



Governors' Annual Report To Parents 2024/25



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Well where has the year gone I'm here writing my Chair of Governor's report once more.

I did say in the past that we will see positive results and this has now been shown, but none of this would have happened without the dedication from everyone in the school led by Mrs Slinn and supported by our senior leadership team and certainly not forgetting every teacher and support staff who made this success possible. I must also not forget our wonderful pupils for working so hard, I also recognise our school Governing body who carried on giving their unwavering support, to me it demonstrates what can be achieved when everyone has one goal.

Finally, can I repeat my thanks to everyone and to also thank you for giving us the opportunity to educate your child and prepare them for whatever path they take in life.

Regards and keep safe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DS Griffiths', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr David J. Griffiths

Chair of Governors

Ysgol Bryn Alyn

The Governing Body

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type of Governor</u>
Mrs Adele Slinn	Headteacher
Mr David Griffiths (Chair)	LA Governor
Mr Nigel Pilsbury (Deputy)	Community Governor
Ms Hayley Williams	Community Governor
Mr Paul Heitzman	Community Governor
Mr Bernie McCann	Community Governor
Cllr Dana Davies	Additional LA Governor
Cllr Beverley Parry-Jones	LA Governor
Mrs Sheelagh Jones	LA Governor
Cllr Jeremy Kent	LA Governor
Cllr Pete Howell	LA Governor
Mrs Karen Brown	Parent Governor
Ms Trish Hatton	Parent Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Mr Mark Byrne	Parent Governor
Mrs Jo Ebrey	Teacher Governor
Mrs Katy Cottrell	Teacher Governor
Mrs Dawn Beet	Staff Governor
Jane Williams	Clerk to Governing Body

The Chair of the Governing Body can be contacted via the school on
mailbox@ysgolbrynalyn.wrexham.sch.uk

The Clerk to the Governing Body can be contacted at Wrexham County Borough Council, 3rd Floor, Lambpit Street, Wrexham, LL11 1AR or by emailing jane.williams@wrexham.gov.uk

If any parent is interested in becoming a parent governor, please contact the school directly.

Your right to request a meeting with the school's governing body

The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 removed the requirement for school governing bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents. Instead, new arrangements were introduced to enable parents to request up to 3 meetings in any school year with the governing body, on matters which are of concern to them. If parents wish to use their rights under the Act to hold a meeting, four conditions will need to be satisfied:

1. Parents will need to raise a petition in support of holding a meeting.

The parents of at least 30 registered pupils will need to sign the petition. If it is a paper petition, then a parent's written signature must be given as well as the name and class of each of their children who are registered pupils at the school. If the petition is in electronic format, the 'signature' required is the typed name of the parent plus the name and class of each child who is a registered pupil at the school and the email address of each parent who 'signs' the electronic petition.

2. The meeting must be called to discuss matters which affect the school.

The meeting cannot be called to discuss such matters as the progress of individual pupils, or to make a complaint against a member of the school's staff or governing body. The petition should contain brief details of the matter or matters to be discussed, and the reasons for calling the meeting. This information should be clearly displayed at the top of the petition, with parents' signatures appearing below.

3. A maximum of 3 meetings can be held during the school year.

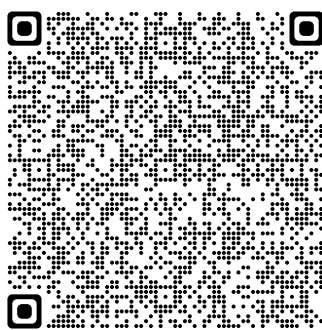
The law allows parents to use their rights to request up to 3 meetings with a school governing body during the school year.

4. There must be at least 25 school days left in the school year.

The law makes it a condition that at least 25 school days are left in the school year when the petition is received so that the meeting can be held. A "school day" means a day when the school is open to pupils: it does not include weekends, public holidays, school holidays or NSET days.

The address for service of a petition requesting a meeting with YBA's governing body is:
Chair of Governors, Ysgol Bryn Alyn, Church Street, Wrexham, LL11 4HB

Further advice on how parents may go about requesting a meeting with a governing body is available on the Welsh Government's website by scanning the QR code.



Vision for YBA

YBA has uncompromising aspirations for every individual and for our school to be an exceptional and inspirational community of lifelong learners.

Our values “DREAM, REACH, ACHIEVE” highlight our aim to ensure that students at YBA are provided with high-quality, ambitious learning experiences based on a broad and balanced curriculum to allow every student to achieve their dreams.

YBA prepares and motivates our students for a rapidly changing world by supporting them to become ambitious and capable learners, enterprising creative contributors and ethically informed citizens with a respect for our core values of **resilience, effort, aspiration, cooperation and honour**. Students experience success today and are prepared for tomorrow.

We believe that a happy child is a successful one. We provide a welcoming, happy, safe, and supportive learning environment in which everyone is valued, respected and all achievements are celebrated encouraging our students to be healthy and confident individuals. Our school empowers all students to embrace learning, achieve their personal best and build their emotional, social and physical well-being.

We strive to prepare all students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens ready to meet the challenges of the future. YBA is a student-centred organization delivering excellence in education. In partnership with families and the community, our goal is to create relevant learning opportunities for students — both inside and outside the classroom — that help them develop the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and character necessary to succeed in a technologically advanced world.

Our team is committed to our students, our communities, and each other. We believe that our cohesion and morale help us to achieve excellence in our school. **Our commitment to our students and our dedication to impacting their education through innovative methods makes us unique.**

The YBA Way

Enabling our community to DREAM, REACH and ACHIEVE



Safe, welcoming, happy and supportive learning environment.



Creative high quality, ambitious learning opportunities.



Every pupil experiences success today and are prepared for tomorrow



Pupils develop our core values of Resilience, Effort, Aspiration, Cooperation and Honour.

Committed to our pupils, our community and our team

Vision for YBA

Ambitious capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives

Enterprising creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work

- High expectations and high challenge are common practice
- Staff are highly trained and motivated
- Metacognition and problem solving is evident in all learners
- Success criteria will be co-constructed
- All students are supported to have high aspirations through a career focussed culture.

- 100% of our students will achieve skilled employment or move onto higher level training
- Pupil voice drives changes within the school
- NCfW is embedded throughout the school
- Emerging technologies are used creatively and effectively to enhance learning
- A broad range of enrichment activities will be offered



- School Council and House system is embedded and supports cultivating a team ethos
- Local, National and Global issues are embedded into a continuously improved curriculum
- Strong links are formed with the community and our cluster primary schools
- Welsh Language and culture is celebrated

- Resilience and Independent learning is evident in all learners
- Bespoke curriculum allows all learners to succeed
- All students will be encouraged to achieve at least 96% attendance
- Emphasis is placed on cultural capital and character of all students

Ethically informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Healthy and confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members



Links to the Community

Feeder Schools:

- Gwersyllt Community Primary School
- Ysgol Heulfan
- Brynteg County Primary School
- St Mary's Aided Primary School, Brymbo
- Black Lane County Primary School
- Ysgol Tanyfron
- Ysgol Penrhyn, New Broughton

We have excellent relationships with our feeder schools and enjoy regular contact through curricular and pastoral links. We provide an enhanced transition programme for those pupils who need extra support and guidance with the transition to secondary school. We held Year 5/6 Extravaganza days in September 2024 to support the transition work. Here pupils from primary school took part in Faculty led activities (including Spanish language activities, Street Dance, Rocket Launching and problem solving). It was a great opportunity for our pupils to meet some of our staff and take part in an event on the school grounds.



In the Year 6/7 Transition Questionnaire from October 2024, Nearly 90% of pupils felt that our transition events such as staff visiting primary schools, meeting our head pupils, visits to YBA and meeting their tutor group as well as the trip to Plas Menai helped them feel part of YBA from September 2024.

Quotes from the survey included...

'I enjoyed Plas Menai because I feel like it made me have a better connection with the teachers and I made plenty of new friends'

'I enjoyed the big rounders match' (on the final Common Transfer Day)

'I enjoyed rounders the most because we were outside. It was very fun, and Glyndwr won the house cup. Which was great!'

The event 'I enjoyed the most was the staff visiting our (primary) school, because we got to ask questions about how the school runs and the pets

they keep.'

'I enjoyed when we came for the English lesson whilst we were still in primary school and the lesson was very good.'

'I enjoyed meeting new people and meeting new teachers and it helped me become more confident to come up to YBA'

The Additional Learning Needs Faculty ran an Afasic period during the summer term for pupils in Year 6 who require additional academic support. This time allowed pupils to come to YBA over a number of days (these days had specific focuses so that primary colleagues could recommend them for the relevant day e.g. emotional and social health concerns) and then into the CTD where we created 'Be Bothered Bees' with notes of their hopes and dreams which will be displayed in Science. It will serve as a reminder to them for their next 5 years.

School Budget Usage 2024-2025

Pupil Development Grant 2024-25

FINAL OUTTURN STATEMENT

Expenditure & Income Report

For Period 01.04.24 -31.03.25

	Schools Budget 2024/25	Expenditure & Income to 31.03.2025	Balance as at 31.03.2025
Total Employees	199,501	199,003	498
Total Transport	-		
Total Supplies	1,749	2,247 -	498
Total Income	- 201,250		
Total	-	201,250	-

School Delegated Budget 2024-25

FINAL OUTTURN STATEMENT

Expenditure & Income Report

For Period 01.04.24 -31.03.25

	Schools Budget 2024/2025	Expenditure & Income to 31.03.2025	Balance as at 31.03.2025
Total Employees	3,978,723	4,034,438 -	55,715
Total Premises	442,970	404,169	38,801
Total Transport	3,000	5,065 -	2,065
Total Supplies	194,609	201,665 -	7,056
Total 3rd Party Payment	- 109,648	19,334 -	128,982
Total Support Services	263,356	298,722 -	35,366
Total Income	- 633,934 -	845,082	211,148
Total	4,139,076	4,118,311	20,765

Summary of Transactions

D Form—is not available at this time

Attendance Matters at Ysgol Bryn Alyn

Why Attendance is Crucial

At Ysgol Bryn Alyn, we believe that every day counts. Regular and punctual attendance is not just a legal requirement—it is essential for academic success and personal development. Missing lessons means missing learning opportunities, and even small absences can have a big impact.

- Every lesson counts: Missing 8.5 days (17 sessions) in a school year can reduce a pupil's GCSE grade by one level
- 90% attendance = 19 days missed (almost a month of school)
- 80% attendance = 38 days missed (nearly 8 weeks of learning lost)

Challenges and Progress

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance has been a challenge nationally. However, through collaboration with parents and carers, we are working hard to improve attendance at YBA. We continue to:

- Encourage medical appointments and holidays during school breaks
- Share regular updates with parents about the impact of absences
- Promote a sense of belonging through engagement activities

Our Commitment

We aim for 96% attendance across the school and work tirelessly to support pupils and families in achieving this. Our Attendance Officer monitors attendance daily and contacts families where concerns arise. Heads of Year, Youth Workers, and our Family Engagement Officer provide targeted interventions for pupils who find attending school difficult.

Working Together

Parents and carers play a vital role. Please:

- Contact school promptly if your child is absent
- Avoid term-time holidays.
- Schedule medical appointments outside school hours where possible

"School is a building which has four walls with tomorrow inside." – Saurobh Mandal

HELP US REACH 96%! EVERY DAY MATTERS

DEWI Attendance Data Summary 2024 – 2025

Attendance at Ysgol Bryn Alyn for 2024–2025 demonstrated several notable strengths. Despite challenges faced nationally, the school achieved an overall attendance rate above the modelled expectation for its Free School Meal (FSM) profile, confirming strong performance relative to similar schools. Another significant strength is the low level of unauthorised absence, which is well below both family and national averages. This reflects the proactive work of our Attendance Officer, whose consistent communication and supportive approach have built positive relationships with families. These outcomes highlight YBA's commitment to engagement and support, ensuring pupils attend regularly and benefit from every learning opportunity.

100% Attendance

Pupils are awarded certificates half termly for achieving 100% attendance. If they go on to achieve 100% attendance at the end of a full term, then they are awarded a coloured 100% attendance badge and they are put into a prize draw. Improvement in attendance is also celebrated. We are also focusing on attendance improvers so that every pupil has the chance to achieve.



Rewards

There are a number of awards that pupils can strive for over the academic year. These include teacher nominated 'Star Awards' for pupils working hard in their lessons (awarded every half term), Mrs Slinn gives out Headteacher Awards every half term for those pupils who are top of the leader board with Achievement Points. These are pupils who play an active part in our YBA community, demonstrating our REACH values and being an exemplary YBA citizen.

Our REACH Awards – are presented in Celebration assemblies at the end of the academic year. These awards are based on our REACH values and pupils are nominated by teaching staff, Heads of Year and SLT. We continue with our 'On Tour' REACH awards for all year groups. Heads of Year, some subject staff/form tutors and SLT 'dropped in' as a surprise to pupil homes to present them with their exemplary YBA award (check out our On Tour video on our YouTube channel by clicking [here](#))

Resilience (HoY nominated),

92 nominations for Effort

72 nominations for Aspiration

85 nominations for Cooperation

268 pupils were nominated across all 5 categories in the academic year 2023 - 2024. All nominees received a certificate and winners (those pupils with the most votes) received specially designed certificates, and YBA stationery, as our school minibus drove around the community in convoy. This 'alternative' reward ceremony continues to be well received by our YBA community and it is a fitting end for staff to thank our pupils for the effort they have put in.



Pupil Surveys

We continually strive to find out how our pupils are feeling about school, either verbally or through pupil questionnaires. During this academic year our pupils have completed the PASS survey. The success of young people's educational experience is heavily determined by the attitudes that they bring to their learning, their sense of aspiration and the feelings they have about their place in the broader social context of the school. The PASS diagnostic is multi-factorial measure of student attitudes to school, learning and success. Its robust nature enables the data it yields to be used as a means of establishing baselines and to support effective planning, implementation and evaluation of interventions at individual, group and whole school levels. This data is allowing Heads of Year to signpost relevant interventions for individuals. PASS supports YBA to

- Establish our students' perceptions of their school and learning experience;
- Help teaching staff, support staff and senior leaders to challenge their own assumptions about the school and its students;
- Respond to improvement needs as identified by the students;
- Inform teaching and learning strategies and intervention programmes to help raise standards of attainment and student well-being;
- Address challenging behaviour
- Address attendance issues through the identification of underlying factors as well identifying those most at risk of becoming alienated;
- Support emotionally vulnerable young people and those with possible mental health issues, to ensure those most at risk do not slip through the net;
- Provide an objective means for joint collaborative problem-solving, working with parents, carers and extended families, external agencies and other professionals supporting young people.

Supporting Pupil Wellbeing at Ysgol Bryn Alyn

Ysgol Bryn Alyn is proud to be a MyHappyMind school – a programme funded by the NHS that promotes positive mental health and wellbeing. This academic year, all Year 7 pupils have taken part in a bespoke lesson designed to help them understand how the brain processes emotions and to learn practical strategies for managing stress.



To extend this support across the whole school, we have introduced MyMindCoach, giving every pupil 24/7 access to personalised wellbeing resources through an easy-to-use app. This platform empowers pupils to explore techniques for stress management, resilience building, and developing healthy mental habits – ensuring support is available whenever they need it.

As a whole-school initiative grounded in science, MyMindCoach helps young people understand how their brains work and fosters a culture of resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. It also teaches essential skills for self-regulation and emotional management during challenging times, enabling pupils to be their very best selves.

The myHappyMind Year 7 transition program is specifically designed to support children in their first year of secondary school and focuses on developing essential skills and perspectives to help them to thrive.

Grounded in the same principles and fundamental strategies as our NHS backed primary school program, the Year 7 transition program aims to support Secondary schools to enable their Year 7's to have the best transition possible.



The myHappyMind Year 7 transition program is structured over 5 modules each of which supports an area of our myHappyMind system.



Pastoral Support

Ysgol Bryn Alyn prioritises the pastoral support of our pupils. Our Pastoral care begins with our form tutors in their dedicated time at the start of each day. This provides our pupils with clear routines to set them up for the day. Through Form Slides and assemblies, we continue to signpost our pupils to help and support from mindfulness exercises to aspirational role models

Week 5 (HT3) Dyddiad: 3rd -7th February/Chwefror 2025				
Word of the Week Tolerant : showing willingness to allow the existence of opinions or behaviour that one does not necessarily agree with.	Quiz of the Week Click here for this week's news quiz	What's happening this week? ✓ Year 9 Parents' Evening 6/2/25 ✓ Children's Mental Health Week (see following slides for theme and further information) ✓ World Cancer Day 2025 (Tues)	Planner, Equipment, & Uniform Check 	Attendance & B4L KS3 will be recording these weekly and KS4 will be discussing these in form. Remember your aim for attendance is 96% How are you doing with your B4L – your attitude to learning is key!
Goddefgar				
		What will you try to achieve during Friendly February?		
Character Strengths Survey Watch 'Celebrate 2' video from MyMindCoach, find out how life can 'flow' through your character strengths.		Place2Be's CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK Click here to see BAFTA Young Presenter Samaira Iqbal chatting to Generation Z actor Jay Lyncargo for Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week on the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' which hopes to encourage children, young people and adults to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. This year's Children's Mental Health Week theme is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself. The more we can understand about ourselves, the more prepared we are to express our emotions and take on life's ups and downs. Being self-aware means getting to know and understand what we are good at, what we find difficult, our likes and dislikes, what makes us feel JOY and what may cause us SADNESS. It is also about understanding what makes us unique and our fears, hopes and dreams. As we build a sense of self, we grow in our ability to connect with others, as well as develop our skills and talents. It is with this basis we can form strong and healthy relationships, from early childhood right through to adulthood and are equipped to cope with the challenges that life brings our way.		
Role Model Who is this? What makes her a good role model? This is Macy Williams. Throughout her secondary school years, 16 years old Macy experienced many forms of bullying, physical, mental and verbal. The bullying started when she was only 10 years old and continued through the whole of her secondary school life. It caused Macy to suffer with depression, she withdrew and developed an eating disorder. She struggled to express herself and became very quiet and withdrawn in school. She set up a Facebook page designed to help others ChangebyM_W. Macy has explained the reason behind this was when she was bullied, she had no one her own age to talk to, who could relate to what she was going through. She thought "what if I set up a little page that would help just one person feel more accepted and appreciated and I could give advice on how to deal with any situation and I could share positive stuff". ChangebyM_W				

Pastoral Support—continued

The continued development of our school council and sub-committees have heightened the role of pupil voice at YBA and widened the opportunities for the pupil body to be involved in the variety of committees that YBA offers. Our continued focus on a Trauma Informed Approach in the school community has helped staff to focus on building positive relationships.

YBA continues to develop support for the school community's wellbeing through a large variety of interventions such as trained staff and outside agency involvement, examples being 1-1 support from school counsellor, group therapy work with the Youth Workers (HACK, ERLAS and social skills workshops). Other interventions include Family Engagement Officer, counselling support, school nurse, TAC, ELSA support to SLO intervention.

As part of our commitment to pupil wellbeing and safety, Ysgol Bryn Alyn again hosted Crucial Crew this year, a vital Personal and Social Education (PSE) day for Year 7 pupils. This event brought together a range of external agencies to deliver interactive sessions on key topics that help pupils make informed, safe choices.

Agencies involved included:

- Network Rail – rail safety and awareness
- British Transport Police – Wales – highlighting changes at Gwersyllt rail crossing, a particularly relevant issue for our local community
- Fire Service – fire safety and prevention
- Scottish Power – electrical safety
- Water Utilities – water safety
- Young Carers – support and awareness
- Spectrum – healthy relationships education

We were also delighted to welcome our School Liaison Officer, PC Stu Reeves, who delivered a session on behalf of North Wales Police. PC Stu is a familiar and trusted figure for many pupils, having worked closely with our feeder primary schools, and his continued involvement strengthens positive relationships between our school and the wider community.

Crucial Crew provides an invaluable opportunity for pupils to learn directly from experts, ask questions, and develop confidence in managing real-life situations. This collaboration with outside agencies ensures our pupils receive practical guidance and build strong connections with key community figures.

The Big Shed Project

Growing Wellbeing at YBA in collaboration with Youth Work in Education

Over the past year, our incredible Youth Workers, Mandy and Tracey, have been working tirelessly to create something truly special here at YBA – a safe, supportive outdoor haven for pupil wellbeing, now known as The Big Shed Project. Inspired by their visits to the ERLAS Garden, Mandy and Tracey began exploring the potential to bring a similar experience to our school – somewhere students (and staff!) could access the outdoors, connect with nature, and receive wellbeing support in a calm, nurturing space. What began as an idea to place a shed in the Outdoor Classroom has now blossomed into a much wider vision: the transformation of the former Prince's Trust Garden into our very own YBA Wellbeing Garden.



Community Collaboration

Through determination and creative outreach, Mandy and Tracey have worked with a range of brilliant organisations to bring this project to life. Thanks to support from:

- * Keep Wales Tidy
- * The Wrexham Food Partnership
- * Yale Rotary Club
- * The Round Table
- * Nick from Acorn Furniture (beautiful table!)
- * Gwersyllt Community Council

...and many others, we've seen significant progress over the past year.



We now have:

1. A fully built Big Shed, complete with a log burner, hand-built worktable, lighting, and a covered outdoor area
2. A developing orchard and hedging planted by pupils to improve biodiversity and define the space
3. Ongoing additions including a polytunnel, raised beds, and a greenhouse on the way
4. Generous donations of seeds, plants, and tools to keep the garden growing

Curriculum Links & Lasting Legacy

The Big Shed and YBA Wellbeing Garden are much more than a quiet corner – they're an opportunity to support the Curriculum for Wales across various subjects. There's already exciting potential for:

Science – plant biology, life cycles, ecosystems

Food – seed-to-fork growing and sustainability

Wellbeing – outdoor learning and mindfulness

We hope that staff will wish to take their pupils into the area (staff will be able to book in timetabled time) and do some outdoor learning in this wonderful space. The long-term goal is to create a lasting legacy for both YBA pupils and the wider community. There's still plenty of growth to come, and this is just the beginning. Again, this project is part of a wider vision to support the difficulties that our pupils and members of our community face. The power of nature in supporting good mental health is proven and bringing this opportunity into



The Big Shed Project—continued



We have already held a launch event for our pupils through hosting a fundraising day and giving KS3 an opportunity to see the space as well as hosting a staff launch recently to showcase the area and ensure the staff know it is a space for them too as well as being able to take their classes for outdoor learning too.

Our pupils are enjoying seeing the space grow!



Our Youth Workers continue to offer important intervention sessions to a range of pupils to support their emotional health and wellbeing, including visits to The Hack, continued work with Wrexham Food Partnership on the 'Good to Grow' project and experiences such as their trip to Agri-cation CIC in Wrexham – a Community Interest Company based in Wrexham (please see the YBA Facebook page for further information about these projects)

YBA has had a very active Facebook page, where information from school is shared, useful signposting for local agencies can be seen and pupil/school successes can be shared.



Teaching and Learning



At YBA we use direct teaching combined with effective AFL and impactful live feedback to support our learners to make progress and develop the knowledge and skills required. Following initial modelling, pupils are given structured tasks to practise applying the new skills or knowledge, culminating in independent work.

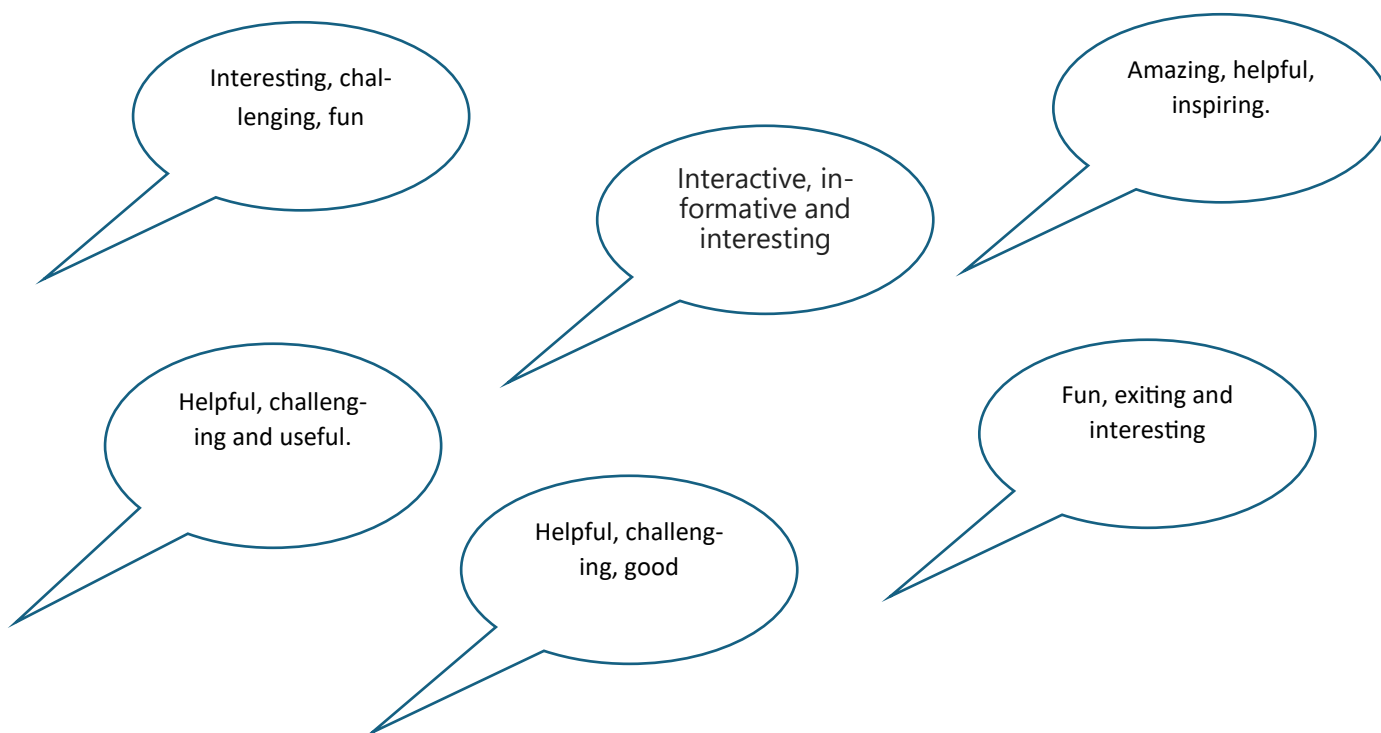
At YBA we aim for all students to fully engage with the learning process. As leaders of learning in the classroom we strive to engage, motivate, support, direct and assess learners as they progress in their learning.

Learning at YBA is viewed as pupils' development of knowledge and skills which reflect the ever-changing demands of the local and the wider global community our pupils are part of. At YBA there is a continual focus on improving the quality of provision both in and outside the classroom which supports all learners to 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.

The development of teaching and learning at YBA is supported by the T & L student committee to have conducted surveys to find out about pupils' thoughts on teaching and learning at YBA.

What do learners say about teaching and learning at YBA?



Cwricwlwm Cymraeg

How is Welsh Language and Culture promoted at YBA?

In July 2024 the Welsh Government published the new Welsh Language and Education Bill, aimed at giving every child in Wales a fair opportunity to speak Welsh independently and confidently, whatever their background or schooling. This supports the Welsh Government's target of 70% of learners are able to speak Welsh when they leave school by 2050.

YBA is an English-medium school which places community at the heart of everything it does. YBA is proud of its Welsh heritage and the benefits that learning Welsh can have for the future aspirations of our pupils. As a school we promote the benefits of being bi-lingual and celebrate key local and national events such as Gresford Disaster and St. David's Day. The Welsh Language and Culture within YBA is promoted by the Welsh Culture Student Committee.

At YBA our new curriculum for Wales has been carefully planned and each AOLE has clear links to Cynefin within each topic taught. For example, in Humanities pupils address key questions such as: Is Christianity still relevant in Wales today? Should Yr Wyddfa have changed its name? Welsh authors are promoted within English and key Welsh Artists are studied in Expressive Arts.

Our school is organised into six houses. Each house is represented by a key historical Welsh figure - Cadwaladr, Campbell, Glyndwr, Gwellian, Llywelyn and Morgan - Pupils and staff are assigned to a house to generate a sense of belonging to both YBA but also their Welsh heritage. Regular house competitions are run to promote collaboration and engagement with our local, national and international context.

Pupils at YBA understand the importance of learning Welsh, and its use is promoted throughout the school year through bi-lingual signage, all staff using agreed Welsh phrases within lessons, having AOLE Welsh Teaching Champions within each AOLE who use the target language of Welsh more frequently in their lessons. All pupils at YBA have the opportunity to learn Welsh, and Welsh Teachers at YBA provide an immersive experience within their classrooms with a clear focus on developing reading, writing, speaking and listening in Welsh. Our aim at YBA is that 80% of pupils leave YBA with a qualification in Welsh.

More Able and Talented Provision

YBA has a strong ethos of learning and achievement and this is underpinned by our values of “DREAM, REACH, ACHIEVE”. As a school we recognise that each one of our learners has talents and skills which we aim to identify and nurture. It is our priority to develop the individual needs of all learners and an important extension of the aims, policies and ethos of the school is to recognise the needs of More Able and Talented learners and develop strategies for the identification, support and challenge of such learners.

At YBA we want all pupils to succeed and achieve their potential. At YBA we support MAT pupils through our:

- Curriculum Offer
- Challenging classroom based and home- learning activities.
- Extra-curricular opportunities
- YBA REACH Programme

In addition to the YBA Extra-curricular offering MAT pupils may be enrolled onto the SEREN Project or the Children's University Programme.

For 2024-2025 the SEREN offer included:

- A year 10 welcome event
- A series of online subject masterclasses for years 8 &9 delivered by Brilliant Club
- University visits for year 10 & 11
- Making the right A level choices for year 11 delivered by Cambridge University
- Seren medics year 10 in partnership with Wrexham Maelor Hospital
- Debating Club pilot continuation
- Subject workshops delivered by Think Maths, Xplore Science Centre, Shakespeare North
- Introduction to university for years 8&9
- Study Skills workshops
- Talk the Talk workshops
- In house masterclasses delivered by schools

Healthy Schools

Sport and exercise have a major impact on many aspects of life. Sport can enhance community spirit, equality of opportunity, personal and social development and social integration.

At Ysgol Bryn Alyn, we aim to maximise the sporting opportunities for all our pupils through team sports and individual sporting activities.



During the autumn term pupils have/will experience the following activities: Football and rugby (boys only), netball (girls only), basketball, badminton, gymnastics, swimming and health related fitness (HRE).

Wrexham Healthy Schools Scheme

The Healthy Schools Scheme is an integral part of Wrexham County Boroughs' Children and Young People's service, within Lifelong learning.

We are committed to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of children and young people through health promotion activity and programmes in Schools.

What is a Healthy School?

A health promoting school is one which actively promotes and protects the physical, mental and social health and well being of its community through positive action by such means as policy, strategic planning and staff development with regard to its curriculum, ethos, physical environment and community relations.

Wrexham's Healthy Schools Scheme was launched in 2002, and is a member of the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes. The scheme was accredited by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2003. The Scheme is a partnership between Health and Education, which recognises that there are mutual benefits in young people's health and attainments to be gained.

The scheme demonstrates commitment to supporting and encouraging the growth and implementation of the Personal and Social Education (PSE) framework in schools, in addition to ensuring that national health priorities are considered in the daily life of the school for pupils, staff and the wider community.

How are schools supported?

In Wrexham there is a team of officers dedicated to supporting schools in developing the healthy school scheme.

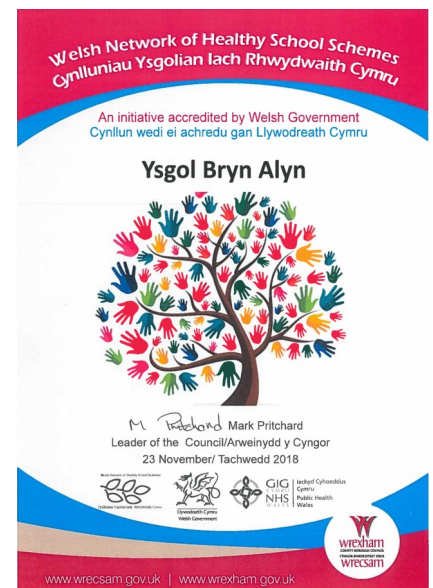
Schools are supported in developing actions to meet their identified needs, which are planned with clear achievement criteria and methods for monitoring and evaluation following the Ten Point Plan and working towards the National Quality Award. Local networking is facilitated between schools and health organisations and training opportunities are made available for staff.

Typically schools undertake an assessment annually and are accredited for each year of successful participation in the scheme. Schools are awarded their plaque/certificate at the annual celebration event.

Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes



Cynlluniau Ysgolion Iach - Rhwydwaith Cymru



The catering team at Ysgol Bryn Alyn provide a wide range of nutritionally balanced menu choices throughout the day for all our pupils, using basic wholesome ingredients.

Our menus comply with the nutritional standards for school lunches set by the Welsh Government. We comply with the new regulations for allergens with allergen information at each till point.

There is a three week cycle menu which includes vegetarian choices; packed lunches are also available on request. There is a pre order facility which helps cut down waiting time for pupils. We also have monthly promotions which include meal deals which are advertised in the dining room.



Additional Needs Provision

Ms Jasmin Morgan, the Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNco) and the Learning Support Team provide support for students with Additional Learning Needs.

Support is provided for pupils in mainstream lessons as well as small group and one-to-one provision. A wide variety of additional needs is catered for, ranging from medical, learning, speech and language, ASD, emotional and social difficulties.

The school works closely with other professionals such as the Educational Psychologist, Behaviour Support, Speech Therapists and the School Nurse to ensure that the individual needs of the pupils are met.

Regular review meetings are held, involving all parties concerned, to assess, monitor progress and establish new targets and individual plans.

We have excellent links with cluster Primary Schools to help ensure a smooth and successful transition for ALN pupils.

Reports

Please be aware that parents/carers will receive 3 progress updates and 1 full report in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10. There will be 3 Year 11 progress updates, published at a slightly different time.

School Uniform

All the pupils are required to wear a white shirt, YBA tie and YBA branded grey blazer alongside their tailored black trousers or a standard grey/green tartan school skirt, black socks and black or brown shoes. Year 11 have will have a slightly different tie and prefects are identified with a plain gold tie.



Policies

The governors have been active in reviewing and improving policies throughout the academic year.

Facilities at School

The toilets are cleaned daily. Additional toilet facilities are provided in the science block. Access to toilets is generally restricted to break and lunch time.

There are disabled toilet facilities in each area of the school.

General Facilities

Fully stocked library

Canteen area

Conference facilities

Pastoral Hub

Achievement Centre

ALN specialist teaching facilities

Specialist Facilities

Health and Wellbeing

Gwyn Evans Sports Centre which includes a fully equipped Sports hall and swimming pool.

Rugby pitch

Football pitches

Multi Use Games Area

Tennis Courts

Gymnasium

Fully equipped Food Technology Room

Science and Technology

6 Fully equipped Science Labs

4 State of the art computer rooms

Design and Technology room with CAD facilities

Access to numerous mobile digital devices

Access to school drones

Environmental garden

Expressive Arts

Dance studio

Drama studio

Music practice rooms and Music teaching space

Access to peripatetic music lessons

School Prospectus

See the latest version of our school prospectus on the website



Important School Dates 2025/26

AUTUMN TERM	
Training Days (school closed to pupils)	Monday 1st September 2025
Term Opens	Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Autumn Half Term Closes	Thursday 23rd October 2025
Training Day (school closed to pupils)	Friday 24th October 2025
WINTER TERM	
Term Opens	Monday 3rd November 2025
Winter Term Closes	Thursday 18th December 2025
Training Day (school closed to pupils)	Friday 19th December 2025
SPRING TERM	
Training Day (school closed to pupils)	Monday 5th January 2026
Term Opens	Tuesday 6th January 2026
Spring Half Term Closes	Friday 13th February 2026
Term Opens	Monday 23rd February 2026
Training Day (school closed to pupils)	Friday 20th March 2026
Term Closes	Friday 27th March 2026
SUMMER TERM	
Term Opens	Monday 13th April 2026
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
Summer Half Term Close	Friday 22nd May 2026
Term Opens	Monday 1st June 2026
Term Closes	Friday 17th July 2026

Parents Evening Dates 2025/26

Year 7 Parents' Evening:

Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Year 8 Parents' Evening:

Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Year 9 Parents' Evening:

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Year 10 Parents' Evening:

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Year 11 Parents' Evening:

Wednesday 14th January 2026

The School Day

Morning Registration	8.40am—9.00am
Lesson 1	9.00am—10.00am
Lesson 2	10.00am—11.00am
Morning Break	11.00am—11.20am
Lesson 3	11.20am—12.20pm
Lesson 4	12.20pm—1.20pm
Lunch	1.20am—2.00pm
Lesson 5	2.00pm—3.00pm

School Performance

SSSP (Summary of Secondary School Performance)

Will be available in January