

Newsletter

Spring 2024–9th Edition



Leader Education Awards 2024

In February we found out that Cady Oakley (Year 10) and Elliot Woolrich, Year 11 (one of our Head Pupils) had been nominated and shortlisted for secondary school pupil of the year at the Evening Leader awards. We are incredibly proud of them both! Not only that BUT for the second year running YBA had been nominated for the Secondary School of the Year award! How brilliant is that and a true reflection of all the efforts of our YBA community!

Mrs Slinn, Miss Kipping, Mr Ransome and Mrs Ebrey were very proud to be representing our school at the awards. We didn't win overall but congratulations to Argoed High School who did! For us to be in the top three secondary school is amazing! However, our school is all about our pupils and we were delighted to see the joint winners of Secondary Pupil of the Year going to Elliot and Cady what superstars! Thank you to our fabulous community for the support that you constantly give us!



Matilda



On 6th and 7th February YBA's Expressive Arts Faculty proudly presented Matilda JR. Our students worked so hard to create a fantastic production.

Mrs Noon, Mrs Evans-Lea and Mr Humphreys were so proud of the cast, dancers, musicians and technical crew for a very hard but successful production, the show looked AMAZING, and it was all down to them.

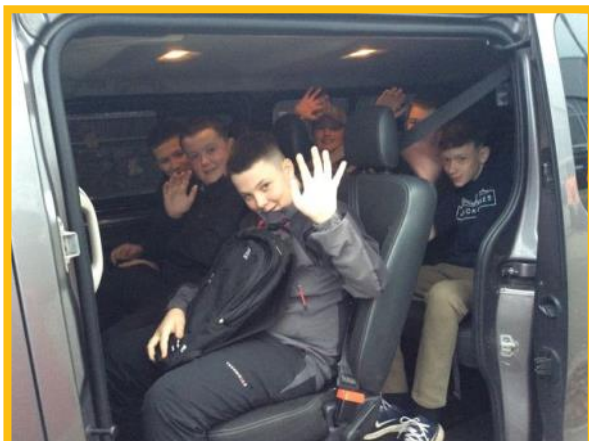
We welcomed our feeder primary schools on Monday 5th February and we were so pleased that we could perform it in front of so many excited faces. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



Turing Project—Turkey

In January Mr Jones and Mrs Cooper and a group of our year 9 pupils went to Bursa in Turkey as part of the Turing Project. What an amazing experience and one they will never forget.

We know that travel has a huge influence in shaping us as individuals. With our visits that have been funded by Turing and organised by the amazing Mr Mick Boyle, who works closely with YBA to arrange these once in a lifetime trips, our pupils are having a fantastic insight into countries that they know but generally don't visit places that are 'off the beaten' tourist trail. They get to link up with pupils from our host schools and can gain a real insight into life in these places through being hosted by families.



The pupils and staff had fun completing their own traditional Marble artwork.



YBA pupils performed their drama work alongside their new Turkish friends, and all those involved were presented with certificates of participation.

Turing Project—Poland

Another Turing funded trip left for Poland in March. Mrs Hennessey and Mr Wheel were the lucky YBA staff who accompanied our fabulous pupils. The group were really looking forward to visiting our partner school Szkoła Podstawowa im. Leopolda Staffa we Włynkówku.



Mr Mick Boyle, our Turing Coordinator, delivered drama workshops with YBA pupils and their Polish counterparts. It was a great way to break down language barriers and build positive relationships.



School Council

In January our School Council Wellbeing sub committee welcomed Gemma Hobson from Public Health Wales to discuss improving active school travel. Gemma brought the committee maps of the local area so that the pupils could indicate barriers in the local environment to active travel to school e.g issues preventing safe walking and cycling to school. There was much discussion about the paths that surround YBA as well as the roads coming from Moss Valley with no pavements and in poorly lit areas. This was a great example of our pupils being actively involved in key issues that impact our community.



At the end of January, our wonderful school council led the school assemblies. They wanted the opportunity to share with the school what they have achieved so far this year, and their aims and objectives for the rest of the year. We are so proud to have such an active council who are so passionate about improving school life for everyone.

Duke of Edinburgh



The YBA Duke of Edinburgh DofE Wales group are training hard for their summer expeditions. Map work was the order of the day with Mr Ebrey.



Dream. Reach. Achieve.

St David's Day Parade

Members of the Urdd Welsh Club represented YBA at the Dydd Gŵyl Dewi parade in Wrecsam. Pupils were fantastic ambassadors for the school and had an amazing time walking through the city centre with the Cambria Marching Band. It was lovely to see and hear that Cymraeg is alive and well in our city.



Welsh World of Work Day

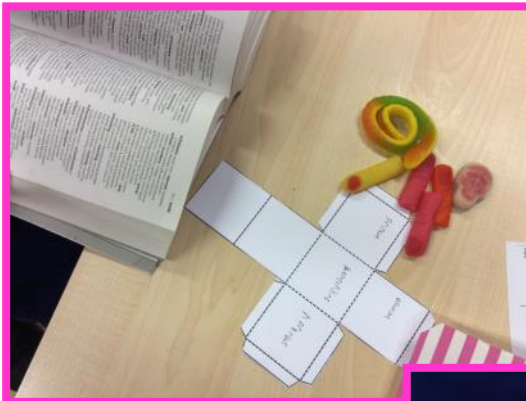
In March we held our first ever Welsh World of Work Day where our year ten pupils got the opportunity to speak to a variety of employers and business owners about how they use Welsh in the day-to-day running of their businesses and why Welsh is an important qualification to have. Pupils had the opportunity to speak with a variety of companies and they enjoyed the opportunity to speak to everyone and gain some insight into how the Welsh language exists and is important outside the classroom. Our visitors were very impressed with our pupils and praised them for their maturity and their ability to ask important and relevant questions. Hopefully, this is the first of many!



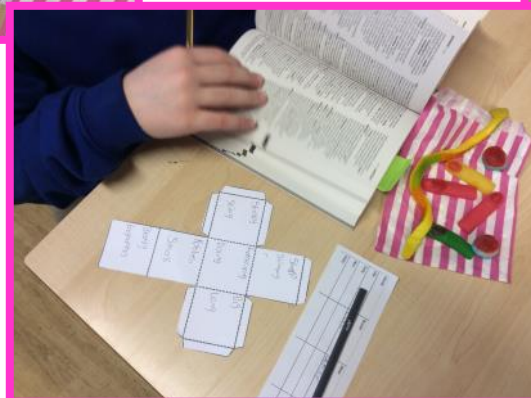
Primary Visits—'Have A Go Lesson'

On the 28th February, we welcomed some pupils from Black Lane School to a 'Have a Go Lesson' which is one of our transition events. These have been taking place since October, with each school visiting us for a YBA lesson in a range of subjects – Science, Humanities, English, Mathematics, Languages, Humanities and Drama and it was the turn of English with Miss King. Miss King was so impressed with the class and how enthusiastic they were.

Well done!



Pupils had to find words in a Thesaurus to best describe the sweets and write them in the squares which then made the box .



Primary Visits—'Have A Go Lesson'

On the 29th February Yr6 from Ysgol Penrhyn attended a 'Have a go' English taster lesson with Ms. Godwin. During the session, pupils discussed advertising and persuasive techniques, before then creating and advertising new chocolate products in groups. Each group then presented their new chocolate ideas to the class and justified their choices. Ms. Godwin was incredibly impressed by the contributions of all pupils, the originality of ideas, and the positive attitude of every single pupil.



The 5th March was the turn of St Mary's Brymbo for their 'Have a go Lesson' in Art with Mrs Da Silva. They did mono-printing using complementary colours with oil pastels. Mrs Da Silva was very impressed with their eye for detail!



North Wales Children's University

February 19th was Graduation Day for participants of the Children's University pilot project, and we were so proud to have twelve students to represent Ysgol Bryn Alyn. These students worked incredibly hard in their spare time to enhance their learning, develop new skills and contribute to the wider community in order to earn 30 hours' worth of extra-curricular activities and graduate! Our students took part in all sorts of activities, from cooking to karate, football to fencing and were recognised with an invitation to an amazing Graduation Ceremony at the William Aston Hall. These clever YBA-ers had the opportunity to wear graduation robes, complete with scroll and mortarboard, and have their photo professionally taken. Parents and family members were invited to attend and were able to watch their child take to the stage to receive their award. The ceremony concluded with a video of some very famous people personally congratulating the participants, including Barney Walsh, Hollyoaks actors Carley Stenson and Danny Mac and football heroes Aaron Hayden and Harry Wilson. Afterwards, they were treated to a well-deserved celebration lunch at the Maesgwyn Hall. Well done to these wonderful students: we are so proud of you!



Prince's Trust

A group of Year 10 pupils had a fantastic day in Rhyl with Mr Venables. Courtesy of Prince's Trust they took part in an experience day, making bread! Huge thanks to Use Your Loaf Community Bakery who were amazing with our students. The day included, the pupils making their own lunch in the form of...you guessed it...pizzas!

Lee Williams, Kayla Roberts, Ruby Harrison, Brandon Satti, Elliot Evans and Freya Simons were a credit to YBA, and their exemplary behaviour was commented on by the bakers!



Prince's Trust

Also on March 13th Mr Venables took a number of Prince's Trust pupils to The Boardroom Climbing wall in Chester.

What a time they had attaining our REACH values through this experience.



Netball U14's



On the weekend of the 24th February, one of our Year 9 pupils Mollie Beer represented North East Wales Netball U14 B Team, the team WON the Inter County Netball Championships in the House of Sport, Cardiff.

We are super proud of Mollie! What a fabulous result!

Attendance



On the Friday before half term, Mrs Slinn did a draw from our students with 100% attendance for the half term. Mrs Slinn did the draw after 2pm and the winning students were surprised in their last lesson! Congratulations to all the pupils across school who were in the draw. Congratulations to our winners Freddie Borman Yr 7, Evie Dunn Yr 8, Hallie Wood Yr 9, Dylan Tombs Yr 10 and Grace Hughes Yr 11

World Book Day

On Friday 15th March we celebrated World Book Day and the wonder of reading. Teachers and pupils had the opportunity to dress up as characters from a book and we were amazed at some of the costumes. There were prizes awarded for the best teacher and pupil costumes.

Over in the library, Mrs Taylor our librarian ran a book swap stall all week. Pupils came in with their unwanted books all week and swapped them for others' unwanted ones. There was also a second hand bookshop where books could be snapped up for a bargain 20p!



Safer Internet Day

The 6th February was Safer Internet Day and our Year 7 & 8 pupils had a presentation by our fabulous SLO, PC Stu Reeves from North Wales Police on being safe online, a concern for all our community.



Crucial Crew

YBA welcomed the Year 7 Crucial Crew on the 26th January. Our Year 7's had interactive presentations by a number of outside agencies. These included Network Rail, the Fire Service, Young Carers, Scottish Power, Water Utilities, Spectrum (looking at relationships) and British Transport Police - Wales presenting about the change at Gwersyllt rail crossing which is absolutely pertinent to our community. It is fantastic for our pupils to build such positive relationships with key figures in our community and all agencies commented on how well behaved, interested and engaging our Year 7 pupils were.





Caru Cymru and St David's Day



Here at Gwersyllt CP we went all out to celebrate being a school in Wales.

Of course, the big day was St David's day in which we held our annual Eisteddfod. We performed poetry, sang, played musical instruments and performed traditional Welsh dances. The breadth of talent was amazing and gave us a great opportunity to showcase our creative skills at the end of our expressive arts topic.

We didn't only do this in school. Many of us took part in the Areas of learning experience challenges sent home. Again, the standard was excellent- please see below.





However, we did preface this big day with our Caru Cymru day, celebrating all things about our Welsh heritage. We have these days every term (last term we created our Welsh school song with the Welsh Whisperer). This time, we built digital castles, performed a Welsh play, created Welsh inspired art and cooked bara brith, amongst many other activities.

Please see below for some examples.





Children's University

Our Year 6 children have been very busy over the last few months and have successfully completed a minimum of 30 hours towards their Children's University. They took part in numerous extra curricular activities including; Gym club, Passion Project Club, Volunteering and many more. The children were also very lucky to be able to visit Wrexham Women's football games as well as the seaside on a weekend trip to collect sea glass and shells which they then used to create some beautiful art.



The children then had the chance to be part of a fantastic event, 'The Children's University Graduation'. What an amazing day this was, they were dressed in caps and gowns and had their photos professionally taken, before heading into the Ceremony. There were guest speakers and a very special video of congratulations with many famous faces on and the children even received a certificate.



The children loved the graduation after party. There were games, photo booths balloon arches and the most amazing buffet. It was a fantastic day and everyone had a brilliant time.

World Book Day

The children loved dressing up for World Book Day. We enjoyed a school quiz to guess who the teachers were based on pictures of them when they were young and what their favourite book was. We then worked in our Triads and took part in different activities. Some of us even made Stop Motion films of our favourite stories.



St David's Day

St David's Day in Ysgol Heulfan – we had a fantastic day celebrating our Welsh culture. Children from the infants decorated the window in the Welsh Air Ambulance shop . It was so fabulous that they were awarded second place and were presented with a prize while on the St David's Day parade.

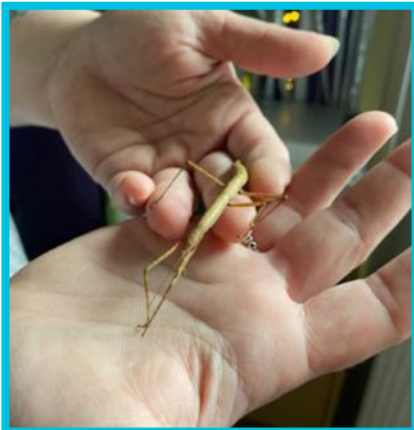




Wonderful Wildlife

This term we have been looking at the whole school topic of Wonderful Wildlife.

Each class has been focussing on a different group of animals and we have seen some lovely activities taking place.



Pupils from Year 3 got to meet a stick insect



And the whole school completed workshops with staff from Chester Zoo, culminating in a visit to the zoo:

St David's Day

We celebrated St David's Day with an array of crafts and expressive arts activities.



Reception created paper daffodils which will be included in a display in Llangollen



Pupils tasted Welsh cakes, many for the first time



Our pupils dressed up in red, white and green

Our Transition Welcome Newsletter can be found on our website.

<https://www.ysgolbrynalyn.co.uk/transition>

MARCH 2024

YBA

TRANSITION WELCOME NEWSLETTER

CLASS OF 2029 CROESO

We are delighted that you have chosen YBA as your secondary school of choice and we can't wait until September when you will start your learning journey with us at YBA. At YBA you will find that we place the well-being and academic success of our pupils at the heart of everything we do. Your son or daughter will have a range of opportunities which will enable them to

Mrs A. Simm
Headteacher

DREAM. REACH. ACHIEVE. @ YBA

NEW for 2024

Food and Fun Summer School

This year will be offering 10 days of Food and Fun at YBA.

40 places available.

Dates: Thursday 8th August to Friday 23rd August (excluding weekends)

Time: 9 to 1pm every day.

Cost: FREE.

YBA ALNCO Team

For some pupils the move from Primary to Secondary can be very challenging. The YBA ALNCO team in consultation with our primary colleagues identifies those pupils who may benefit from a more intensive transition programme, giving those identified pupils more time to meet the YBA staff and spend time in our classrooms. Those pupils identified for the YBA Enhanced Transition Programme will visit YBA one day a week for 6 weeks starting on Tuesday 7th May 2024.

Year 7 Student Ambassadors

Zoi Madis and Freddie Borman (Black Lane)
Sammy Goodall and Maci Norman (Hirffordd)
Iosif Bull and George Lewis (Penrhyn)
Eva Brown and Cole Walkers (Darlwyfan)
Photo: Iolab and Ilys Jones (Gwersyllt CP)
Lola Lewis and Izzy Evans (Brynmba)
Shay Owens-Wright and Lucy Griffiths (Bryngeg)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

Our Common Transfer Days this year are:

Wednesday 26th June, Thursday 27th June and Friday 28th June 2024

Year 6 Parents' Evening: Thursday 27th June at 6pm.

This is an opportunity for you to ask any questions before your child starts with us in September.

TRANSITION TEAM

We understand that starting a new school can be both an exciting but nerve-racking time for both students and parents. To support with this we have a dedicated team of staff and students to help make the move from primary to secondary as smooth as possible. We are very much looking forward to meeting you.

Our Values

DREAM. REACH. ACHIEVE

TRANSITION PROCESS

To prepare your son or daughter for their move to secondary school, and to ensure that it is as smooth as possible we organise a number of activities for our new pupils to meet our staff and pupils and get use to our school building.

HEAD OF YEAR/TRANSITION TEAM VISITS

From March 2024 various YBA staff will be popping into our feeder primary schools to meet our new pupils and find out about their strengths and areas of development.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

This is a digital platform created by our Head of Year 7, which is used to communicate key messages and answer Year 6 questions if they arise. All Year 6 pupils will be invited to join this google classroom. GC code is:

s3ucgs4

HAVE A GO LESSONS

These have been taking place since October, with each school visiting us for a YBA lesson in a range of subjects – Science, Humanities, English, Mathematics, Languages, Humanities and Drama.

YBA EXTRAVAGANZA DAYS

These took place in September and were a fun introduction to our staff and pupils.

COMMON TRANSFER DAYS—Wednesday 26th June, Thursday 27th June and Friday 28th June.

On these days we welcome all our new students to join us for 2 days. This gives the students a chance to tour the school, meet their form tutors, meet key staff, learn about learning and behaviour expectations ready for September 2024.

TRANSITION INDUCTION WEEKS—SEPTEMBER 2024

The first 3 weeks of term in September will be an introduction to the YBA Way. Students will follow their timetable but will have introductory lessons linked to expectations for learning across our AOLES. Computer passwords, getting to know sessions and some baseline testing will take place during this time. This will culminate with the opportunity to attend a 2 day off site teambuilding event at Plas Menai and an award ceremony to celebrate our new Year 7's successful transition into YBA.

Ysgol Bryn Alyn

Church Street, Gwersyllt, Wrexham, LL11 4HB

T: 01978 720700 E: mailbox@ysgolbrynalyn.wrexham.sch.uk

W: www.ysgolbrynalyn.co.uk