

BLOG

17th April - 23rd April 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It has been another incredibly busy and uplifting week at Ysgol Bryn Alyn, and one that truly reflects our word of the week, resilience.

Across the school, our students have shown resilience in many different ways, through learning new skills, embracing new opportunities, and continuing to give their best even when things are challenging. This week, our Year 7 and 8 pupils were inspired through careers sessions with Tech She Can, focusing on artificial intelligence. It was wonderful to see students engaging thoughtfully with future technologies, asking questions, and beginning to picture themselves in careers that may once have felt out of reach.

We were also proud to celebrate Earth Day, with students wearing green to show their support for the environment. This was followed by lessons that highlighted the importance of environmental responsibility. Our Big Shed project continues to go from strength to strength too, plants are growing, fruit and vegetables are beginning to appear, and this long-term project is a real example of resilience, patience and care paying off.

Our enrichment programme is thriving, with large numbers of students taking part and really enjoying the wide range of opportunities on offer. Of particular note this week was our Health and Beauty enrichment with Done Together CIC. Students loved learning about facial features and make-up, developing confidence, creativity and practical skills along the way. Pupil voice remains at the heart of everything we do at YBA. Our School Council continues to be amazing, and it was fantastic to see them present their work to Governors, confidently sharing the difference they are making within our school community. We were also delighted to see four of our students awarded certificates for completing their poverty proofing awareness training, supporting YBA as we continue this vital work together with compassion and determination.

As exam time approaches, revision sessions are continuing, and I strongly encourage all students to take up this support. Keep going – you can do this, and every small step matters.

Finally, it was a pleasure to welcome Year 6 students from St Mary's Brymbo and Penrhyn for Humanities lessons this week. We loved having you with us and cannot wait to welcome you back as part of the YBA family in September.

This week has reminded us that resilience is not just about getting through difficulties, it is about growing, learning, and flourishing together.

Well done to everyone for another fantastic week at YBA.

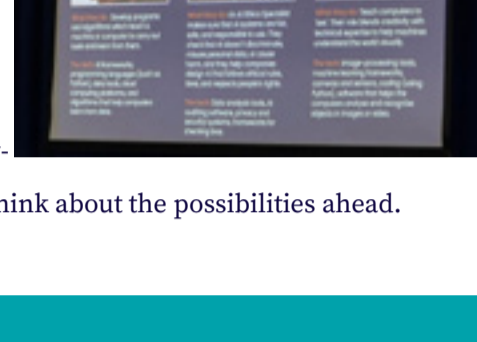
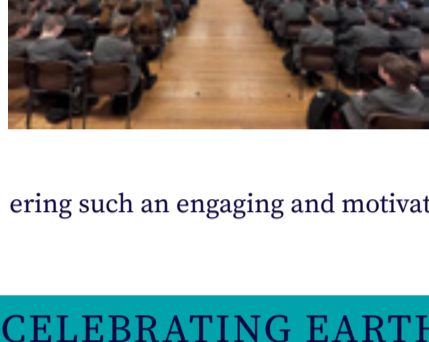
MORNING ASSEMBLY

On Friday morning, we held an inspiring and thought-provoking assembly focused on the future of artificial intelligence and technology. We were delighted to welcome Louise from Tech She Can into school to speak with our pupils about how rapidly technology is evolving and the impact it is having on the world around us.

Louise shared engaging and accessible examples of how AI and digital technologies are becoming an everyday part of our lives, from healthcare and engineering to entertainment and communications. Our Year 7 and 8 pupils were particularly interested in learning about the wide range of careers involved in creating, developing, and using technology, and how the skills they are building now could lead to exciting opportunities in the future.

With the support of Accenture, Louise demonstrated how AI is already shaping industries and solving real-world problems, encouraging pupils to think ambitiously about what they could achieve. The session sparked plenty of curiosity, thoughtful questions, and conversations both during and after the assembly.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Louise, Tech She Can, and Accenture for delivering such an engaging and motivating assembly that truly inspired our pupils to think about the possibilities ahead.



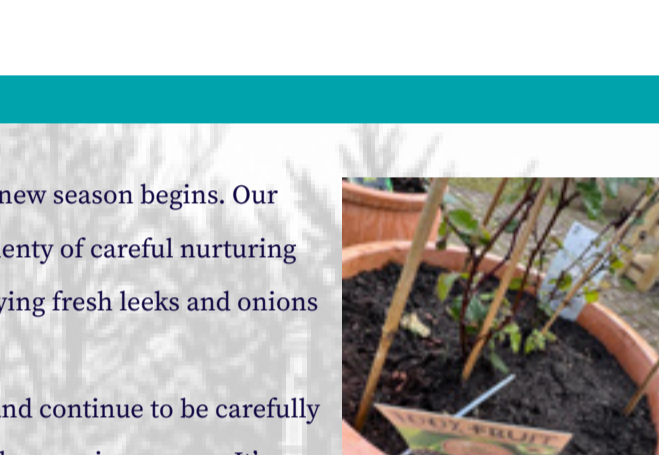
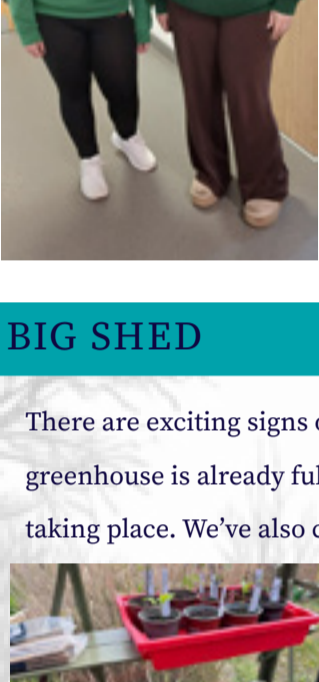
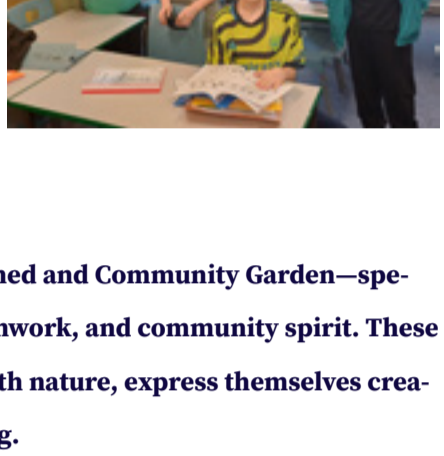
CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

On Wednesday we proudly celebrated Earth Day with a non-school uniform day, and it was wonderful to see pupils and staff getting involved by wearing green and showing their support for the environment. The school was full of positive energy, colourful outfits, and a shared sense of purpose.

Everyone was encouraged to make a £1 donation via ParentPay, and we are incredibly grateful for the generosity shown by our school community. All funds raised will support our YBA Wellbeing Strategy, helping us to continue creating nurturing and inspiring environments for our pupils.

Donations will contribute to the development of our Big Shed and Community Garden—special spaces designed to promote wellbeing, creativity, teamwork, and community spirit. These areas will provide pupils with opportunities to connect with nature, express themselves creatively, and enjoy time together in a calm, supportive setting.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make Earth Day such a positive and meaningful event. Together, we are strengthening our community and making a difference for our pupils and our planet



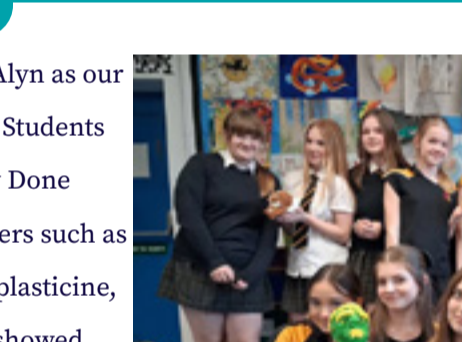
BIG SHED

There are exciting signs of growth in our Community Garden as the new season begins. Our greenhouse is already full of life, with seeds starting to sprout and plenty of careful nurturing taking place. We've also celebrated our first harvest of the year, enjoying fresh leeks and onions picked straight from the garden.

Today, our fruit plants were watered and continue to be carefully looked after as we move further into the growing season. It's wonderful to see the garden thriving once again and shaping up to be a busy, productive space for everyone involved. Watch this space for more updates as the season unfolds.

A fantastic start for our YBA Outdoor Club, based in our Big Shed. The club launched last Thursday and was a great way to kick off Half Term 5.

Led by Amy West from Groundwork North Wales and supported by our youth worker Mandy, pupils took part in a range of hands-on activities including wormery exploration, bug spotting, outdoor activity planning, and relaxing around the firepit with marshmallows and s'mores. The session was full of enthusiasm, creativity, teamwork, and plenty of learning.

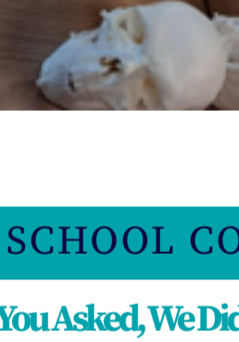


ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

We had a fantastic evening yesterday here at Ysgol Bryn Alyn as our after-school enrichment programme continues to thrive. Students took part in an inspiring beauty-themed workshop led by Done Together CIC, exploring facial structure and links to careers such as forensics, prosthetics and special effects makeup. Using plasticine, they reconstructed model skulls and showed tremendous creativity and enthusiasm.

Students are already looking ahead to future sessions, with body butter and bath bombs coming up this half term and new ideas helping to shape what's next. A huge thank you to Done Together CIC for a brilliant session, and well done to our students for being creative, engaged and welcoming throughout.

Well done to all pupils involved.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

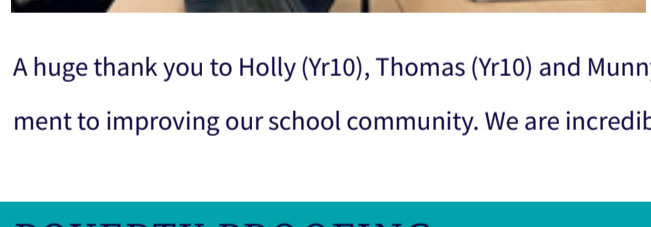
You Asked, We Did:

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



Three members of our School Council met with the Senior Leadership Team at YBA last night to share their latest discussions and ideas. This was a fantastic opportunity for students in our younger year groups to take the lead, particularly as our outgoing Year 11 School Council members were attending important revision sessions.

The pupils represented student voice exceptionally well, confidently sharing their views and ensuring senior leaders were kept informed about what matters most to them.

A huge thank you to Holly (Yr10), Thomas (Yr10) and Munny (Yr8) for keeping us updated on their plans and for their continued commitment to improving our school community. We are incredibly proud of the leadership shown by all of our School Council members.

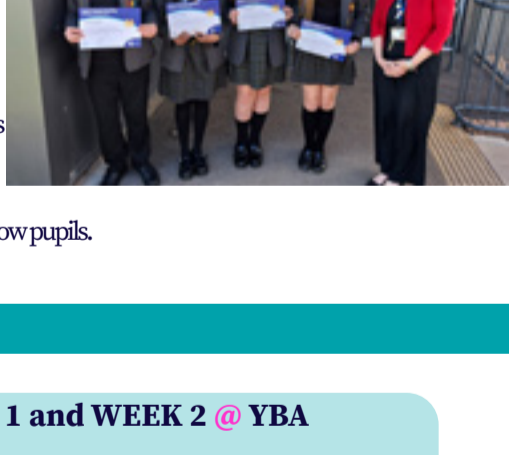
POVERTY PROOFING

Our Poverty Proofing Ambassadors have been working incredibly hard to ensure everyone in our school community can fully access opportunities and is never held back by poverty.

Over the past six weeks, they completed the Level 1 Poverty Proofing and Poverty Awareness course with Children North East, becoming official Poverty Proofing Champions. Today, they proudly received their certificates.

Longyfarchiadau to Rayyan, Lucas, Lydia and Layla—we are so proud of you all. You are fantastic ambassadors for Ysgol Bryn Alyn and truly live out our R.E.A.C.H. values every day.

Watch this space as our ambassadors continue their work to promote equality and reduce barriers for their fellow pupils.



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

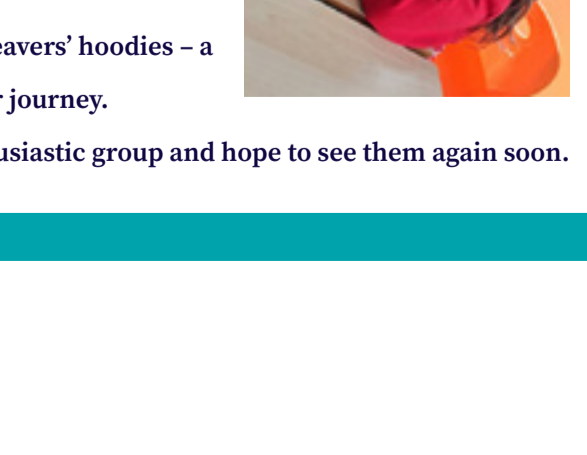
'HAVE A GO LESSON'

Pupils from St Mary's Brymbo Primary enjoyed a great lesson at YBA with Miss Roberts. They arrived looking fantastic in their leavers' hoodies and showed excellent enthusiasm throughout the session. The lesson focused on the effects of the bubonic plague on the human body, prompting thoughtful discussion and high levels of engagement. Miss Roberts was very impressed with the pupils' curiosity, maturity, and positive attitude to learning.



What a morning we had yesterday. We loved welcoming Year 6 from Ysgol Penrhyn for a brilliant "Have a Go" lesson. The group took part in a session with Mr Lockhart in Humanities, where they explored the fascinating world of bees while developing their discussion and reasoning skills. It was fantastic to see such thoughtful ideas and confident contributions throughout.

They also looked incredibly smart in their leavers' hoodies – a great way to mark this exciting stage of their journey. We were really pleased to host such an enthusiastic group and hope to see them again soon.



UPCOMING NEWS/EVENTS

Week Commencing 27th April 2026

- 29/4/26 - Visit from Wrexham author Samantha Maxwell
- 30/4/26 - GCSE Art NEA
- 30/4/26 - ALN Clinic
- 1/5/26 - GCSE Art NEA

WORD OF THE WEEK

Adaptability

Capacity to modify behavior, mindset, or strategies in response to new situations, environments, or demands.

