

PARENT NEWSLETTER



May 2026



A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear parents,

At our school, the wellbeing of every child and young person aged 3 to 16 is at the centre of everything we do. We are proud of our #teamnantgwyn ethos and our pupils knowing that we are one team of pupils, staff, parents and governors working together to get the very best outcomes through positive experiences. To help our pupils thrive in both their learning and well-being, it is vital that we continue to work closely together.

One of the most important ways we can support pupil well-being is through regular attendance and readiness for school. Being in school, on time, every day gives children stability, routine, and the opportunity to feel secure and connected. For our youngest children, this helps build confidence and independence, while for our older pupils it supports resilience, responsibility, and preparation for adult life.

Good attendance is about more than just learning in lessons. It helps pupils:

- Maintain friendships and feel part of the school community
- Develop positive habits and routines
- Build confidence and emotional wellbeing
- Achieve their full potential over time

Being ready for school also plays a crucial role. This includes arriving on time, having the correct uniform and equipment, being well-rested, and feeling emotionally prepared for the day ahead. When pupils start the day calmly and confidently, they are better able to engage, learn, and enjoy their time in school.

We understand that there are times when challenges arise for families. If your child is experiencing difficulties around attendance, anxiety, routines, or readiness for school, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our staff are here to support, listen, and work in partnership with you to find solutions.

By working together with open communication and shared expectations, we can ensure that every pupil feels safe, supported, and ready to succeed. Thank you for your continued commitment to your child's education and wellbeing, and for playing such an important role in our school community; #teamanantgwyn.

Laura Morris
Headteacher



Main focus item: well-being in the curriculum

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, well-being is a subject that sits within the faculty of life. In line with the Curriculum for Wales, we have developed a holistic well-being curriculum that fosters a whole-school approach, enabling health and well-being to permeate all aspects of school life.

Although our pupils have timetabled well-being lessons, well-being isn't a subject taught in isolation and all staff at our school know and understand the part they play in developing well-being in our pupils.

- 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.

In nursery through to year 6, pupils are taught well-being through their Caru Dysgu themes and during designated well-being lessons, some of which are delivered by the sporting marvels team. Themes such as 'Conflict' in year 5 provide pupils with opportunities to develop skills such as being able recognise and resolve conflicts. In years 7 to 11, pupils have a mixture of physical and classroom based well-being lessons. Our physical well-being lessons provide pupils with opportunities to develop skills in a variety of traditional and non-traditional sports and we also encourage our pupils to take on roles as officials and coaches to develop their leadership skills. In our classroom based lessons we follow a pathway map.



Pupils in year 7 to year 11 also have fortnightly 'healthy, confident Individuals' form tutor lessons linked to the four purposes of the Welsh curriculum. These lessons have been developed after consultation with pupils, parents, governors and staff, where it was identified that 'building mental and emotional well-being' was the most important strand to focus on.

There are many ways you can help develop well-being at home:

- Make sure your child has a good night's sleep.
- Talk about how they can stay healthy, through exercise, healthy eating and making healthy lifestyle choices.
- Talk about and discuss different feelings and how they can manage these feelings.
- With younger pupils, play lots of games encouraging them to take turns, following rules, and listening to instructions.

You can also support your child by helping them make sure they are organised and ready for well-being lessons by ensuring they have the appropriate kit on physical well-being days so that they are fully engaged in all lessons.

Throughout the school year, pupils are also set regular independent learning tasks linked to well-being. Encourage and support your child to complete these tasks as they reinforce the learning taking place in school.



MCAS App

We are now using MCAS as our main form of communication instead of Classcharts

Please ensure you are able to access the app or contact us if you need support adminyn_5@hwbcymru.net.

MY CHILD AT SCHOOL

BENEFITS OF THE APP FOR PARENTS

- Check attendance
- View behaviour
- Monitor homework
- Receive messages

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

What we have been doing!



This month, we started our transition activities with our cluster schools by welcoming year 5 pupils for an action-packed day of sport. Pupils enjoyed taking part in a wide range of activities including tennis, boxing, archery and dodgeball. The day gave pupils the opportunity to try something new, make new friends and have lots of fun being active together.



What we have been doing!

Pupils in Gwyn have been spending time outdoors exploring the natural world and using what they discover as inspiration for some truly wonderful pieces of nature-themed art, to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. Their creativity has flourished as they experimented with colours, textures and materials found in the environment.



What we have been doing!

We are incredibly proud of our year 9 students for their wonderful performance of Cloud Busting at the Sherman Theatre Cardiff as part of the prestigious National Theatre Connections programme.

Our pupils performed with confidence, creativity, and maturity, bringing this powerful story of friendship and courage to life on a professional stage. Throughout the rehearsal process, they showed fantastic teamwork, commitment, and enthusiasm, representing the school brilliantly both on and off stage.

Thank you to all families and carers for your continued support, and congratulations to our talented year 9 cast on a memorable achievement.



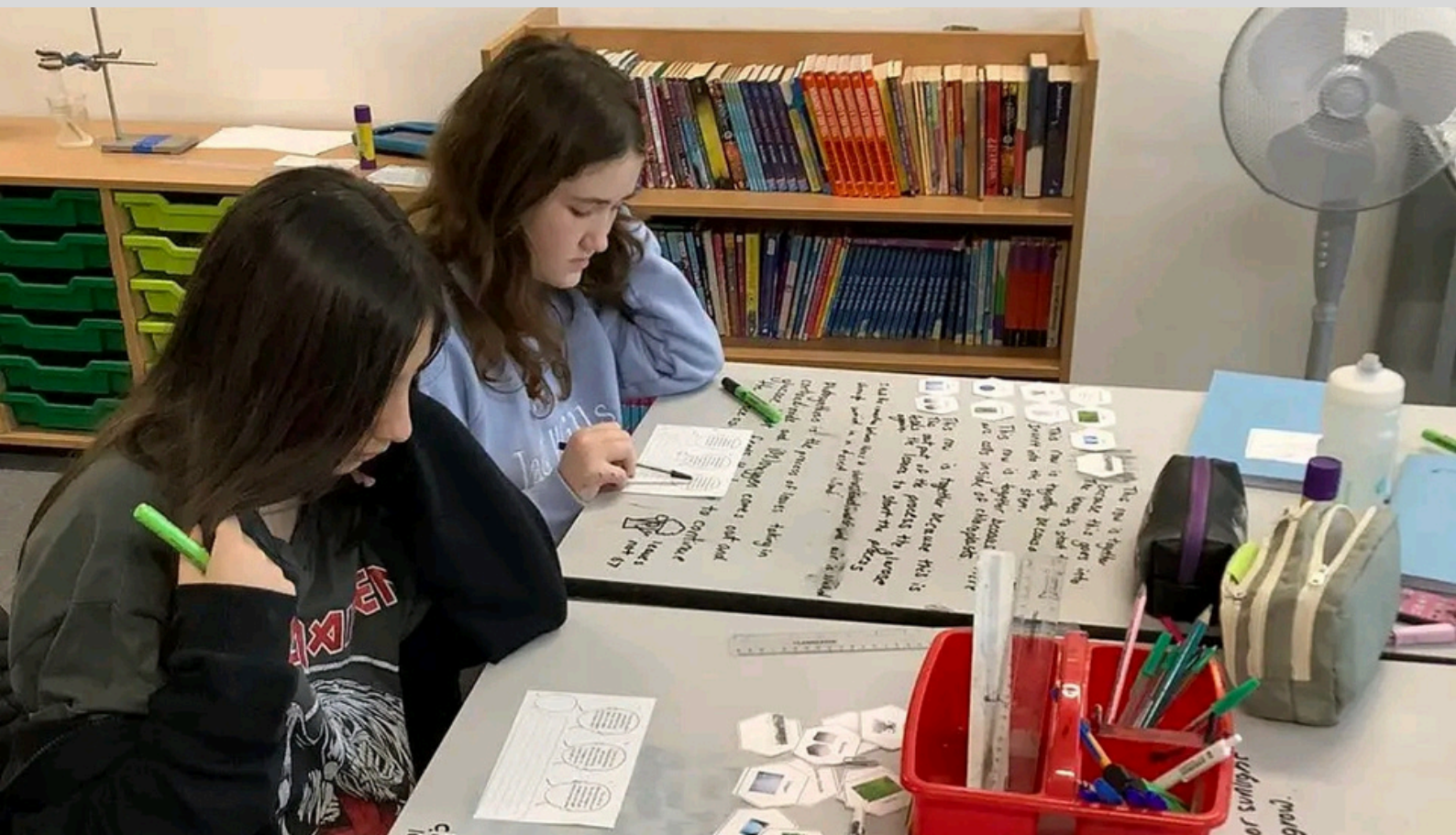
Reading corner!

Across the school, we are proud to see our pupils reading for pleasure. A selection of pupils from year 8 are currently reading a range of novels, from Anthony Horowitz' Snakehead to George Orwell's 1984.

However, some of our pupils are less interested in reading full novels. It is important to remember that not all reading has to involve a 200-page book. Short stories, poetry, online articles, magazines, and audiobooks: these are all valuable and enjoyable forms of reading.

Whether it be on the page, or on the screen, we are passionate about instilling a love for reading in our pupils that will last a lifetime. In Nant, our pupils in year 7 and 8 enjoy independent reading sessions once a fortnight, along with extra support and encouragement outside of regular lessons.

By encouraging reading at home, you can help your child view reading as an activity that isn't solely related to their school lives. If parents or pupils want guidance on what to read or how to get hold of certain texts, the English faculty will be happy to show pupils the range of options in our library and to offer our help and support.



Pupil leadership team (PLT) update:

The pupil leadership team are excited to share an update on this year's Prom, which will take place on Thursday 25th June at the beautiful Lakeside Venue. Over the past few weeks, we have been working hard behind the scenes to make the evening as special and memorable as possible for all of year 11.

We have gathered pupil voice on everything from colour schemes and decorations to food options, with finger food proving to be the most popular choice amongst pupils. We are also creating a playlist to ensure the music reflects the songs and memories that have shaped our year group.

In addition, the PLT are organising both pupil and staff awards to celebrate the people who have made our time at school so memorable, with nominations soon to be sent out to staff and year 11 pupils. We are currently developing the running order for the evening to make sure the night flows perfectly and gives everyone the chance to celebrate together, especially as this could potentially be the final time the whole of year 11 are together again. We cannot wait to share photos with you from what promises to be a truly special night to remember.



Year 11 prom reminder!

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:

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-Left:** Icon of a line graph with an upward arrow. Text: "INCREASING ATTENDANCE BY JUST 5% CAN DOUBLE THE CHANCES OF GAINING GOOD QUALIFICATIONS"
- Top Middle-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"
- Top Right:** Icon of an open book. Text: "GOOD ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL Improves reading Writing + MATHS SKILLS"
- Middle Left:** Icon of a pie chart with "IN" and "OUT" sections. Text: "THERE ARE 176 DAYS A YEAR NOT SPENT IN SCHOOL (PLENTY OF TIME FOR SHOPPING, HOLIDAYS AND APPOINTMENTS!)"
- Middle Middle-Left:** Icons of various subjects (drill, chef, key, speech bubble, musical note, soccer ball, book, compass, Wi-Fi). Text: "100s OF SUBJECTS | 1000s OF CLASSES ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES"
- Middle Middle-Right:** Icon of a clock. Text: "TURNING UP JUST 5 MINUTES LATE EVERY DAY ADDS UP TO OVER 3 DAYS LOST IN THE YEAR!"
- Middle Right:** Text: "MORE SCHOOL = HIGHER GRADES INCREASED CONFIDENCE MORE FRIENDS BRIGHTER FUTURE" with icons of a rocket, a person, and a group of people.

Bottom Section: "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 our parent voice feedback is about pupil experiences at Ysgol Nantgwyn.

[Well-being Ysgol Nantgwyn parent feedback May – Fill in form](#)

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>



Well-being: supporting pupil well-being at home

Children's emotional health and well-being are central to their ability to learn, develop confidence, and build positive relationships. While school plays an important role in supporting pupils, a nurturing and supportive home environment is equally vital.

Parents and carers can support well-being by maintaining open and regular communication. Encouraging children to talk about their day, their feelings, or any worries helps them feel heard and valued. Listening without judgement and reassuring them that it is okay to talk about difficult emotions can make a significant difference.

Establishing routines and consistency at home also supports emotional security. Regular bedtimes, mealtimes, and time for homework or relaxation help children feel safe and supported, particularly during times of change or uncertainty.

Children benefit from opportunities to relax and unwind. This may include physical activity, creative play, reading, or spending time outdoors. Limiting screen time, especially before bedtime, can also support better sleep and overall well-being.

It is important for parents and carers to be alert to changes in behaviour, mood, sleep, or appetite, as these can sometimes indicate that a child may be struggling. If concerns arise, early communication with school staff can help ensure the right support is put in place.

If a child or family is experiencing ongoing difficulties, there are many trusted organisations that offer advice, guidance, and support.

Helpful Support Links:

NSPCC (Parents and Carers)

Guidance on children's emotional health, online safety, and safeguarding concerns

👉 <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

NHS – Children's Mental Health

Information on supporting children's mental and emotional well-being

👉 <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/>

YoungMinds (for Parents)

Advice on recognising signs of emotional distress and getting help

👉 <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

Childline (for children and young people)

Free, confidential support for children and young people up to 19

👉 <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

CAMHS Shine resource Padlet. This is a useful resource where lots of information and signposted support is all in one place for parents and carers

<https://padlet.com/camhsshine1/camhs-shine-whole-school-approach-service-xzhh9qfp7el2sgzc>

If you have any concerns about a child's safety or well-being, please contact the school safeguarding team, who are always available to listen and help. You can contact them via the usual channels. Or, if you are concerned about a child where you feel there is an immediate risk, please dial 999.






Holiday **Revision** Sessions

Yr10 & Yr11




Get ahead this half-term and boost your confidence!

Tuesday 26th May

History (USA)



 KV | Yr10  09:00 – 11:00  N2

History (Health & Medicine)





 KV | Yr10  11:00 – 13:00  N2

Wednesday 27th May

Mathematics

 MB | Yr11  09:30 – 12:30  N33

Why attend?

-  *Target key exam topics*
-  *Expert teacher support*
-  *Small focused groups*
-  *Boost exam confidence*

Lunchtime & afterschool revision and learning sessions

	Subject area	Day	Location
Lunchtime	History & AGORED	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	N2
	Engineering	Monday	N31
	BTEC Sport & GCSE physical education	Monday	N7
	Mathematics & Numeracy	Tuesday	N33
	Business	Tuesday	N33
	Biology	Wednesday	N27
	Welsh	Thursday	N4
	Biology	Thursday	N27
Afterschool	Business	Tuesday	N33
	Mathematics & Numeracy	Tuesday	N33
	English	Tuesday	N49
	Welsh	Tuesday	N4
	English	Wednesday	N46
	Chemistry	Wednesday	N30
	Biology	Thursday	N29
	Physics	Thursday	N26
	Digital Technology	Thursday & Friday	N32
	Childcare	Thursday & Friday	N32
	Health & Social Care	Thursday & Friday	N1

Contact details

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