

# BLOG

## 6th March - 12th March 2026

### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE ....

This week, our core value is **EFFORT** - the determination to give your best, stay committed even when things are challenging, and take pride in pushing yourself further than you thought possible. Effort is not about being perfect; it's about trying, improving and showing resilience. When our pupils and staff demonstrate effort, they show pride in themselves, respect for their learning, and ambition for their future.

I am incredibly proud to share that our collective effort has once again been recognised beyond the school. For the fourth year in a row, Ysgol Bryn Alyn was nominated for Secondary School of the Year at the Leader Live Education Awards. We also received two nominations for Team of the Year, our inspirational Youth Workers Mandy and Tracey, whose Big Shed initiative continues to transform lives, and our exceptional School Council, whose dedication, leadership and passion continue to shape our school for the better. In addition, Rayyan Faisal was nominated for Pupil of the Year, a fantastic personal achievement.

We are delighted to announce that our School Council won Team of the Year. This is an incredible honour and reflects the outstanding work our pupils do every day. Their impact has been visible across our community once again this week, from attending the Harlech Food Expo to help the local authority design a new school menu, to speaking at our Year 8 Aspirations Evening, showcasing the opportunities available at YBA. Our pupils also represented us superbly at BOB Talks 2026, showing maturity and leadership. These are true ambassadors of our school, and they embody what effort looks like in action. Last Friday's World Book Day celebrations brought colour, creativity and a wonderful atmosphere to school, with costumes, smiles and enthusiasm everywhere. It was fantastic to see students engaging with reading in such a positive way.

We are also pleased to have launched our expanded extra-curricular provision, along with the new late bus, which has already allowed so many pupils to stay after school and try new clubs and activities. Please remember to sign your child up for next week, these opportunities help them grow, develop new interests, gain new friendships, and show effort beyond the classroom.

Across every corner of the school, I see staff going above and beyond for our pupils, and pupils stepping up, engaging, volunteering, trying hard and taking responsibility for their own growth. Their effort today builds their future, and we could not be more proud.

Thank you to every pupil and every member of staff who has shown effort this week. You help make Ysgol Bryn Alyn the exceptional community that it is.

### LEADER AWARDS 2026

#### WHAT A WIN FOR YBA!

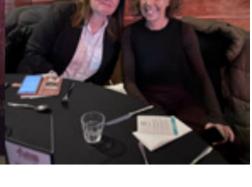
We were thrilled that the YBA School Council won **TEAM OF THE YEAR** at the **LEADER LIVE EDUCATION AWARDS 2026**.

We were also proud to have two nominations this year. Our Youth Workers, Mandy and Tracey, were shortlisted for their fantastic work developing the Big Shed and our community garden—two out of the three finalists.

We are incredibly proud of everyone involved. For the School Council to take home the award is a brilliant and well-deserved achievement.

A huge thank you to Mrs Cooper, who has continually championed our School Council and ensured pupils' voices are always heard.

Here's to our amazing young people, our dedicated staff, and the whole YBA community.



We are also so proud of Rayyan Faisal (Year 9), who was shortlisted (one of just three) for Leader Live's Secondary Pupil of the Year! She hasn't come away with the overall win, but YBA are the real winners because she attends our school. Rayyan is also a dedicated member of our School Council, and we are incredibly proud of everything she has achieved.

**Well done, Rayyan!**



### PUPIL VOICE

On Wednesday, our pupils were invited to the Harlech Food Expo by WCBC to consider the menu offerings in our school canteens. They spent the day discovering what was school compliant while thinking about how our school menus could be developed. Huge thanks went to Helen Jones from WCBC for inviting us and showing us around the expo, as well as to Brittany from Harlech Foodservice for supporting us with tickets and information. Watch this space!



### YEAR 8 ASPIRATIONS EVENING

On Monday, we welcomed our Year 8 families into the hall for our Aspirations Evening. It was a great opportunity for parents and pupils to explore the many opportunities available this year. Mrs Cooper opened with a passionate talk about the importance of literacy, offering practical ways to support reading at home and highlighting its strong link to long-term achievement. Members of our Pupil Literacy Committee then shared their own reflections on inspiring a love of reading across the school.



We also heard from pupils involved in the Student Council, who spoke about the committees they contribute to and the impact of pupil voice within our school community.

Mr Mannion followed with an overview of our extra-curricular programme, showcasing the range of activities on offer and the support provided by our late bus services, including routes to Llay and nearby villages.

Every pupil who spoke this evening did so with confidence and maturity. They represented the school brilliantly and made us very proud.



### BOB TALKS 2026

On Thursday, five of our fantastic pupils — Lilly-Belle Bush, Seren Fletcher, Ellis Turnbull, Coraline Marsh and Ruby Gibson — took to the stage at Venue Cymru for Wrexham University's Civic Mission Bob Talks 2026. They shared a thoughtful presentation on what it means to be a trauma-informed school, and their ideas truly stood out.



Their proposal for a buddy system to support pupils returning after long absences impressed Nicola Edwards from the Welsh Government so much that she will be taking it back to Parliament for discussion.

We were also proud to hear:

Gareth Hywell, Headteacher of Plas Derwen, praise Coraline for highlighting the long-term impact of Covid.

Dr Joanna Hopkins from ACE Hub Wales reflect on how powerfully Lilly-Belle's and Seren's words resonated.

Our pupils represented YBA with confidence, empathy and maturity — true ambassadors for pupil voice.



Well done to all involved — we are incredibly proud!

### 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**  
**LUNCH**  
 All Week - Welsh—arrange with teacher  
 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday - Spanish

**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

### WORLD BOOK DAY



Bryn Alyn was full of colour, creativity and a love of reading as we celebrated World Book Day 2026! From the moment pupils arrived, the excitement was clear — book characters filled the corridors and stories came to life across the school.

Pupils and staff fully embraced the day, dressing as their favourite characters and bringing energy, imagination and fun into every classroom.



World Book Day reminds us just how important reading is — for learning, wellbeing and creativity — and it was fantastic to see pupils so engaged and proud to share the stories they love.

A huge thank you to all pupils, staff and families for making the day so special.

**Their enthusiasm and brilliant costumes helped bring the magic of reading to life at YBA!**



### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our table top games extra curricular group had fun this evening, despite our 'Warhammer' expert not being able to be with us! The traditional games came out and great fun was had by all! Don't forget to sign up for extra curricular activities on Thursday, if you have not done already! **The Late bus is a bonus!**



REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR NEXT WEEKS ACTIVITIES. THE CODE IS:

<https://forms.gle/PGLP6fr21yJBXL3K6>

### UPCOMING NEWS/EVENTS ....

#### Week Commencing 16th March 2026

- Neurodiversity Week
- 17th, 18th and 19th March Welsh Oracy Exams
- 16/3/26 - GCSE MUSIC YR11 PERFORMANCE EXAM
- 17/3/26 - HPV for Yr8, 9,10 & 11
- 19/3/26 - GCSE PE MODERATION
- 20/3/26 - TRAINING DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED



COMING UP.....



### WORD OF THE WEEK ....

#### Effort

Trying your best and putting in hard work, even when something feels difficult. It's about staying focused, not giving up, and doing what you can to improve.

