PARENT NEWSLETTER



September 2026

Ysgol Nantgwyn

A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we reach the end of September, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils, staff and families for such a positive start to the new academic year. It has been a genuine pleasure to see how well our pupils have returned to school, settling quickly into routines and approaching their learning with enthusiasm, determination and pride. We hope that families have also enjoyed returning to familiar routines after the summer break and that the start of term has been a positive one for everyone.

Across the school, our pupils have demonstrated our core values of being ready, respectful and responsible each day. Whether in lessons, around the school site or through their interactions with one another, they have shown maturity, kindness and a commitment to making our school a welcoming place for all.

Pupils have already begun exploring their new themes for learning, and it has been exciting to see curiosity and engagement flourishing in classrooms. We have been particularly delighted by how brilliantly our new year 7 pupils have settled into secondary school life. They have embraced new opportunities with confidence and enthusiasm and are already making a positive contribution to our school community.

This year, year 7 pupils are experiencing the next stage of our curriculum development, including the extension of Caru Dysgu, which blends literacy and humanities through the lens of their theme, Transformation. It has been wonderful to see pupils making connections across subjects, developing their literacy skills and exploring important ideas in meaningful and engaging ways.

In response to pupil voice, where many pupils told us that they would like more opportunities for practical learning and greater choice in how they learn, we have introduced Immersion and Project-Based Learning across Years 7 to 9. These experiences have been carefully designed to inspire curiosity, deepen understanding and make learning both meaningful and memorable.

At the heart of this approach is a simple belief: children learn best when they are active participants in their education. Pupil voice plays a key role in shaping learning experiences, ensuring that young people feel heard, valued and empowered. Through carefully planned real-life contexts, purposeful experiences and engaging lessons, pupils are encouraged to ask questions, share ideas, make connections and apply their knowledge beyond the classroom.
Our Immersion curriculum brings learning to life by creating opportunities for pupils to explore authentic experiences, develop practical skills and understand how their learning connects to the wider world. By listening to our pupils and valuing their interests, ideas and perspectives, we aim to nurture confident, independent and motivated learners who are excited to discover, explore and make a positive difference in their communities and beyond.

This month has also seen us welcome a number of new colleagues to our school community. We are delighted that Mrs Musgrove, Mr Williams and Mr Campbell have joined our LIFE team. Together, they bring an incredible wealth of experience, expertise and fresh perspectives, and are already working tirelessly and thoughtfully to further develop and strengthen the curriculum in this important area of learning.

Within our Languages and Culture Faculty, we are pleased to welcome Miss Powell and Miss Oliver, who bring a diverse range of skills, knowledge and experiences. They are already challenging and supporting pupils to think creatively, broaden their horizons and develop confidence in their own creative processes and self-expression.

We are also delighted to welcome Ms Castillo, who has joined us to teach Spanish. Pupils have already immersed themselves enthusiastically in their language learning, embracing opportunities to develop their communication skills and deepen their understanding of different cultures.
In science and technology, Mr Davies joins us as deputy head of faculty. He brings an enormous amount of passion, skill and teaching experience, and is helping to develop pupils' understanding of the iterative design process: designing, creating, testing, refining and evaluating solutions to real-world challenges.

Our Gwyn building has also been further strengthened by the arrival of Mrs Williams and Miss Burrows, who have quickly become valued members of the team. Their commitment to nurturing positive relationships and creating welcoming, engaging learning spaces is helping to ensure that Gwyn continues to be a wonderful environment in which our pupils can learn, grow and thrive.

It has also been wonderful to meet the many new pupils who have joined us across all year groups this term. Seeing our returning pupils welcoming, supporting and befriending new members of our school community has been a real source of pride and reflects the caring and inclusive culture that we work so hard to foster.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure every child thrives. The energy, positivity and ambition we have seen during these first few weeks give us great confidence for the year ahead. We look forward to sharing more of our pupils' achievements and experiences throughout the year and celebrating the many successes, milestones and memorable moments that lie ahead.

Warm regards,
L Morris
Headteacher

Ysgol Nantgwyn

Main focus item:
Welcome back! Start of term information.

We have had a very positive start to our return to school at Nantgwyn after celebrating fantastic qualification results a couple of weeks ago. It has been really lovely to see pupils across the school re-connecting with each other and enjoying spending time with each other while approaching the new year's learning with focus and determination.

This newsletter aims to provide you with all of the up to date information that you will need for the year ahead.

What is a 3 to 16 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.

Our values:

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

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

Main focus item:
Welcome back! Start of term information.

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.

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 (Nant building)
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 Bromcom 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:



Main focus item:
Welcome back! Start of term information.

Times of the school day:

	Start time	End time
Nursery to year 3	8.55	15.10
Year 4 to year 6	8.40	15.05
Nant building	8.40	15.05

Breakfast club is available in Gwyn (through RCT application system) and for all pupils in Nant building from 8.00. Unfortunately, school is not supervised before this time so pupils should not arrive for breakfast club any earlier. If pupils are not attending breakfast club they should arrive for around 8.20-8.30 to be ready for their registration period.

Static site at break and lunchtimes:

During break (10.30-10.55) and lunch times (12.30-13.25 we do not allow any vehicles to access the Ysgol Nantgwyn site. This is so that the car park does not have any moving vehicles while there is a high volume of pupils crossing to get from the building to the 3G/MUGA and vice versa.

Should you need to collect your child during these times, please get in touch to make arrangements with us.

Who can help?

Your child will have a team of staff working with them to support them holistically. Teams are led as follows. Please get in touch at any time if you have any questions or need any support, we are happy to help!

Gwyn building: Nursery to year 3: Mrs Griffiths and years 4 to 6: Mrs Holmes
Year 7 and 8: Mr Stanton and Mrs Parry
Year 9, 10 and 11- Mr Davies and Mr A. Evans

Contact details

lowersupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru
middlesupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru
uppersupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru

Main focus item:
Welcome back! Start of term information.

What we are learning:

Year group	Theme-term 1	Theme-term 2	Theme-term 3
Nursery	Me	Community	Dens
Reception	Independence	Travel	Creatures
Year 1	People	Inclusion	Environment
Year 2	Team	World	Justice
Year 3	Culture	Disaster	Social influence
Year 5	Disease	Discovery	Systems
Year 5	Rights	Competition	Conflict
Year 6	Identity	Change	Enterprise
Year 7	Transformation	The Unseen	Existence
Year 8	Crime and punishment	Together	Crisis

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 and numeracy
English language and literature
Skills challenge certificate
RVE
Welsh
Enterprise
Financial education
Well-being
Science
Three option subjects

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.

Main focus item:
Welcome back! Start of term information.

What we are learning:

Each term we publish what your child will be learning in all subject areas and some tips on how you can help at home.

https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/curriculum-and-learning/what-are-we-learning

Homework:

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, we believe that well-designed homework is an important part of securing pupils' knowledge and understanding across the curriculum. Our teachers ensure that homework tasks are purposeful, meaningful, and closely linked to learning in lessons.

The purpose of homework is to:

- develop pupils' confidence and self-discipline in working independently, which is an essential life skill
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- extend learning beyond the classroom, for example through additional reading
- strengthen the partnership between home and school

Over the last term, we have consulted with pupils, parents and staff to develop our homework so that it is more purposeful for pupils to support their learning.

Reception and Nursery
Nursery and reception pupils will receive a half-termly homework pack, which will include resources to support the development of key literacy and numeracy skills at home. Reception pupils will receive a homework book from the summer term.

Years 1–6
Pupils in years 1 to 6 will receive a homework book from their class teacher this week. Each week, pupils should bring their homework book home on Wednesday and return it every Monday.
Homework will be set weekly in the homework book each Wednesday and will typically include around four tasks:

- weekly spelling
- reading practice
- literacy
- numeracy

Details of each task will be included in the homework book. Your child's teacher will be happy to support with any queries.

Main focus item:
Welcome back! Start of term information.

Homework:

Years 7, 8 and 9:
Each week pupils will receive one piece of homework from mathematics, one from science and two pieces to develop their literacy skills. Pupils will also receive a half termly project from a different subject area. Pupils will receive copies of this homework at the start of each half term, and this will also be sent to parents via MCAS. Reminders will be sent over the half term. It is the expectation that all pupils will complete the homework set.

Years 10 and 11:
As pupils move towards their final qualifications, the expectation is that the amount of homework will also increase in order to support pupils with their studies. Pupils will receive weekly homework in their core subjects of mathematics, English, science and skills (year 11) and fortnightly homework in Welsh, RVE, option subjects and skills (year 10). Pupils will receive copies of this homework each fortnight via their school email and in paper copy, and this will also be sent to parents via MCAS. Reminders will be sent over the half term. It is the expectation that all pupils will complete the homework set.



What we have been doing!

Lower school

In nursery and reception, there has been some lovely explorative play as children investigate, create and learn through hands-on experiences. Year 1 have been working collaboratively to create a wonderful team class picture for display. The children enjoyed sharing ideas, celebrating what makes their class special, and producing a piece of artwork that reflects their teamwork and sense of belonging. Year 2 have been looking ahead to the year in front of them by discussing and writing their promises for the year ahead. They thoughtfully reflected on the goals they would like to achieve and the positive choices they can make to help themselves and others succeed. Year 3 pupils have been reflecting on their own year 3 adventure, writing about their hopes for the year ahead and discussing the importance of being ready to learn new things. We are incredibly proud of how positively all pupils have returned to school and look forward to a fantastic term together!











What we have been doing!
Middle school-Gwyn



Years 4 and 5 have made a fantastic start to our new theme, 'Rights'. During our hook day, pupils enthusiastically explored some of the key concepts they will be learning about this term, including equality, inequality, fairness and discrimination.
To bring these ideas to life, pupils took part in an activity that demonstrated discrimination based on gender stereotypes. The boys were directed towards activities such as maths, football, Lego and playing with soldiers, while the girls were assigned netball, arts and crafts, and cake decorating. It did not take long for the children to realise that something was not quite right! This led to some thoughtful and engaging discussions about fairness, discrimination and inequality. Pupils quickly recognised that it is unfair to limit a person's choices, interests or opportunities based solely on their gender.



We have also begun exploring our exciting new class novel, Wonder, which links perfectly to our Rights theme. The story encourages us to think about celebrating differences, promoting acceptance and showing kindness to others. Pupils used their inference skills to analyse the front cover, making predictions about the characters, plot and themes they might encounter. There were some fantastic ideas and insightful discussions, and we are looking forward to discovering what the story has in store as we continue our rights journey together.





Year 6 have made an excellent start to the new academic year, embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity and a positive attitude. As part of their autumn term enquiry, identity, pupils have begun exploring what makes us unique through online collaborative activities and fingerprint analysis. These experiences have generated thoughtful discussions and inspired pupils to ask insightful questions about themselves and the world around them.

The term has already been packed with exciting experiences beyond the classroom. Pupils have successfully completed Playground Leaders training, taken part in class elections to select their Form Lead representatives, and enjoyed energetic street dance sessions to support their health and wellbeing. It has truly been an action-packed and fun-filled start to the year, with Year 6 demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience and a strong readiness to learn.

What we have been doing!
Life Faculty- Nant building

PE Update

It has been fantastic to see the return of our extra-curricular sports clubs, which are now up and running. These clubs provide excellent opportunities for pupils to develop new skills, improve fitness, build confidence and enjoy representing the school. Please see the attached poster for details of the wide range of activities available. Updates will be posted on the Ysgol Nantgwyn social media.

Fixture news

Year 8 Football The Year 8 football team played their first fixture of the season against Llanhari on Thursday. The pupils represented the school brilliantly, showing great teamwork, determination and resilience throughout the match.
Upcoming fixtures:

Tuesday 22 September
U16 girls football away @ Idris Davies
YY10 football vs Bryn Celynog away
Thursday 24 September
Y9 RSR Away @ Treochy Oval

Shout Outs!

Jacob E(Year 11) has been selected to represent the Rhondda Schools Senior Rugby Team. This is a fantastic achievement and recognition of his hard work, commitment and talent. Well done, Jacob!

District Netball Success
Congratulations to all 17 netball players who represented Ysgol Nantgwyn at the U14 and U16 District Netball Trials held at Tonyrefail School. The girls demonstrated excellent commitment, skill and sportsmanship throughout the trials.

A special congratulations goes to:
Belle J(Year 8)
Evie J (Year 9)
Rosie G (Year 10)
Millie P (Year 11)

who were successfully selected to represent RCT at the next stage of the competition at the House of Sport on Saturday 26th September. We wish them the very best of luck.

Visitor Inspires Pupils

Charity Size of Wales have started to meet with our year 8 and 9 classes to explore how the people of Wales can contribute towards finding solutions against climate change. Year 9 took part in a workshop exploring the history of coffee and cacao, and how coffee and cacao is causing deforestation, the struggles of coffee farmers as well as what we can do in Wales to make a positive difference.

As part of their crime and punishment theme, year 8 explored a global crime scene, and solved a series of clues to find out how rainforest biodiversity is under threat in Indonesia, how palm oil is causing deforestation and what the solutions are. Well done to the groups who have participated so far, lots of discussion about how we can help make a positive difference.

Ysgol Nantgwyn

WELLBEING & EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Get Involved • Stay Active • Feel Good








THIS WEEK'S CLUBS

MONDAY

Activities to be Confirmed

TUESDAY

- Year 7 & 8 Netball
- Boys Rugby
- Boys Football

WEDNESDAY

- Girls Rugby
- Girls Football
- Netball (Years 9, 10 & 11)
- Boys Football (Years 9, 10 & 11)

THURSDAY

- All Stars
- Sporting Marvels

FRIDAY

- Cluster Football
- Sporting Marvels

"WHY JOIN?"

- Keep Active
- Improve Wellbeing
- Build Confidence
- Develop New Skills
- Make New Friends
- Represent Your School

READY • RESPECTFUL • RESPONSIBLE

At Ysgol Nantgwyn, we encourage every learner to get involved, challenge themselves, and be part of our thriving school community.

WE CARE

Compassion | Aspiration | Respect | Excellence

JOIN US THIS WEEK!

Everyone is welcome. There is something for everyone.

Scan me to see all clubs and sign up!

www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

KEY DATES FOR PARENTS

autumn term 2026

Ysgol Nantgwyn

15 September 2026
Year 7 to year 9 school photos

17 September 2026
Year 5 and year 6 open evening

17 September 2026
Lower school phonics session for parents

28 September 2026
Year 11 assessment week

28 September 2026
Years 2 to 9 national testing for reading and numeracy

1 October 2026
Year 10 and year 11 qualification information evening for parents

2 October 2026
Nursery to year 6 school photos

21 October 2026
Lower school phonics session for parents

22 October 2026
Year 11 mock interviews

23 October 2026
All pupils • INSET day

2 November 2026
All pupils • return to school

6 November 2026
Gwyn pupils' books come home for the weekend

10 November 2026
Year 4/5 parent assembly & open afternoon

13 November 2026
All pupils • Children in need (further information to follow)

16 November 2026
Year 10 assessment week

19 November 2026
Gwyn parent evening 1

19 November 2026
Past year 11 certificate evening: Class of 2026

26 November 2026
Gwyn parent evening 2

26 November 2026
Year 11 parent evening

17 December 2026
Nursery and reception Christmas concerts

18 December 2026
Year 1 to year 6 Christums concerts

18 December 2026
All pupils • last day of autumn term

4 January 2027
All pupils • INSET day

5 January 2027
All pupils • return to school

Reading corner!

Cal:on Reading Programme

We are delighted to share that all pupils in years 3, 4, 7 and 8 at Ysgol Nantgwyn will be taking part in the Cal:on Reading Programme, an exciting initiative designed to strengthen reading skills and inspire a lifelong love of reading.

The programme is part of a nationwide study led by CAL:ON Cymru, the National Literacy Centre at Bangor University, and funded by the Welsh Government. Through this work, schools across Wales are helping to explore effective ways of supporting children's literacy development.

As part of their normal classroom learning, pupils will take part in engaging, evidence-based literacy activities that focus on:

- Developing decoding and spelling skills
- Building vocabulary and language comprehension
- Improving reading fluency, confidence and engagement with reading and writing

To help evaluate the impact of the programme, learners' literacy skills will be assessed before and after the intervention. This will enable researchers to measure how effectively the programme supports children's reading and language development.

How will your child benefit?

By taking part in the Cal:on Reading Programme, pupils will have the opportunity to:

- Participate in a structured, research-informed literacy programme
- Strengthen key reading, spelling and language skills
- Develop greater confidence as readers and writers
- Take part in engaging, interactive learning activities
- Enjoy high-quality, story-based lessons designed to foster a love of reading
- Improve literacy skills that support learning across all Areas of Learning and Experience
-

We are excited to be involved in this important initiative and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our pupils. Further information has been shared with parents and carers via MCAS, including details about the consent and use of pupil assessment data within the study. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or a member of the school team.

Attendance reminders:

Regular attendance at school is essential for your child's progress, wellbeing and overall success. Every day in school provides valuable learning opportunities, helps pupils build positive relationships, and ensures they do not miss important lessons, activities and support. We ask all parents and carers to work with us to promote excellent attendance and punctuality, helping every child reach their full potential.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please ensure that their absence is reported promptly through the MCAS (MyChildAtSchool) app. Reporting absences via MCAS helps maintain open and effective communication between home and school, enables us to monitor attendance accurately, and ensures that we can provide appropriate support where needed.
A reminder about lateness to school - When a pupil arrives even a few minutes late, it can make them feel rushed and unsettled as they enter a lesson that has already begun. Missing our 15-minute morning session means missing out on vital school updates, community building, and key learning preparation. Over time, missing these small windows of the day can create gaps in learning and impact a child's overall confidence and engagement with school.

To help everyone build strong, positive morning habits, the following updates will take effect from Monday 13th July 2026:

Gate times: Both the vehicle and pedestrian gates at Nant will be closed at 8:40am.
Arriving after 8:40am: If your child arrives after this time, they just need to use the main reception buzzer to enter, where our team will greet them and register their arrival.
Keeping track: We will be monitoring late arrival codes regularly so we can see who might need a little extra support with their morning routine.

Morning catch-up time: If a pupil is late three times within one week, they will be asked to attend a brief lunchtime catch-up session. This isn't meant as a harsh penalty, but rather a quiet space to review how we can support better morning habits and ensure that your child has the correct information.

We completely understand that life happens, and sometimes morning delays are completely unavoidable due to traffic or unforeseen circumstances. This is why our focus is on patterns of repeated lateness rather than one-off incidents. Our goal is simply to spot where a pupil might be struggling to get in on time and offer support early on.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education and attendance.



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
Pupils require a unique dinner code which can be obtained from the school office along with a step-by-step guide. This new system allows parents to view your child's balance as well as spending. Reminder that we also have a machine in pupil reception that can be used by pupils to add cash to their dinner accounts if you are unable to access iPay.

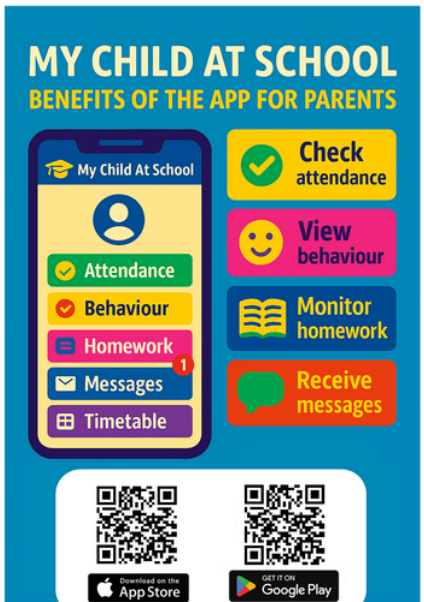
Schools essentials grant
Last year, 100 families in our school community who could have received this grant did not apply — and missed out on money they may have been entitled to. We want to make sure that doesn't happen again.

If you are eligible, the money is paid directly into your bank account for you to spend on what your child or family needs.

How much could you receive?
- £125 – Reception to Year 6
- £200 – Year 7
- £125 – Years 8 to 11

You could use the money towards in any way you choose; uniform, sports kit, school trips, IT equipment, music lessons, activities or anything else your child needs.

For more information, School Essentials Grant 26/27 (For September 2026 year groups) | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council



My Child At School App
This is our main form of communication with parents that we recommend all parents download.

Using the app, you will be able to access your child's attendance, behaviour, reports as well as report your child's absence.

If you require support, please contact the school office AdminYN_5@hwbcymru.net.

Well-being:

Back to school routines:

School routines are important for parents and children because they provide structure, stability, and a sense of security, which reduces stress and anxiety while fostering independence and healthy habits. For children, routines help them manage their time and emotions and prepare them to learn.

How can you support a good school routine:

- Establish a consistent bed time and evening routine.
- Ensure your child is getting enough sleep.
- Monitor and adjust screen time.
- Encourage your child to pack their bag and get their school uniform ready the night before.
- Encourage your child to eat a healthy breakfast before school.

If your child is struggling with attending school, please contact their school team to support.

Parent feedback:

Your feedback as parents is always important to us.

This month we would like to consult with year 7 parents regarding our transition process from year 6 into year 7 for both Ysgol Nantgwyn and cluster pupils. Please could you take 5 minutes to complete our survey:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mkW1w3LGea

Parents, we need you!

Ysgol Nantgwyn parent forum

What is the parent forum?

This is a group of parents that meet informally once per 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.



What are the aims of the forum?

- 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

When do we meet?

We meet every term for around an hour after the school day.

What do we discuss?

We will have a standard agenda as follows:

School items to share that are currently happening
School items to consult with parents
Parents' item - for you to give us more information about something
Specific questions from different year groups

Ysgol Nantgwyn

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

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

Parent feedback:

Contact details

lowersupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru
middlesupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru
uppersupport@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru

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