

As a reminder our school uniform expectations, based on parents and pupil consultation are as follows:

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 and community support:

Preloved uniform

We have a large selection of preloved uniform for all ages groups available. Items have been checked, washed and ready to be rehomed so please pop into main reception if you would like to take a look or pop us an email and we can check sizes for you beforehand. We do have a rough pricelist for items however there is no obligation to donate. Any funds raised are put back into the hardship fund to support our families.

Foodbank partnership

If a situation arises and you find yourself in need of foodbank support, please reach out and we can issue an emergency voucher in partnership with the local foodbanks. Contact main reception or email AdminYN_5@hwbcymru.net.

Dinner account balances

There is a machine in the pupil entrance foyer for pupils to check their lunch balances as often as they need to or you are welcome to contact the catering to check your child's balance as and when required Nant.Kitchen@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru.

Schools essential grant

The purpose of the grant is to provide assistance to families on lower incomes for the purchase of various school items. For more information, <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ChildrensServices/HelpandSupportforFamilies/Informationforfamilies/Financialsupportforfamilies/SchoolEssentialsGrant2526ForSeptember2025yeargroups.aspx>

Parent feedback:

Your feedback as parents is always important to us.

This month we would like to consult with parents regarding how we can improve and support pupil attendance to school. Please could you take 5 minutes to complete our survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/pGyhBPg8CP>

Well-being:

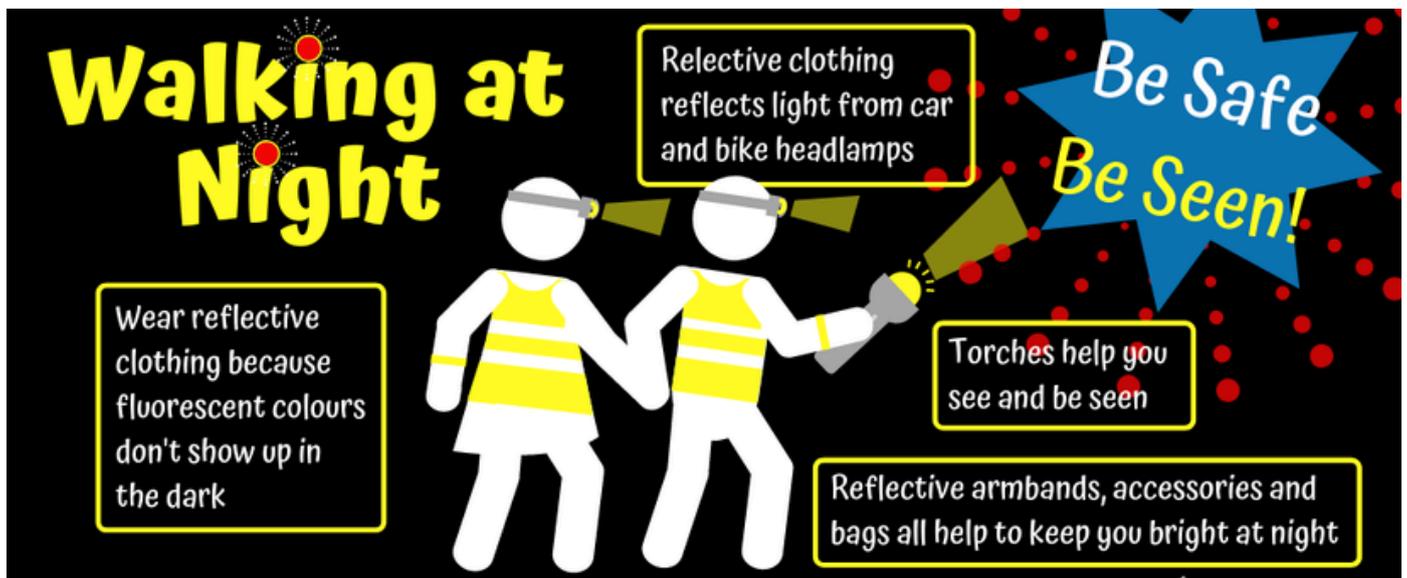
Staying safe in the dark: winter safety tips for pupils:

As the winter months bring shorter days and darker evenings, it's important to help our pupils stay safe when travelling to and from school or attending after-school activities.

Here are a few simple tips to share with your child:

- **Be bright, be seen:** Encourage children to wear bright or reflective clothing. Items like hi-vis vests, reflective armbands, or even glow-in-the-dark accessories can help them stand out.
- **Stick to safe routes:** Use well-lit paths and avoid shortcuts through dark or unfamiliar areas.
- **Travel together:** Walking in groups or with an adult is always safer than walking alone.
- **Cycle safely:** Make sure bikes have working lights and reflectors.

Let's work together to keep our children safe and visible during the darker evenings.



Parent forum update:

Our parents forum are a group of parents that meet informally once per half term to learn a little bit more about the school and also give a parent view on items that we are developing. Your voice as parents is really important to us and it is the hope that this will strengthen the communication that we already have.

Aims:

- To become aware of the perspectives of pupils, parents, staff and governors
- To learn more about what happens when pupils are in school
- Meet some of our pupils and staff and learn about what they think
- Share the views of our parents
- Share information about the community
- Explore views on specific concerns or issues
- Consult on potential developments in school

Please complete the following form if you are interested in joining:

<https://forms.office.com/e/dLercFLfQ8>

2nd October- Parent forum meeting update

School items consulted with parents:

Times of the school day

A discussion took place regarding the start and end times of the day, statutory duration of the school day and learning time, current break and lunch times and the current structure and number of lessons in the school day.

School items shared that are currently happening:

Changing rooms and enhancing sports hall

The group visited our new PE changing rooms in Nant building and make suggestions for upgrading the sports hall and currently facilities, including lockers which will be discussed further with the pupil leadership team to gather pupil opinion.

The session ended with a walk around Nant building for the group to see our facilities and get to know the school.

Parents item:

Parents nominated theme/aspect for the agenda next time

The group will think about this agenda item and bring ideas to the school.

Specific questions from different year groups.

Toilets: how more pupils can be encouraged to use at break and lunch, ensuring they feel comfortable to do so. Pupil voice will be carried out in this area.

Ysgol Nantgwyn: Our parent forum

Meeting two: 19th November 2025

Agenda

Terms of reference:

Pupil attendance:

Discussion around improving pupil attendance to school. Discussion focused around the following questions:

1. Do you know the current attendance of your child?

Parents from year 6, 7, 9 and 11 present- all knew the attendance of their child from Classcharts, letters or recent interim report or some knew that their child hadn't missed a day this term.

2. What are the main general challenges your child faces that may affect their attendance at school?

Generally no challenges. Year 11 sometimes distractions to learning with busy classroom and parent mentioned that perhaps transport or not having correct uniform could be an issue for some pupils. Discussed provisions in place to support.

3. Do you know how to report your child's absence to the school?

All parents confirmed this was a quick and very easy process through Classcharts, but queried when absence messages were picked up, explained this was through the day.

4. What support or resources do you think the school could offer to help improve attendance?

Parents would like more updates of their child's attendance such as Classcharts message each term of the figure and the equivalent in days or a notification if their child's attendance was dropping. Parent would like school to look into a way that they could see child's attendance to lessons and Q room to monitor.

Parent queried how pupils 'catch-up' on missed work and school explained how the Google Classroom was used by teachers to upload the work for pupils.

5. How well do you feel the school communicates with you about your child's attendance?

All parents though that communication was good.

6. What incentives or strategies do you think would motivate pupils to attend school more regularly?

Ideas such as a treat afternoon were discussed. Pupils do not always like to receive certificates publicly in upper school reward assemblies.

7. Are there any changes you'd like to see in school policies or routines that could help improve attendance?

A school day that suits needs and an area for pupils to keep belongings when they have a busy day.

Parents item - give us more information about something:

No nomination

The group will think about this agenda item and bring ideas to the school.

Contact details

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uppersupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru

www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk