

# PARENT NEWSLETTER



February 2026



# A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear parents,

As we move further into this academic year, I wanted to write to you about the exciting journey your children are on through the **Curriculum for Wales**.

Our curriculum is a seamless **3-16 learning continuum**. This means that whether your child is just starting in our nursery or is preparing for their final years of secondary education, their learning is designed as one consistent journey.

Everything we do is guided by four main goals. We want every pupil at our school to become:

- **Ambitious, capable learners** who are ready to learn throughout their lives.

This includes pupils setting themselves high standards and reflecting on their progress, using and applying concepts to new situations and using technology creatively and effectively to research, communicate and solve problems rather than just consume content.

- **Enterprising, creative contributors** who are ready to play a full part in life and work.

Pupils identify problems that exist in the real world and work collaboratively to solve them. They develop the confidence to take risks and try new things, viewing 'failure' as a necessary step in the learning process. They take on roles within groups, learning how to lead fairly and how to contribute their unique talents to a collective goal.

- **Ethical, informed citizens** of Wales and the world.

Pupils research and debate local and global challenges, such as climate change, human rights, and social justice. They respect diversity and learn about different cultures, religions, and identities, developing empathy and a commitment to equality. They pursue sustainable living and take practical steps to reduce their environmental impact and understand the long-term consequences of their choices.

- **Healthy, confident individuals** who are ready to lead fulfilling lives.

Pupils learn to identify and manage their emotions, seeking support when needed and supporting their peers. They participate in regular physical activity and understand the link between nutrition, sleep, and overall health. They develop the "life skills" necessary to live independently, from managing personal finances to assessing and taking calculated risks safely.

For our older pupils in upper school and those progressing towards, it is important to note that qualifications are changing. Our current year 10 pupils will be the first class going through the new design of GCSEs in small number of subjects including mathematics and English and our current year 9s will start new qualifications in the next round of development. Excitingly, these include a wider range of access to qualifications that support more variation than what is currently available. Talking to pupils in years six and nine over the past weeks, it is very evident that we have evolving needs and wants and this reflects the way that our world is changing and it is important that we evolve too.

A unique feature of the Curriculum for Wales is that it is "made in Wales, for Wales." However, our curriculum is "made in Nantgwyn, for Nantgwyn". It gives our teachers the flexibility to include local history, our unique culture, and the specific needs of our community in the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of how our staff are making changes to our curriculum to reflect our pupils and how well pupils are responding to this more active, purposeful style of education.

Thank you for your continued support.

Laura Morris



# Main focus item: Curriculum

Our curriculum is iteratively designed; this means that we re-design the curriculum each year based on the needs of the pupils, their targets and their aspirations.

In **lower school** (nursery through to year 3), pupils follow a 'Caru Dysgu' curriculum which encompasses learning statements from the following curriculum areas:

- Mathematics and numeracy
- English, literacy and communication
- Humanities
- Well-being
- Science and technology
- Languages
- Expressive arts

These are taught using a blended approach by the pupils' Caru Dysgu teacher.

In **middle school** (year 4 through to year 8), pupils follow a mixed curriculum model which encompasses the following:

- Caru Dysgu (English, literacy and communication, humanities, well-being and expressive arts)
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Science and technology
- Languages

In year 9, 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, 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.

**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
- Science

Pupils will also study three options. Please note that options change year to year, depending on the choices of the pupils.

# Main focus item: Curriculum



## 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

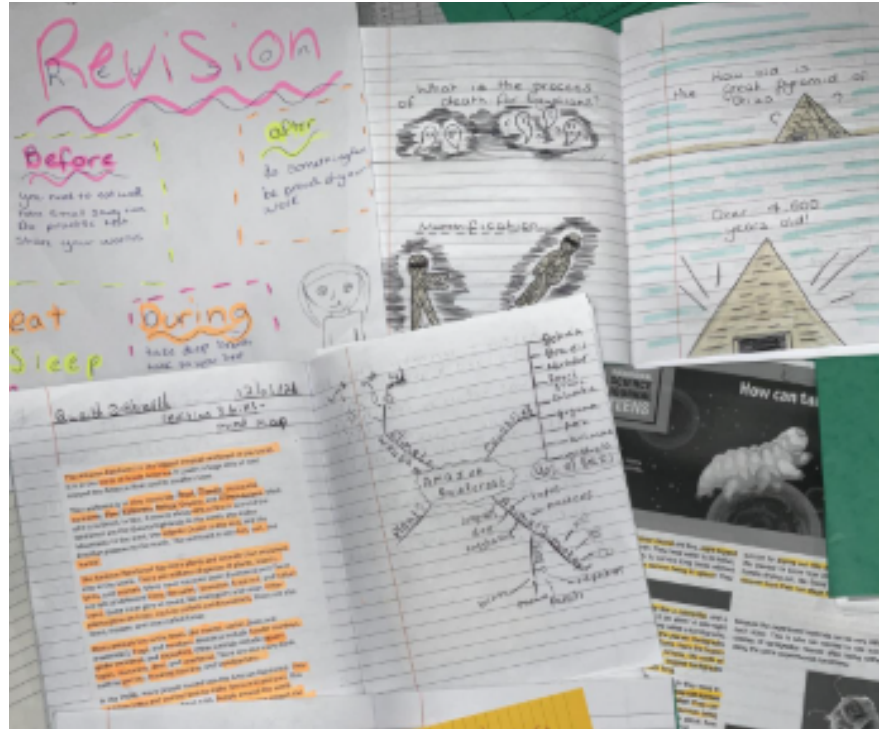
Assessment will continue to be part of our daily teaching and learning as pupils and teachers use information from time spent with pupils to plan the next steps in each individual pupils' learning. As part of this process, pupils will engage with feedback from teachers about their learning so that they 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.

# What we have been doing!

Year 7 have been developing their toolkit of revision strategies during form lessons with the mathematics team over the last half term to help prepare them for assessments and exams. From revision slides and flash cards, to mind maps and idea sharing, these strategies will help give them confidence well before they enter GCSE years. We have also looked at methods of managing stress ahead of tests and ways to improve wellbeing, all part of helping year 7 become healthy, confident individuals.



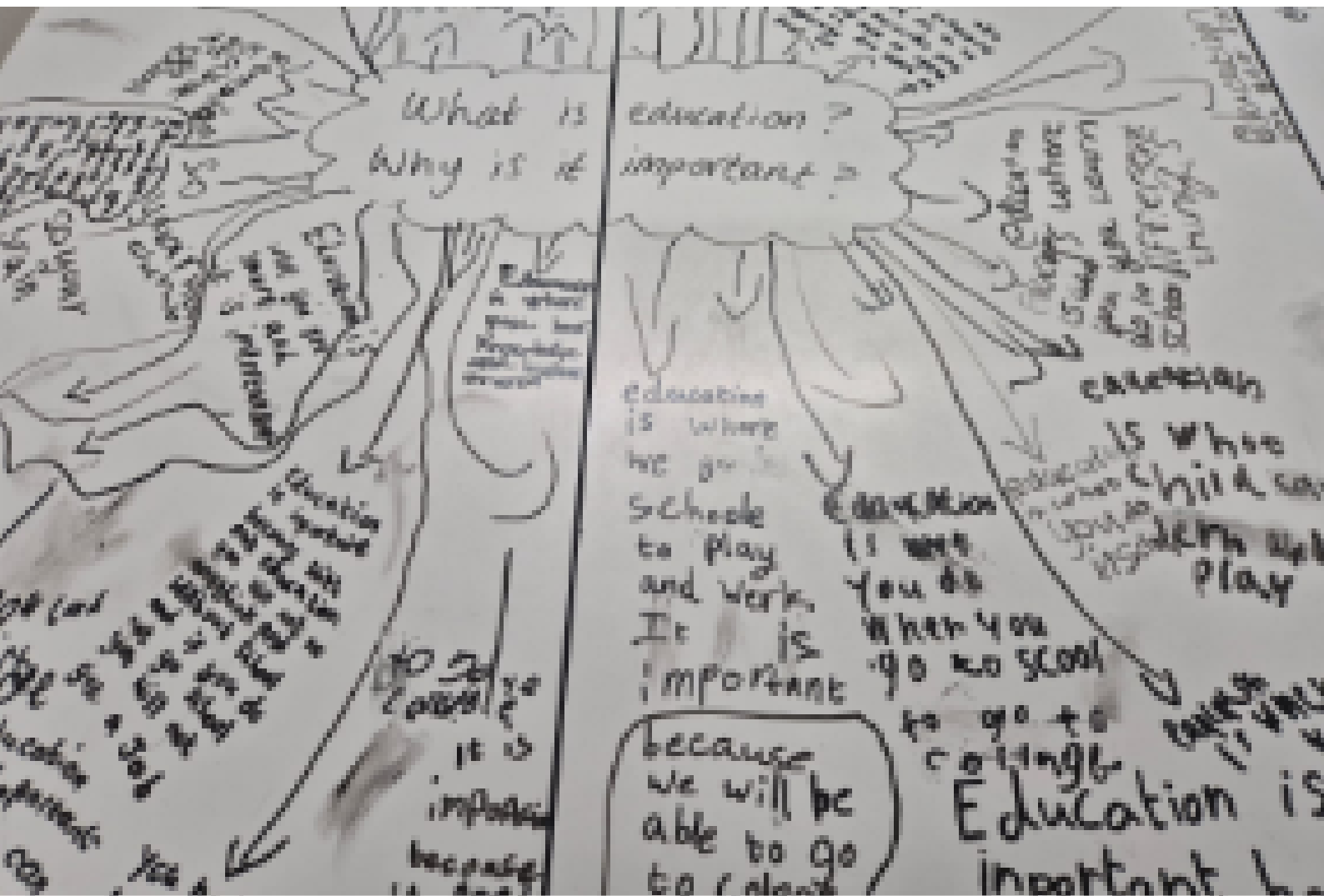
In languages and culture the drama class have been refining their skills for their upcoming production. Exploring the way lighting and sound can add to the performance as well as using the stage on all levels.



# What we have been doing!



Over the past few weeks, pupils in lower school have been thoughtfully discussing and writing about two big questions: 'What is education?' and 'Why is education important?' Through conversations, reflections and written work, they explored ideas and it has been wonderful to see their voices, values and personal experiences shape their meaningful responses.



## What we have been doing!

Pupils in years 3-6 joined the Young Voices Worldwide Wicked Medley event. As part of the event, we were thrilled to welcome a special guest—West End Glinda, Sophie Evans, who is also a former pupil at our school. We prepared questions for her Q&A and loved hearing about her time in Wicked. After our big sing-along, we celebrated with a Wicked party featuring glitter tattoos, glow sticks and tasty treats. Throughout the day, we also completed fun activities about the musical's message of friendship.



## Eco schools award:

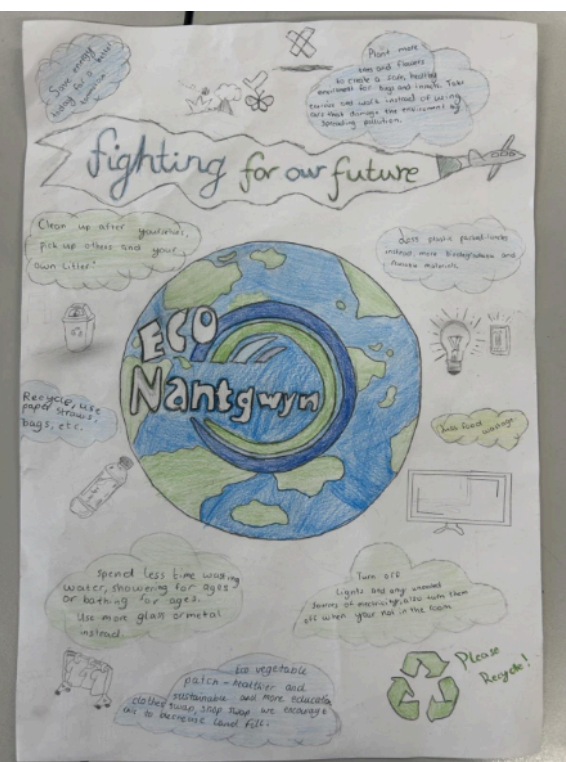
We are delighted to share the exciting news that Ysgol Nantgwyn has been awarded the RCT Bronze Eco Schools Award. This achievement reflects the fantastic efforts of our pupils, staff, and Eco Council in working together to make our school a greener, more sustainable place.

The Eco Schools Award supports schools in reducing their environmental impact, encouraging wildlife on school grounds, and helping learners to develop the skills needed for a low-carbon future. To earn the Bronze Award, we demonstrated our commitment across several key areas, including biodiversity and nature, waste and recycling, and energy and carbon saving.

Over the past year, our pupils have taken part in a wide range of eco-friendly activities. These include Switch Off Fortnight, where we focused on reducing unnecessary energy use, and the Big Walk and Wheel, which encouraged pupils to travel to school using active, sustainable methods. As part of our recycling initiatives, we have also been collecting plastic bottle tops so they can be transformed into new furniture and equipment for the school.

Our Eco Council played an important role by creating a school Eco Charter, and learners across the school made personal pledges about how they can help protect the world around them. Many year groups have also explored the impact of climate change and discussed practical changes we can all make to help slow down the process.

We are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by our pupils and staff, and we look forward to officially receiving our bronze award soon.



## Reading corner!

How to help at home with phonics and reading.

Sharing a book with your child is a special and very important part of their reading development. Share a book every day, a little and often is the key. Enjoy the story together and talk about the pictures and characters. Help your child to say the sounds in words (not the letter names). Try to encourage your child to blend the sounds together to make the word, e.g sh- i- p. Re-read books that your child enjoys it helps to build confidence, fluency and understanding. The main point is to make it fun, spot letters on signs or flashcards or let your child read to a toy or a pet. Most importantly, keep reading relaxed and positive as your encouragement makes a big, big difference.

Gsgol

Nantgwyn



# Pupil leadership team (PLT) update:

We are very proud of the continued hard work of our pupil leadership team, who have been extremely busy this half term. They have been planning the Valentine's disco taking place on Thursday 12th February and did a fantastic job supporting the Gwyn WICKED event by running a popular glitter tattoo stall. The team have also met with form representatives and have sent out the second round of form representative discussions to gather pupil voice from across the school. Actions will follow from these discussions when we return after half term, with a strong focus on developing well-being and pupils' sense of belonging. This will be the key theme of their upcoming assembly after half term, where they will share their ideas and next steps with the wider school community.

## CLASS OF 2026, PROM

25TH JUNE, 2026 6.30PM-10.30PM  
THE GRAND MARQUEE, LAKESIDE VENUE

Save  
The Date

## Plans so far ...

### £50 PER TICKET PAYABLE VIA RCT

(HAPPY FOR PUPILS TO PAY 50% BY END OF JANUARY & 50% BY THE END OF MARCH)

- GRAND MARQUEE WITH SILK EFFECT LINING & STARLIT CEILING
- BEAUTIFUL TABLES & DECOR
- DRINK ON ARRIVAL
- 360 PHOTOBOOTH
- DJ
- DANCEFLOOR
- SWEET CART
- LEATHER SOFA AREA
- PRIVATE BAR (NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS ONLY)

WE HAVE ORGANISED TRANSPORT WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE A BUS FROM THE FULLING MILL AND 3 STOPS ON THE WAY HOME. FULL DETAILS TBC CLOSER TO THE TIME.

# 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 Top 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!"
- Far Middle Right:** Icons 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.

[Ysgol Nantgwyn parent feedback February – Fill in form](#)



1. Parent views and experiences of the school	51 respondents	<p>85% of parents feel that their children enjoy coming to Ysgol Nantgwyn. 92% of parents feel that Ysgol Nantgwyn offers their child a range of interesting learning experiences, including educational trips and visits. 98% of parents feel that any concerns or worries they may have are responded to and dealt with appropriately by the school.</p> <p>Parents felt that ways of contacting the school could be improved. We have a team of staff answering the phones to parents through pupil reception, an additional message service is monitored twice per hour and messages passed on and have also set up new school email address so that parents can be contacted by the right staff:  <a href="mailto:lowersupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru">lowersupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru</a>  <a href="mailto:middlesupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru">middlesupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru</a>  <a href="mailto:uppersupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru">uppersupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru</a></p>
2. Attendance	26 respondents	<p>Attendance initiatives have been rolled out across both buildings to reward good and improved attendance.</p> <p>A digital holiday form has now been created which provides parents with instant feedback and information to their requests as this was highlighted as an area that could be improved.</p> <p>We are currently looking and the wording of letters to be more informative and useful to parents</p>
3. Pupil needs	63 respondents	<p>A number of parents have been contacted with any concerns they may have about their child's needs to offer advice and further support.</p>



## 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>

### Agenda

#### *Terms of reference:*

#### *Pupil needs:*

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

Mr Ryan Evans, deputy headteacher gave an overview of ALN provision across the school and the systems in place to support pupils and make referrals for support. CADRA assessments, ADHD and ASD rating scales were explained.

Parent suggestions that examples of different needs are given to parents so they can identify ALN. and explanations of acronyms such as ALN, IDP etc. Suggestions of an open ALN forum to be organised for parents to be invited to if they had any concerns about their child.

#### *Parents item - give us more information about something:*

No nomination

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

# Well-being:

How does Ysgol Nantgwyn ensure all pupils are safe and well cared for?

We know that life isn't always smooth-sailing and things can sometimes happen that are unexpected or difficult to deal with. That is certainly the case for us adults, but for our children, dealing with life's unexpected twists and turns is even more daunting. When things are difficult, or they need support, Ysgol Nantgwyn is there for them.

Safeguarding is and will always be the most important thing we do each day. The safety of all Ysgol Nantgwyn pupils, and their families, is paramount. We have a huge team of staff who are trained to deal with every eventuality so that you, as parents can rest assured that your child is safe, secure and well looked after.

Every member of Ysgol Nantgwyn staff receive safeguarding training in line with safeguarding Wales standards as part of their induction/at the beginning of each academic year. This includes both teaching and non-teaching staff, governors, as well as support staff. This ensures that each and every adult your child encounters, is trained to keep them and everyone else safe on school site.

In addition to this, as part of our professional learning programme, staff receive regular updates and bespoke training from the school safeguarding lead and other external providers. For example, we have a specialist CAMHS SHINE nurse who comes in weekly to work with staff and has delivered bespoke training packages on issues like anxiety and self-harm. This is available for parents across the two buildings also, and parents who have been involved in these sessions to date have been extremely positive in their feedback.

As all of this training and professional learning happens in the background, pupils also have their own programme of learning and experience. Through assemblies, tutor time and through wider areas of the curriculum, pupils have regular opportunities to learn about and explore key themes such as anti-bullying, keeping themselves safe online, making a positive contribution to our school culture and tolerance.

We do everything we can every day to ensure that our staff are trained to deal with all eventualities and that our pupils are well-informed and confident in how to approach.

What happens if/when a pupil needs support? How do they know where to go?

Every pupil has a team of adults around them who are responsible for looking after their wellbeing.

Please see the table below:

Year	Staff member
Nursery – year 6	Class teacher
	Progress coach
	Raising standards lead
	School lead
Year 7 – year 11	Form tutor
	Year provision lead
	Deputy head of school
	Head of school

# Well-being:



**Welcome to the SHINE Padlet**

**Shine**  
Schools | Reach | Emotional  
Wellbeing Service

This is an innovative platform that facilitates communication between parents/carers, school staff & external organisations. It works as an online noticeboard. Take a look at all our excellent resources, information & signposting.

Please click on the link or scan here to access a wealth of SHINE original resources:

<https://padlet.com/camhsshine1/camhs-shine-whole-school-approach-service-xzhh9qfo7el2sgzc>



**GIG Cymru NHS WALES** | Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Please see below links to charities and other bodies that can offer support and advice for a range of different issues:

[NSPCC](#) | [The UK children's charity](#) | [NSPCC](#)

[Barnardo's](#) | [Children's charity](#) | [Barnardo's](#)

[Lucy Faithfull Foundation - Preventing child sexual abuse](#)

[Childline](#) | [Free counselling service for kids and young people](#) | [Childline](#)

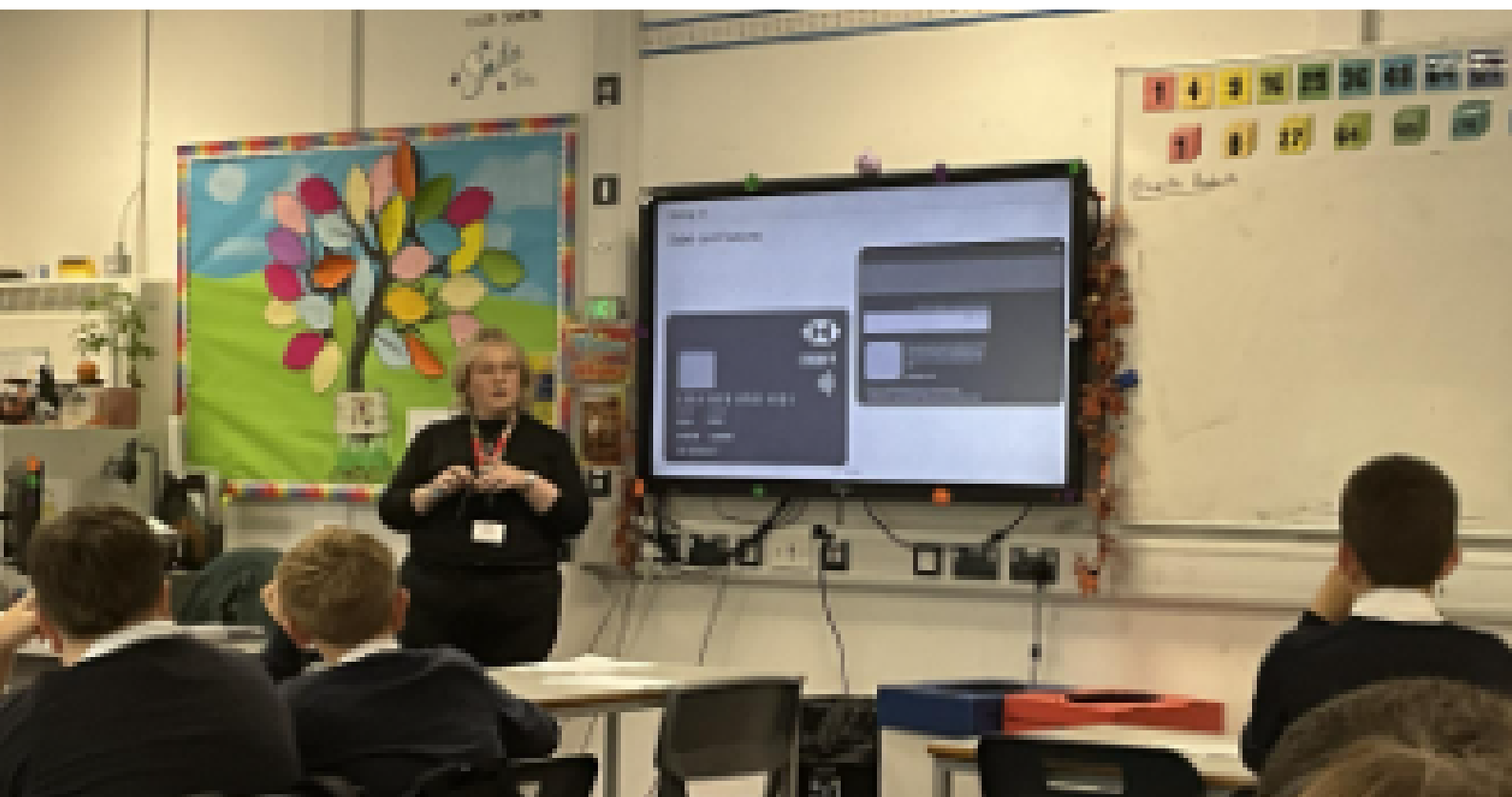
[Eye to Eye Counselling](#) | [counselling](#) | [Parish Hall, Main Road, Church Village, Pontypridd CF38 1PY, UK](#)

[Shelter Cymru - Home is everything.](#)

[Mind Cymru - mental health support for Wales](#)

[Home : Welsh Women's Aid](#)

Ysgol Nantgwyn safeguarding policy: [Childprotection-Safeguardingpolicy24-25C.pdf](#)



## **Contact details**

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