

BLOG

24th April - 30th April 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

What another amazing week it has been at Ysgol Bryn Alyn, one that has truly reflected our word of the week, endeavour, showing determination, effort and a willingness to try new things.

This week has been packed with enriching opportunities for our learners. We were delighted to welcome facilitators from Groundwork and Done Together CIC, whose sessions were engaging, thought-provoking and highly valued by staff and pupils alike. Thank you to both organisations for supporting our learners so positively.

It was also fantastic for our Culture and Diversity Committee to hear from Samantha Maxwell, author and disability-awareness campaigner. Her visit prompted thoughtful discussion and reflection and reinforced the importance of understanding, inclusion and advocacy.

Wellbeing Wednesday saw pupils from our Achievement Centre and REACH Centre enjoying a memorable day canoeing, followed by an exciting tour of Firefighter O'Leary's fire engine. Our thanks go to Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, Blue Watch, for such an inspiring and informative visit.

Our School Council have continued to work hard to gather pupil voice, and in response to requests for more non-uniform days, we are pleased to confirm that additional dates have now been built into the school calendar, a great example of pupil voice in action.

We were also pleased to welcome Andrew Ranger MP for Wrexham, who met with members of our School Council to discuss the impact of social media. The maturity and insight shown by our pupils during this discussion was impressive.

Finally, well done to our Year 8 Netball Team, who represented Ysgol Bryn Alyn brilliantly at St Joseph's, another example of endeavour and teamwork on display this week.

A huge well done to everyone for their effort, commitment and enthusiasm.

ENRICHMENT

Another amazing enrichment activity on Thursday – and what a treat it was!

Our students made the most of the sunshine in our wonderful Wellbeing Garden and Big Shed area.

They cooked over an open fire and enjoyed a healthy snack they prepared themselves. So much fun, so much laughter, and such brilliant teamwork – da iawn bawb!

A huge diolch to Groundwork North Wales for providing this fantastic session. We're so grateful for your support!



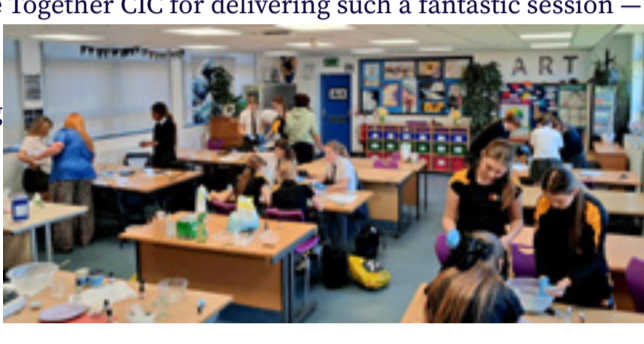
Our enrichment sessions were bursting at the seams on Thursday – truly ffantastig! We had an amazing turnout for our Health & Beauty session, and the creativity was flowing.

Tonight's activity: making bath bombs



A huge diolch yn fawr and well done to Done Together CIC for delivering such a fantastic session – we really appreciate it!

Our students were amazing, mixing, shaping and creating their very own bath bombs. The colours, the scents, the excitement... just brilliant. We hope you all enjoy using them at home!



CULTURE & DIVERSITY

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Wrexham author Samantha Maxwell into school for an inspiring visit. Samantha, a successful writer living with cerebral palsy, met with our Health and Wellbeing Committee and Pupil Librarians to talk openly about writing, identity and inclusivity.

Pupils learned how Samantha began writing during lockdown to overcome isolation, a hobby that has grown into a true passion. She shared that she is currently working on a children's book, with much of her writing exploring disability and how it is viewed by society.



Samantha also spoke about her campaigning for disability rights, highlighting barriers faced by disabled people in Wrexham and the practical changes she has helped achieve locally, including improved accessibility in public spaces and housing developments.



Pupils showed great curiosity, empathy and maturity throughout. We are very proud of how they represented the school – da iawn pawb.

We are pleased to confirm that Samantha will be returning soon to deliver a whole-school assembly on inclusivity.

Diolch yn fawr, Samantha – we look forward to welcoming you back.

WELL-BEING WEDNESDAY

Our AC and REACH pupils enjoyed a fantastic Well-being Wednesday canoeing session on the River Dee. In sunny but blustery conditions, pupils showed determination and resilience as they paddled up and down the river, working together in pairs to support one another.

Mr Ebrey was extremely impressed by their teamwork, tenacity and positive attitude, which were evident throughout the afternoon.

An added highlight was meeting Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, who were carrying out water rescue training nearby. Two proactive Year 11 pupils were kindly shown around the fire engine by Firefighter



O'Leary from Chester Blue Watch, making the experience even more memorable.

Huge thanks to Mr Ebrey, Miss Corfield and Mrs Bowen for facilitating the trip, and to Cheshire Fire Service Blue Watch for their time and generosity. A truly rewarding and inspiring Well-being Wednesday.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

You Asked, We Did:

As part of our ongoing You Said, We Did work, pupils shared that they would like more opportunities to take part in non-uniform days. They told us these days allow them to express their individuality, feel comfortable being themselves at school, and come together for shared causes.



In response, we are delighted to say that we have now planned several non-uniform days across the year. These days not only give pupils the chance to express themselves, but also to raise money for charities chosen by our pupils. It has been fantastic to see students taking an active role in decision-making, showing generosity, and supporting causes that matter to them. This is a great example of pupil voice shaping positive change in our school community.

This Week



On Friday, our School Council and Health and Wellbeing Committee welcomed Andrew Ranger, MP for Wrexham, for a thoughtful discussion about young people, social media and wellbeing.

Pupils explored key questions around online life, age limits and understanding between young people and adults. One



pupil commented, "Social media isn't just something we use for fun – it affects how we communicate, learn and feel about ourselves."

Learners spoke confidently, asked insightful questions and shared their views respectfully, showing pupil voice and critical thinking in action.

SCHOOLS ESSENTIAL GRANT

Did you know you could get £200 to help with those back-to-school essentials? The School Essentials Grant is here to support families with the cost of:

Seasonal items like warm winter coats

School uniform, school shoes, bags & backpacks, stationery and basic kit, PE kit

... and more to help your child feel ready and confident for school!

If you think you might be eligible, take a look here for full details and how to apply:



<https://www.gov.wales/get-help-school-costs>

Don't miss out – £200 can make a real difference.

REVISION SESSIONS

WEEK 1 and WEEK 2 @ YBA BEFORE SCHOOL AND FORM TIME

All Week - Welsh—arrange with teacher

Wednesday - Targeted Science

Thursday - English C/D Borderline Intervention & Revision

Friday - English A grade Intervention and Revision

WEEK 1 and WEEK 2 @ YBA AFTER SCHOOL

All Week - Welsh—arrange with teacher

Monday - Maths and History

Tuesday - Geography and Music/Arts/Media

WEEK 1

Thursday - English

Friday - Intermediate Maths

WEEK 2

Thursday - Science

Friday - Intermediate Maths and A*/A Science

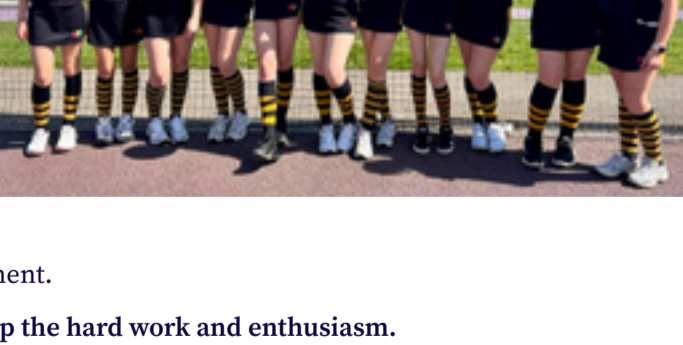
WEEK 1 and WEEK 2 @ YBA LUNCH

All Week - Welsh—arrange with teacher

Monday, Wednesday and **Thursday** - Spanish

HEALTH & WELLBEING

On Wednesday, our Year 8 netball team competed in a tournament held at St Joseph's and represented Ysgol Bryn Alyn brilliantly.



The girls played with real determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the competition and should be very proud of their performance. It was fantastic to see their confidence and skills on court shining through.

A special congratulations to Ruby Edwards, who was voted Player of the Tournament by her teammates – a well-deserved achievement.

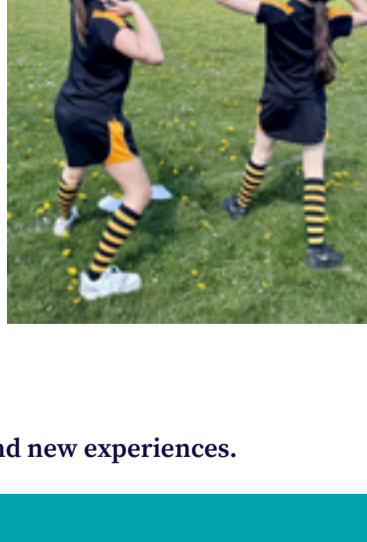
Well done to everyone involved – keep up the hard work and enthusiasm.

Year 7 Athletics in the Sunshine

On Monday, some of our Year 7 pupils enjoyed learning about the Shot Put event on the Daisy Field, making the most of the beautiful sunshine. The class focused on developing their standing technique as they were introduced to this new event, showing great enthusiasm and determination throughout the lesson.



It was fantastic to see pupils working together and supporting one another while following important safety guidance. Mrs Ebrey was extremely proud of the effort, focus and technique shown. A special shout out to Hollie, Lola, Chloe, Amelia, Neslihan and Eryn for their excellent technique – well done girls.



Well done, Year 7, on a great afternoon of learning and new experiences.

UPCOMING NEWS/EVENTS

Week Commencing 4th May 2026

- 4/5/26 - MAY BANK HOLIDAY - School Closed
- 7/5/26 - GCSE EXAMS START - GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE

WORD OF THE WEEK

Endeavor

A planned and intentional effort to accomplish something, especially when it requires commitment or hard work.

