



Ysgol Bryn

Alyn

Prospectus 2019/20

Dream

Reach

Achieve







# Ysgol Bryn Alyn

## Where students realise their dreams

Welcome to Ysgol Bryn Alyn: a school where students are given the tools to achieve their dreams. Students are given a secure, caring and stimulating environment in which to grow and mature intellectually, physically and morally.

Our school enables students of all abilities to flourish and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Our dedicated team of staff work hard to create an inspiring learning environment that encompasses all students and encourages diversity.

Our students are given the opportunities to develop both inside and outside of the classroom through extensive extra-curricular opportunities offered here at Ysgol Bryn Alyn.

Ysgol Bryn Alyn aims to build a community of articulate and resilient learners who are fully prepared for future life.

Success is a journey and not a goal. Welcome to the first step of your journey.



Mrs. Adele Slinn—Headteacher

“You will never find a more caring set of staff”

Year 7 Student

# Ensuring A Smooth Transition

It can be a worrying time moving up from junior school to high school with over 700 students. We aim to make this transition as smooth, exciting and worry free as possible.

Care for our pupils begins in the primary schools. It is very possible that if your son or daughter attends one of our feeder primary schools they will already know quite a bit about Ysgol Bryn Alyn. They may well have met some of our staff and students, or taken part in one of the transition activities we have run.

In addition to this our Year 7 Achievement Coordinator, Mrs L. Jones, visits the primary/junior schools attended by each pupil who will transfer to the school.

This gives Year 6 pupils the opportunity to meet current Ysgol Bryn Alyn pupils and find out more about life at high school. On entry students will be placed in one of 5 tutor groups. We ensure that there is a balance in terms of gender and ability. We also ensure that a number of pupils are placed in each group to make sure every student is with someone they feel comfortable with.

Our annual fun filled taster day for Year 6 pupils ensures all questions are answered and students feel relaxed about the move up to high school. Year 6 students meet their tutors and experience a range of exciting transition activities across a range of curriculum areas. Every new Year 7 student will feel part of our school community by the time the new term begins.

## Our REACH Values

**R**esilience

**E**ffort

**A**spiration

**C**ooperation

**H**onour

“The teachers encourage us to do the best we can”

Year 11 Student







“I like being in the school council because we get a say in what is being done at the school”

Year 8 Student

## Working Together for Success

Our success as a school is based on the development, and subsequent maintenance, of an effective partnership between pupils, their parents and staff.

A number of strategies have been developed to support this partnership of newsletters and regular opportunities for parents to visit the school to fulfil their role as co-educators.

We also place great emphasis on the use of the Personal Organiser, which provides a means of monitoring pupils' progress and communicating with home.

It is important that each pupil feels a sense of belonging. The school is divided into five year groups. Each is led by an Achievement Coordinator who works closely with a team of form tutors to monitor attendance, behaviour and achievement.

A variety of teaching groups are used, but setting is the most frequently employed method. To be truly successful students need to understand their own strengths and weaknesses and how they can improve.

Carefully planned half termly assessments throughout the year allow us to celebrate success and quickly identify when further support is needed.

Our Behaviour Monitoring System allows us to challenge students to be the very best they can be. Their efforts are rewarded in celebration assemblies throughout the year.

All pupils will receive an annual full written report. This report will reflect your son or daughter's attendance, attainment and behaviour. A Parent's Evening is also provided for each year group.



Parents and carers are most welcome to contact the school at any time to arrange an appointment to discuss their son or daughter's progress.

At Ysgol Bryn Alyn we believe that all young people should be involved in their own learning and be engaged in the decision making process of their school and community. Our School Council and numerous other pupil voice activities allow all students to help develop our school into the best it can be.



# Only The Best

Ysgol Bryn Alyn is a co-educational community comprehensive school of over 700 students and teaches through the medium of English.

The school occupies purpose built accommodation with specialist provision for science, design and technology, P.E., music, information technology and modern languages.

Our school canteen offers a vast array of healthy options encouraging students to make lifelong healthy choices. During lunchtime students may choose to eat in our school canteen or to bring a packed lunch and dine in one of our many picnic areas.

The school library aims to provide a comfortable working environment conducive to research, reading and quiet study. The library contains an up to date stock of books to support both curriculum needs and leisure reading. There is also a variety of popular magazines and newspapers.

Pupils can visit the library during morning break and lunchtimes. New Year 7 pupils will be invited to a library induction session at the start of term where they can learn all about their library and what it can offer them. Pupils of all ages are encouraged to join various book clubs, quiz teams and often get to meet with visiting children's authors.

The school has extensive sporting facilities including the Gwyn Evans Sports Hall, swimming pool, gymnasium, rugby and football fields and a floodlit Multi Use Games Area

## Timing of the School Day

Registration	8.40—9.00am
Lesson 1	9.00—10.00am
Lesson 2	10.00—11.00am
Break (20 minutes)	11.00—11.20am
Lesson 3	11.20—12.20pm
Lesson 4	12.20—1.20pm
Lunch (40 minutes)	1.20—2.00pm
Lesson 5	2.00—3.00pm

“I like all lessons because we learn more each day”

Year 10 Student









“I really enjoy the Samba and Keyboard club. It makes Music fun and I’ve



# Extra Curricular Opportunities

Ysgol Bryn Alyn believes in developing the whole child and is committed to providing outstanding extra curricular activities to suit every student.

Our 5x60 Programme allows pupils to see sport beyond the school curriculum and develop not only new skills through other activities but encourages them to take on other roles within sport. Past pupils have developed their leadership skills as well as coaching roles through the opportunity that 5x60 has offered.

Here at Ysgol Bryn Alyn we encourage pupils to take part in competitive team games for example football, rugby, cricket, tennis, rounders and netball. The school also promotes participation in other sporting activities such as gymnastics and athletics. Many of the pupils who compete in these activities have the opportunity to also represent Wrexham, North East Wales and Wales.

Instrumental lessons are delivered by peripatetic staff from Wrexham Music Cooperation and pupils are encouraged to take part in school ensembles. These include choir, a school samba band and drum/guitar and keyboard club. Pupils are also encouraged to take part in school concerts and the annual Eisteddfod.

**Theatre visits to:** Theatr Clwyd, Ellesmere Port Neptune Theatre—Liverpool, Liverpool Playhouse, The Lowry Centre and Manchester Opera House.

**History and Geography Field Trips to:** Bersham Ironworks, Krakow—Poland, Berlin—Germany, Caernarfon Castle, Styal Mill, The Black Country Museum, The Imperial War Museum and Llandudno.

**Outdoor Activities:** Dry Slope Skiing, Football Coaching, Tennis Clinics, Canoeing and Rock Climbing.

**Trips Abroad:** Skiing in Andorra, Linguistic and Cultural Activities in Normandy.

**Language Courses at:** Glanllyn

**Science Visits to:** Dinorwig Power Station, Catalyst at Widnes, London Natural History Museum, Blue Planet Aquarium and Techniquest.

**Art Visits to:** Tate Modern Gallery, Lady Lever Gallery and Chester Zoo.

met loads of friends through it.”

# “There are lots of opportunities to do different courses at GCSE”

Year 10 Student



## More Able and Talented (MAT)

We are very proud of our MAT programme. Ysgol Bryn Alyn works closely with other Wrexham and Flintshire schools, Chester and Glyndwr Universities and other national initiatives (SEREN Project) in delivering a MAT programme which enriches, challenges and supports our more able and talented students as they strive for academic and sporting excellence. Based upon academic data and other related information, we enrol students on a bespoke four year programme which covers logical reasoning and problem solving, effective revision techniques and specific strategies on how to deal with exam stress.

MAT students are given the opportunity to attend subject specific workshops, trips to The Welsh Assembly, Cardiff and other enrichment activities.



# Our Curriculum

A variety of teaching styles are employed at Ysgol Bryn Alyn to get the very best out of every student. The importance and use of personal research is continually underlined to ensure every student acquires the skills to become a lifelong learner.

## Key Stage 3

Year 7, 8 and 9

Students follow the National Curriculum as set out by the Welsh Assembly Government.

### Core Subjects

English, Maths, Science

### Foundation Subjects

Art  
Food and Textiles  
French  
Geography  
Music  
Personal & Social Education  
Welsh

Design Technology  
Technology  
History  
Information Technology  
P.E.  
Religious Education

## Key Stage 4

Year 10 and 11

Students sit examinations at GCSE level.

### Core Subjects

English and English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science  
Welsh  
Religious Education  
P.E. (statutory non-examination)  
Personal and Social Education (incorporating Preparation for Working Life)  
Skills Challenge

### Choices

Optional subjects drawn from:  
Separate Sciences  
Arts: including Art, Music, Media Studies, Drama and Dance.  
ICT: Business Studies  
Humanities: History, Geography and Religious Studies  
Languages: French  
Design Technology: Resistant Materials  
P.E.  
C.O.P.E.  
XL Prince's Trust

## 14—19

A variety of extended choices may be offered in conjunction with Coleg Cambria and other providers.

Performing Arts	Customer Services	Hair and Beauty
Economics	Hospitality/Catering	Engineering
Psychology	Public Services	Construction
Animal Care	Spanish	

# Dream. Reach. Achieve.

## Key Performance Indicators

### Key Stage 3 Outcomes

Subject	Percentage of students achieving level 5 or above
English	96%
Maths	92%
Science	97%
Core Subject Indicator	90.5%

GCSE Subjects	A* - C	A* - G
English Language	56	100
English Literature	56	100
Maths	57	100
Science	57	98
Capped 9	342.6	

It is clear that a good education and excellent qualifications lead to better career choices. For our young people here at Ysgol Bryn Alyn we strive to ensure all of our students have the very best opportunities so they can dream, reach and achieve!

We are particularly proud of the close working relationship that we have with parents here at Ysgol Bryn Alyn. Together as a team, staff, students and parents, we are able to obtain the very best for each and every one of our students.

### Attendance


Good attendance is paramount in order to obtain good results. Ysgol Bryn Alyn expects all pupils to achieve a minimum 95% attendance. Absence is monitored very closely by our Pastoral Team and the Education Social Workers based in school and we operate a first day contact system to ensure parents are kept informed.

As attendance is of such importance to your child's future, holidays are not permitted.

### Record of Achievement

At the end of Year 11 all pupils will receive a document that records their achievements both in and out of school at a celebration assembly on their final day at Ysgol Bryn Alyn. The ROA will include information about their achievements in academic examinations, involvement in school life, out of school interests and activities, personal and social skills and work experience.



A group of five school pupils, three boys and two girls, are standing in a brightly lit hallway with large windows. They are all wearing dark grey school uniforms with yellow piping on the lapels and a school crest on the left chest. They are smiling at the camera. The hallway has a wooden floor and a metal handrail.

Making the right choices about careers is a huge decision. At Ysgol Bryn Alyn we do all we can to help.

Pupils are encouraged to use the website [www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com) to research their career ideas, options and job opportunities. A careers adviser from Careers Wales supports the school's careers curriculum, and every Year 11 pupil is offered an in depth interview to discuss their future. We run a comprehensive careers programme for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 as part of the curriculum. Additionally careers information is also available in the school library.



# Our Welsh Pride

Ysgol Bryn Alyn is extremely proud of our Welsh heritage and we take every opportunity to celebrate our culture.

The Welsh department plays an integral role in school life as well as through its teaching provision, Cwricwlwm Cymreig is evident in all subjects specific Learning Plans.

Our Welsh Culture is celebrated through annual Eisteddfods, regular visits to the Urdd and Glan Ilyn and many other learning experiences throughout the school year.

All students study Welsh culminating in taking a full GCSE course in Key Stage 4.





# Going the Extra Mile

Ysgol Bryn Alyn supports all students to achieve their very best. All students are given the greatest possible access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

We have a strong team of staff who employ a variety of strategies to best suit the needs of each individual student. Individual support will be given where necessary. We work closely with parents to ensure the right strategies are employed. We also work closely with outside agencies to maximise the support available for students.

Students needing support in Literacy and Numeracy are closely monitored and given extra help in small group sessions or small teaching groups. Additional support with reading and or spelling is given via our team of dedicated ANL staff who work with students on a rotating basis.

Religious Education is taught as a separate subject to all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 as part of their National Curriculum. In Years 10 and 11 Religious Studies is offered as an examination subject as well as being taught as a statutory course.

Students engage in Collective Worship through daily form time and weekly whole school and year assemblies. Activities build in time for reflection and are broadly Christian in nature.

Ysgol Bryn Alyn is committed to equality of opportunity for all and seek to ensure that each individual is able to achieve their potential as a student or as an employee. We seek to promote these values to our students in everything we do and ensure that all aspects of the curriculum and administration subscribe to the principle of equal opportunities.

Sex education is taught within a moral framework in the Personal and Social Education course, which is on going from Year 7 to Year 11. The programme is also supported and complimented in subject areas such as Science and Child Development. The school Governing Body has reviewed and approved the school's policy and content of the course.

Sex education forms a compulsory part of the curriculum for all students but any parent wishing to withdraw their child from this 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.

“It is a very encouraging school that supports you to do well”

Year 11 Student

# The Next Step

So what happens next? Students in their final year of primary school will receive a 'Parental Preference Form' from the Local Authority. If you feel Ysgol Bryn Alyn is the place for your child please indicate it as your first choice of secondary school on this form.

Responsibility for school transport lies with the Local Authority. Transport will be provided for students where Ysgol Bryn Alyn is the nearest school to the home address, but only if the home address is more than 3 miles from the school (measured along the shortest possible route).

We work closely with all our partnership primary schools to ensure we get to know each and every student before they start with us in Year 7. Students are invited to join us for a transition day in the Summer term and further information is provided for parents in an evening in July. Parents are welcome to visit the school at other times but are kindly requested to make an appointment.

## Safeguarding

Ysgol Bryn Alyn aims to create a safe, happy and healthy environment for all of its staff and students. We have numerous policies in place to support this which follow current national legislation. Copies of these policies are available from the school on request.

## Concerns and Complaints

Most issues can be resolved by contacting your child's Achievement Coordinator who will liaise with the Headteacher if necessary. If you have any further concerns or would like to make a complaint, please don't hesitate to contact the Headteacher. Our complaints procedures can be found on our school website.

“I am so glad I decided to come to Ysgol Bryn Alyn. I have had the best time here” Year 7 Student



# Prefects



From September 2018, the school introduced a Prefect system to enable our KS4 pupils to develop life skills such as leadership and responsibility, as well as develop their sense of being part of the community and significantly contribute to school life. We believe that children need to experience duties and responsibilities that come with being a member of a community in order to help them prepare to play an active role as citizens. Our prefects are expected to establish and maintain the highest standards of behaviour, attitude and appearance at all times and provide a positive role model for other pupils. They are appointed each year to undertake various roles and responsibilities around the school including playing an integral part in our Governing Body and leading the school council. Our Prefects will exhibit the personal qualities that we, as a school, value including self-discipline, leadership skills, communication skills, public speaking, politeness, helpfulness, respect and care for others. They are reliable and responsible members of the school's community and consistently reflect our REACH values. Our prefect's role can be varied and to be awarded a school prefect badge and tie is considered to be a real privilege.





Ysgol Bryn Alyn

## Contact Details

Headteacher: Mrs. A. Slinn

Chair of Governors email: [ChairOfGovernorsC5@Hwbcmru.net](mailto:ChairOfGovernorsC5@Hwbcmru.net)

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