

BLOG

27th February - 5th March 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week, our focus word has been **resilience**, and it has been wonderful to see this lived out so clearly across the school. In lessons, during after-school activities, and in the way pupils have approached challenges, our students have shown exactly what it means to keep trying, stay positive and push themselves to grow. Our assemblies explored the theme of reaching your potential, using the story of the eagle raised among chickens, an eagle that never tried to fly simply because it didn't realise what it was capable of. The message for our students was simple but powerful, **you will never know what you can achieve unless you try**. True resilience is shown not by getting everything right the first time, but by having the courage to try again.

The school has been buzzing with exciting opportunities, enrichment and creativity this week. Our dedicated staff continue to provide a rich variety of experiences for pupils, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such talented teams leading them. Students have thrown themselves into everything from Bhangra dancing in dance, to Maths oracy work exploring simultaneous equations, to science investigations, creative arts and much more.

Revision sessions for GCSE examinations are now fully underway, and it has been a delight to see so many pupils attending English, IT, Science and Maths support sessions. Their resilience and commitment now will make a huge difference in their final examinations.

Our Wellbeing Wednesdays also continue to thrive, offering students chances to step outside the normal curriculum and try something new. From bike maintenance, crochet and sugar crafting, to Big Shed wellbeing activities, pupils have embraced these opportunities with enthusiasm, growing new skills and finding new interests.

Looking ahead, keep an eye out next week for some exciting news about an **expanded extra-curricular offer**, something many of our families have asked for. To make these opportunities accessible to everyone, we will also be introducing a **4.30pm late bus**, ensuring all students have the chance to stay after school and take part.

As always, thank you for your continued support. This week has reminded us that our students can achieve incredible things when they show resilience, believe in themselves and seize the opportunities around them.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS



Year 8 Bhangra Dance Workshop with Mrs Evans-Lea

Year 8 enjoyed an energetic cultural dance workshop where they experienced the vibrant world of Bhangra! The session was fast-paced, high-energy, and full of enthusiasm as pupils learned traditional moves and explored Punjabi music and culture.

A fantastic experience for everyone involved!



HEALTH and WELLBEING

Padel Sessions with Mr Jones

Our pupils are enjoying weekly Padel sessions every Monday evening at the local tennis centre. After school, Mr Jones takes the group down for an hour of court time, and it's been great to see their enthusiasm and teamwork as they try out this fast-growing sport.

We are grateful to Wrexham Tennis Centre for providing this opportunity. The pupils are fully embracing the sessions, and the matches are already becoming competitive. Mrs Ebrey also enjoyed taking part for the first time today.

A brilliant way to end a Monday.

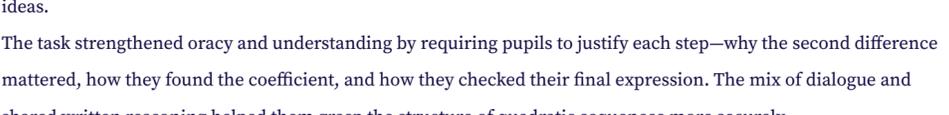


MATHS - ORACY

A Talking Tables activity gave pupils a lively, collaborative way to explore the nth term of quadratic sequences. Working in pairs, they discussed their thinking aloud while writing directly onto the table with whiteboard pens, creating a low-pressure space to test and refine ideas.

Each table had several quadratic sequences to analyse. Pupils compared patterns to the first five square numbers, annotating the surface with difference grids, arrows, and early formula attempts. The visible, wipeable work encouraged them to adjust their reasoning as partners questioned or built on their ideas.

The task strengthened oracy and understanding by requiring pupils to justify each step—why the second difference mattered, how they found the coefficient, and how they checked their final expression. The mix of dialogue and shared written reasoning helped them grasp the structure of quadratic sequences more securely.



WELL-BEING @ YBA

Blacksmiths visit YBA



Last Thursday, Ysgol Bryn Alyn welcomed Blacksmiths Gareth and Myrddin, who spent the day in our Community Garden demonstrating their craft. Pupils had the chance to create their own coat hooks and learn about traditional blacksmithing techniques.



Youth Workers Outdoor Day @ Xplore Nature

A group of our Year 10 girls spent the day with Mandy and Emma at Xplore Nature, taking time to relax and refocus before their mocks. They enjoyed activities such as den building, learning fire safety, making fires with flint and steel, and cooking pancakes over the fire.

They also strengthened teamwork, built confidence and developed new outdoor skills. Thank you to Emma Jones for stepping in during Tracey's absence, and to Anthony and Rachael at Xplore Nature for a great day.



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

POVERTY PROOFING

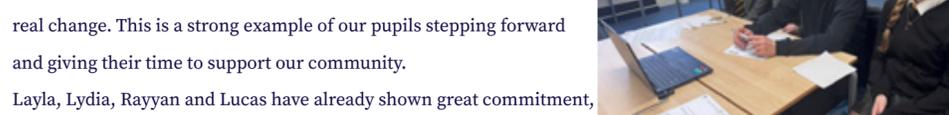
National Poverty Proofing Ambassadors Programme

Layla and Lydia from the Health and Wellbeing School Council Committee, and Rayyan and Lucas from both the School Council and Youth Senedd — took part in their first online training session with Jo from Children North East. The programme helps young people understand poverty and lead their own social-impact projects. These sessions form the foundation for work continuing into Year 2 (October 2026–March 2027), ending with a national online event created by young people.

The Poverty Proofing team describes this as an ambitious programme, believing students have the insight and lived experience to influence real change. This is a strong example of our pupils stepping forward and giving their time to support our community.

Layla, Lydia, Rayyan and Lucas have already shown great commitment, and we are extremely proud of how they are representing YBA.

We look forward to seeing the impact of their work over the next six weeks. Well done, all!



UPCOMING NEWS/EVENTS

Extra-curricular activities @ YBA

We have some exciting news for our YBA community. From Monday the 9th March, transport will be available after school from Monday to Thursday each week, allowing pupils to stay for extra-curricular activities and still have a lift home.

An additional bus will leave the YBA bus park at 4:30pm, giving pupils more opportunities to get involved and try new activities. We also have a range of new clubs starting next week, from cooking and craft to boxing and VR experiences.

Details on how to book activities and the new transport service will be shared later this week.

Week Commencing 9th March 2026

- The Year 10/11 mock exams continue
- 9/3/26 - Yr8 Aspirations Evening (see poster)
- 10/3/26 and 13/3/26 - 14-16 College Induction - selected Yr9 pupils will attend
- 11/3/26 - All day Food Expo Event – selected pupils
- 12/3/26 - BOB TALKS Presentation - 6 Yr11 pupils



WORD OF THE WEEK

Resilience

Being able to keep going when things get hard. It's about staying positive, trying again after a setback, and not giving up, even when you feel frustrated or overwhelmed.

