

# **Useful** information

Headteacher / Pennaeth

Mrs D Spence

Assistant Headteachers

Mrs K Edwards │ Mr P Smith Mr H Goodson │ Mrs A Slinn

Chair of Governors /
Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr
Mrs N Pearce

Designated Child Protection Officer

Mrs D Spence

Designated Child Protection Officer

Mrs A Slinn (absence of Mrs Spence)

Children who are Looked After Coordinator: **Mrs A Slinn** 

Age Range: **11 to 16** 

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# **Argoed** High School

## Visiting the school

Visitors are always welcome to visit the school and see learning in action.

Please contact the school for an appointment on 01352 756414.

## **Open Evening 2016**

Tuesday 11th October from 6.30pm

## Open Day 2016

Tuesday 18th October

(please telephone us to arrange an appointment)







## **Contents**

## Welcome ...

4	WA	lcome	_
4	we	ICOM	2

6 Vision and Values

#### **8** Learning Together

Inspired Learning

- 9 Active and Independent
- Developing PotentialThe School Curriculum
- 12 Languages a lifelong skill
- 13 Religious EducationSex and Relationships Education
- 15 Beyond the classroom
- 16 An enterprising spirit at the Argoed
- 17 Public Speaking Team

#### 18 Working Together

Admissions

Ensuring a smooth transition

- 19 School Day
- 20 Parent and community partnerships
- 21 Aspirations for all
  Home School Agreement
- 22 Term Dates 2016/17
  Attendance
  Independent Study
- 23 Charging and Remissions School Uniform
- 24 Flintshire County Council School Meals Service
- 25 School Policies

#### 25 Succeeding Together

Celebrating Success

Destinations for our leavers

Your child is joining our happy and very successful school at an exciting time.

The school is going from strength to strength, gaining many awards in recognition of our achievements and the quality of provision here at the Argoed High School.

The Local Authority is also investing heavily in our school building and the learning environment.





# to Argoed High School

We have high expectations of our learners and our central aim is to enable each individual to succeed. We want them to be happy, healthy, aim high and be independent learners with an appreciation for lifelong learning.

We are particularly proud of our examination success, providing a quality curriculum, the range of opportunities we provide for all our learners and the way we help our learners grow into responsible and healthy adults. Everyone is valued for his or her own personal qualities and talents. Our work with parents and carers plays a very important part in developing our learners and we always welcome your support.

Our aims are not only supported by the work we do together but also by the accreditations and awards we hold, we were one of the first Confucius Classrooms in Wales, we are a centre of excellence for Young Enterprise and an active member of the Connecting Classrooms project. We also hold IIP accreditations for Leadership and Management, ecoschools bronze and silver awards and a phase four Healthy Schools Award. We have been awarded the Careers Wales Quality Mark and re-accredited with the Active Marc Cymru. In 2014/15 we completed the Leading Parent Partnership Award, ensuring effective and positive parental engagement; this remains a key priority for the school.

These awards continue to help us to raise standards. In 2015/16, we completed the Achievement for All Quality Mark. This was awarded in recognition of the highly inclusive approach we take at Argoed. Such awards and the processes needed to be completed, ensure that we are always striving for continuous improvement.



"The school's highly inclusive ethos ensures that pupils are well supported in a caring environment."

ESTYN January 2016



## Vision and Values



Learning togetherWorking togetherSucceeding together

#### **Vision**

#### We are a school which:

- Provides a challenging curriculum where everyone fulfills their potential
- Invests in developing active and independent learning
- Prepares pupils to be well-balanced and responsible global citizens
- Has high expectations and aspirations for all
- Takes pride in all that we do and are all accountable for our actions

"The school provides a caring and supportive environment with a nurturing ethos."

ESTYN, January 2016





# What Kind of School is Argoed?

Argoed is a happy, caring school where high standards are expected at all times. We believe that school should be a place where children enjoy their education; where there is an atmosphere of happiness, security and confidence; where they are educated and where they are relaxed and confident in their relationships.

We expect each of our pupils to work hard, to give their best at all times and only to be satisfied with their very best.

We aim to see that each child is well equipped with the basic tools:

- The ability to use language effectively and imaginatively in reading, writing and speech.
- The ability to question and discuss rationally.
- The ability to apply themselves to tasks and to develop a lively, inquiring mind.
- The acquisition of the mathematical, scientific and technical knowledge and skills vital in the world today, where processes are both complex and quickly changing.

We do our utmost to encourage regard for moral values, to instil self-respect and respect for others, toleration of other ways of living and an understanding of the world.

We believe every child is an important and unique individual who must be helped and encouraged to explore, to think and to learn in their own way and at their own speed.

Finally, and even more important to us than academic achievement, is the attitude of the child. We hope that when your child leaves school they will:

- Welcome the opportunity to make new friends.
- Enjoy learning and be prepared to tackle new types of learning.
- Have concern for the welfare of others and for our community.
- Be a credit to the school, their friends and their parents.

"We, as parents, have watched our daughter mature and grow into the lovely, confident young lady she is today which has been helped by the guidance, support and friendliness she has received from everyone at school."

**YEAR 11 PARENTS** 





## **Inspired Learning**

Teaching and learning is at the core of what we do. One important aim is to ensure high aspiration and lifelong learning skills for all of our pupils. We will achieve this through high quality teaching that promotes inquisitive, challenging and progressive learning. We also ensure inclusive learning which develops each individual pupil and provides equal opportunities for all in an engaging and active learning community.

We invest in developing active and independent learners by ensuring that pupils take joint ownership for their learning. Providing exciting opportunities for them to engage fully in their learning, our many Pupil Subject Leaders reflect on their learning and the curriculum to ensure that it is inspiring.



### **Active and independent**

Pupils are encouraged to become active and independent learners who take responsibility for their own learning. At Argoed we want our pupils to take the initiative and be active in all of their learning.

We encourage the development of a growth mind set and ensure that our learners are ready for their learning and take responsibility. Pupils are supported in developing their learning and thinking skills in order to become an independent learner able to contribute to the life of the school and its wider community.

Pupils are respectful of their learning environment. All pupils are asked to stay on site during lunchtime unless they have a lunch pass to go home. This encourages pupils to participate fully in the life of the school as many activities and clubs are available throughout the lunch period.

Our Pupil Leadership Team and Prefects lead on many clubs and are excellent role models. It is essential that all pupils follow the rules and regulations which ensure a safe and pleasant environment.

"The school makes good use of its accommodation to create a stimulating learning environment."

ESTYN January 2016





### **Developing Potential**

Argoed High School works with individuals to ensure all are successful. The school is fortunate to have many pupils with exceptional abilities and talents.

Pupils benefit from having a more challenging classroom experience and a programme of enrichment opportunities beyond the school. We work with many external providers to ensure that pupils are challenged and encouraged to aim high.

Argoed High School has been awarded the Active Marc for the excellence and quality of provision for sporting activities. The school promotes good health, physical fitness and a positive attitude to participation. Many of our pupils excel in sport and have gone on to represent local and national teams.



#### The School Curriculum

#### **Years 7-9**

On arrival at the school each pupil is allocated to a tutor group under the specific care of a Form Tutor. During the first year (Year 7) pupils are taught initially in their tutor groups with some grouping by ability in the core subjects. This increases throughout Key Stage 3.

At Key Stage 3 pupils follow a curriculum level laid down by the Welsh Assembly Government and Argoed High School, as shown below:

English, Maths, Science, Welsh Second Language, Modern Foreign Language (including French, German, Spanish and Mandarin), Design and Technology, Drama, History, Geography, ICT, Art, Music, PE.

Towards the middle of Year 9, pupils start discussing their GCSE options. This is a very exciting time and the school ensures that appropriate options are chosen to achieve the desired ambitions of our pupils.

#### **Years 10-11**

All pupils study English, maths and numeracy, science, Welsh second language, RE, core PE and the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Pupils are then able to choose an additional three subjects; throughout the options process we aim to safeguard breadth and balance in each pupil's programme of study.



2016 - 2017 Prospectus



# Languages – a lifelong skill

We are passionate about languages. Throughout the school we actively promote the benefits of being bilingual and learning languages. For a relatively small school, our language provision is excellent.

Whilst we are an English medium school, Welsh language and culture have a very important and prominent place in the school.

Welsh Second Language has consistently outstanding outcomes at GCSE and we have also been recognised for our standards in Welsh at national competitions and events. We encourage all pupils to engage in at least one additional language.

We are a Confucius Classroom and this offers many additional opportunities for our pupils. It also promotes our vision for preparing pupils to be wellbalanced global citizens.



## **Religious Education**

A collective act of worship is held on a regular basis and R.E. is taught to all pupils.

Parents, who for reasons of conscience, wish to withdraw their children from Assembly or R.E. lessons, must write to the Headteacher.

## **Sex and Relationships Education**

Sex education is integrated into a programme of personal and social education offered to all pupils. It is discussed as part of personal relationships and mutual responsibilities in the context of parenthood and the family.

Sex and Relationships Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all pupils, any parent/carer wishing to withdraw their child from the Sex and Relationships Education Unit of the PSE Programme should apply in writing in the first instance to the Headteacher. All materials are available for inspection by parents or carers. If any parent/carer wishes to preview these materials then they should contact the school.



"A wide ranging enrichment programme, including sporting and cultural activities, and educational visits both locally and further afield, offers good support to the development of high standards of pupil wellbeing."

ESTYN, January 2016





## **Beyond the classroom**

Pupils are encouraged to make the very best of the opportunities on offer at the school, including the excellent extra-curricular programmes.

These normally include:



Drama club

Language clubs

Reading club

Eco club

- Urdd Club
- Chamber Choir and Bands
- Debate and Public Speaking clubs

The Student Council









# An enterprising spirit at the Argoed

The Argoed High School has a very successful track record in the field of offering outstanding opportunities for learners who wish to develop their enterprise and employability skills.



JOHN MAY (Chief Executive of Young Enterprise) commented that:

"These schools have worked very hard at providing enterprise experiences to their young people across year groups and have developed an active partnership with Young Enterprise over a consistent number of years.

Young Enterprise values these partnerships and wants to do more to showcase these schools as exemplars to other schools and to businesses as well."

The Centre of Excellence accolade is awarded to schools who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the promotion of enterprise and entrepreneurship education.

At the North Wales 2016 finals, Argoed High School won:

- Best Company Report
- Best Company Presentation
- Best Company Stand
- And overall, Best Company.
- They represented North Wales in the Cardiff finals in July 2016.



## **Public Speaking Team**

Argoed High School's Public Speaking Team stormed to a victory in the Welsh Final of the English Speaking Union's national competition in Cardiff in 2016.

Success in this competition, which was held in the Welsh Assembly' Senedd Chambers, saw the team declared the best public speaking team in Wales.

The highly motivated team meets regularly and requires independent research, extended writing skills, and hours of practise and preparation.

This was another win for the school's Public Speaking Team, with a win in the Rotary's Youth Speaks competition already firmly under their belt.

The team represented Wales in the British Finals in Churchill College Cambridge in April 2016 and while they did not pick up any further awards they had an excellent day at Cambridge University.



## Working together

#### **Admissions**

The school takes 116 pupils into Year 7 each year. For the academic year 2016/17 we received 110 written applications.

We are required to operate within the 'Guide to Education Services' set by Flintshire County Council, copies are available from www.flintshire.gov.uk/SchoolAdmissions

Parents/carers of pupils in Year 6 will need to indicate on the parental preference form which school they wish their son/daughter to attend. Parents should, if they wish, indicate Argoed High School as their first choice of secondary school.

Responsibility for school transport rests with Flintshire County Council and information is available on their website.

# **Ensuring a** smooth transition

There is very close liaison with our primary schools. Pupils are invited throughout the year to attend a range of transition activities and once their place has been confirmed a programme of induction.

Further activities include a parents/carers evening, drop-in sessions with Heads of Houses and a treasure trail.

We are very proud to be part of the 'Moving Up' programme.





## The School Day

School starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3.10pm. There are five one-hour sessions each day, giving a total of 25 teaching periods per week. The school runs a two-week timetable and pupils will be issued with this on their first day in September.

8.40 a.m.	Arrive at School		
8.50 a.m.	Registration / Form Period or assembly		
9.10 a.m.	Lesson 1		
10.10 a.m.	Lesson 2		
11.10 a.m.	Break		
11.25 a.m.	Lesson 3		
12.25 p.m.	Lunch		
1.10 p.m.	Lesson 4		
2.10 p.m.	Lesson 5		
3.10 p.m.	End of school		
3.10 - 4.30 p.m.	Clubs/societies and sports		

On joining Argoed High School, pupils are assigned a tutor group and will have most of their lessons within this group, make new friends and be supported by their Form Tutor.

Within the school community each pupil is a member of a House providing opportunities for pupils of all ages to work together and support each other.

Daily contact with their Form Tutor ensures that your child is well cared for on a daily basis and ensures ongoing consistent support for academic development and wellbeing.

"A varied range of activities help parents to support their children and, as a result, many parents feel confident about the constructive relationship they have with the school."

ESTYN January 2016

"Collaboration with partner primary schools is well established".

**ESTYN January 2016** 



## Parent and community partnerships

As a school recognised for parental engagement activities through the Leading Parent Partnership Award, we endeavour to ensure excellent communication with parents and carers. Working together we aim to ensure that all pupils reach their full potential.

The Form Tutor and Head of House are responsible for the academic and personal progress of your child and our aim of supporting each pupil to develop would not be possible without a partnership between home and school.





## **Aspirations for all**

We want to see every pupil succeed. Our support and guidance ensures that everyone makes excellent progress. We fully support pupils who have additional learning needs and we are extremely proud of our Speech and Language and Social and Communication County Resources.

Pupils needing support will be identified throughout the transition phase. Additional support will be provided and monitored to ensure that it has the desired impact. We also have 'Nurture Groups' in Year 7. These offer small groups of pupils a more supportive curriculum whilst adjusting to the demands of secondary school.

We provide stimulating educational experiences to stretch the most able pupils and believe in the limitless potential of our pupils.

## **Home School Agreement**

The Home School Agreement is signed by pupils and parents / carers and the Headteacher. It sets the standard for us to work together with close co-operation, shared values and expectations.

A copy of the agreement is in the pupil planner.

"Additional learning needs staff have detailed knowledge of the needs of individual pupils, and this is communicated well to all teachers. As a result, teachers and support assistants provide well-targeted support for individuals and groups of pupils."

ESTYN January 2016





## Working together

#### **Term Dates 2016/17**

Term/Holiday	First Day	Last Day	
Autumn Term	Thursday <b>September 1</b> 2016	Friday October 21 2016	
Half Term	Saturday October 22 2016	Sunday October 30 2016	
Autumn Term	Monday October 31 2016	Friday <b>December 16</b> 2016	
Christmas Holidays	Saturday <b>December 17</b> 2016	Monday January 2 2017	
Spring Term	Tuesday  January 3  2017	Friday February 17 2017	
Half Term	Saturday February 18 2017	Sunday February 26 2017	
Spring Term	Monday <b>February 27</b> 2017	Friday April 7 2017	
Easter Holidays	Saturday April 8 2017	Sunday April 23 2017	
Summer Term	Monday April 24 2017	Friday <b>May 26</b> 2017	
Half Term	Saturday May 27 2017	Sunday June 4 2017	
Summer Term	Monday June 5 2017	Friday <b>July 21</b> 2017	
Summer Holidays	Saturday July 22 2017	Sunday September 3 2017	
INSET DAYS	1 & 2 September 2016 3 January, 11 July and 21 July 2017		

#### **Attendance**

Excellent attendance at school is an important factor in the overall achievement of pupils.

Holidays during term time will only be authorised for exceptional circumstances in Years 7-9 and will be unauthorised in Years 10-11.

The link between attendance and attainment is clear and we encourage every pupil to set themselves aspirational attendance targets.

### **Independent Study**

Pupils are encouraged to become resourceful and resilient learners who take responsibility for their own learning.

All pupils are actively encouraged to organise their week and pupil planner.

Home learning tasks will be set according to their year group and pupils need to ensure that deadlines are met.



### **Charging and Remissions**

The school follows the Local Authority's charging policy in relation to remissions, optional extras and activities organised by third parties.

Charges made will be those permissible under the Education Reform Act 1998 and associated Statutory Instruments. The School's Charging and Remissions Policy is on the school website.

**School Uniform** 

We are currently in a consultative period regarding school uniform.

It is very important for all pupils to ensure that they keep up the high standards with regards to school uniform. It is also an important employability skill.

The full school uniform for 2016/17 can be viewed on the school website:

www.argoed-hs.flintshire.sch.uk

"All pupils are mentored by an individual member of staff. This support has a significant impact on pupils' social development, attendance and behaviour."

ESTYN January 2016

"The school is an inclusive community, which promotes equality and diversity well."

ESTYN January 2016



## Working together

# Flintshire County Council School Meals Service

We provide a wide range of food choices created within, and in support of, The Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements (Wales) Regulations) 2013. Our priority is to ensure that all menus provide balanced and nutritional food choices as an important and integral part of school life.

Eating healthy, nutritionally balanced meals helps to support a young person's continued growth and development, boosting concentration, improving performance and active participation throughout the school day.

From September 2016 we also offer a breakfast club. All pupils are welcome and breakfast is provided for those pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

The dedicated catering team at The Argoed has retained their Level 5 in Food Safety and cater for any special dietary needs. In addition to the varied range of freshly prepared, delicious daily menu choices, we hold special theme days throughout the year, encouraging pupils to try something different.

Our points system also encourages pupils to make healthy choices, with prizes to be won every month.



# **Succeeding** together



#### **School Policies**

We regularly produce and update policies and procedures that underpin how we work on a day-to-day basis.

We aim to involve pupils, parents/carers and other stakeholders in their formulation and review; statutory policies are updated at least annually. All staff are trained in child protection and have a duty to report any concerns to the Designated Child Protection Officer in the School. All policies can be obtained from the school office.

A number of policies are available on the school website, including:

- Child Protection Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Equality Plan/Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- **▼** Toilet Policy

## **Celebrating success**

At Argoed High School we celebrate success at all levels. We celebrate daily with recognition through our merit system and positive contact home.

Pupils' work is displayed in classrooms and corridors so that all can share and take pride in their work and that of others. As part of this we also have end of term celebration assemblies to award pupils who have achieved the very best standards across a wide range of academic, sports, community and wider achievement categories. Our Year 11 presentation evening is always a joy and recognises not only those pupils who have excelled in certain subjects but those who have put in the most effort, and those who have travelled the furthest in terms of their progress.

### **Destinations of our leavers**

The vast majority of our pupils stay in education at a school sixth form or college. We have a very positive relationship with sixth form providers and support pupils in visiting sixth form open evenings.

A number of our pupils are also successful in securing quality apprenticeships and work based learning programmes. Careers Wales oversees the actual destinations of our pupils. In 2015 the destinations of our leavers included: education = 91.3% of pupils; employment = 4.35% of pupils; work based learning = 3.48% of pupils and those unable or not ready to enter employment or education = 0.87% of pupils.









Notes		Ysgol Uwchradd Argoed
		19 Succeeding Together 78



## Ysgol Uwchradd Argoed High School

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