

EVERY SCHOOL WORKS
HARD TO BE THE BEST
THEY CAN BE, BUT AT
RYDAL PENRHOS WE GO
ONE STEP FURTHER: WE
WORK HARD TO MAKE
SURE THAT EVERY PUPIL IS
THE BEST THEY CAN BE.

Rydal Penrhos School
Pwllycrochan Avenue, Colwyn Bay
Conwy LL29 7BT
United Kingdom

01492 530155



rydalpenrhos.com



RYDAL PENRHOS
SCHOOL

RYDAL PENRHOS IS A SCHOOL
OF WHICH WE ARE IMMENSELY
PROUD; OUR PUPILS ARE
ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTFUL,
AND THEY ARE ABLY AND
ENTHUSIASTICALLY
SUPPORTED BY A TALENTED
AND COMMITTED STAFF.

MR JOHN WASZEK, PRINCIPAL



Independent School
Colwyn Bay, Wales

Welcome to our School

Rydal Penrhos is a leading independent school based in North Wales, dedicated to providing exceptional opportunities to both boys and girls, ages 2 to 18.


Located between the sea and the mountains, we provide a safe yet exhilarating educational environment.

We want our pupils to thrive, inside and outside the classroom.

All of our pupils are given the support and encouragement they need to fulfil their academic potential, whatever their ability. We also encourage our pupils to try a range of extracurricular activities and sports, helping them to learn more about themselves and their passions. Excellent pastoral care and an inclusive school culture mean that no pupil is left out, or left behind.

At Rydal Penrhos, every pupil counts: smaller classes, excellent teaching and a variety of activities ensure that learning is dynamic, individualised and pupil-centric.

We want our children and young people to be confident, kind, resilient and curious. We want them to be capable of handling whatever challenges life throws at them. **We want them to come into school fresh each day, happy to be there and happy to learn.**

Rydal Penrhos is a school that parents can send their children to with confidence: assured that we will take the greatest care over each pupil's physical and emotional safety, and **certain that they could not have made a better investment in their child's future.** 





 RYDAL PENRHOS SCHOOL

‘WITH THE RIGHT STANDPOINT,
IT IS POSSIBLE TO MOVE THE
EARTH.’


For more than 140 years, Rydal Penrhos has been located on the leafy outskirts of the town of Colwyn Bay. Nestled between Snowdonia National Park and the Irish Sea, this is a truly beautiful and unique corner of the country.

Complete with castles, mountains, lakes and forests; it is the perfect setting for the growth and development of our pupils. We make the most of these wonderful surroundings within the academic curriculum through field work, history trips, the coastal school and the forest school, or visits to our great local theatres...

**‘WHEN ONE TUGS AT A
SINGLE THING IN NATURE,
HE FINDS IT ATTACHED TO
THE REST OF THE WORLD.’**

JOHN MUIR

The Welsh countryside lends itself to a wealth of extra-curricular outdoor activities, too. From sailing to rock-climbing to orienteering to gorge walking, Rydal Penrhos provides a wide variety of activities, so that our pupils get the chance to discover what they really enjoy and who they really are.

Now more than ever, we believe that young people should be in touch with the natural world. Going into the mountains on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition, or braving the seas on a kayak or sail boat, are once-in-a-lifetime, character-building experiences; experiences that all young people should have a chance to enjoy. 






‘OUR INTENTIONS: CREATING HAPPY, CONFIDENT AND RESILIENT PEOPLE.’

It is hard to imagine a more joyful place to begin a lifetime of education than Rydal Penrhos.

The learning process begins at the moment our pupils walk through the door: at the start of the day, assembly is held, bringing together every member of the school community, embracing our similarities and dissimilarities equally; at the end of the day, a whole host of extra-curricular activities begin, all of which mean adventure and learning outside the classroom.

Rydal Penrhos is guided by the Christian Methodist Foundation, which means that we value every member of our inclusive community for the unique contribution they bring to the school. We hope to provide a safe – almost familial – environment for all of our children. **Learners learn best when they feel accepted, acknowledged and understood.**

When a pupil leaves Rydal Penrhos, we know that they take with them the skills they need to succeed; they are considerate, articulate and knowledgeable about their world. 



OUR INTENTIONS: CREATING
WELL EDUCATED PEOPLE

At Rydal Penrhos, we see each pupil as an individual, with their own individual passions and challenges, and we treat them accordingly. To this end, we identify each pupil's particular strengths and talents, and wholeheartedly support their development.


Effective learning comes from open minds, a willingness to share, good discussions and great communication. As they progress through the school, our pupils are challenged academically as far as possible – they are encouraged to pursue the subjects that interest them as they make new discoveries, both inside and outside the classroom.

We keep our class sizes small, our teacher-to-pupil ratio high, and our curriculum broad.

‘MY CHILD IS MAKING EXCELLENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND I AM DELIGHTED BY THE WAY THE TEACHERS GET THE BEST OUT OF HIM. I CANNOT FAULT THE ACADEMIC PROVISION AT RYDAL PENRHOS.’

RYDAL PENRHOS PARENT

Learning how to learn is a skill we teach from the outset. It is surprising how quickly our pupils become independent and organised individuals. This is a valuable skill for life and puts our pupils in a league of their own.

A great education is about lighting a fire, not filling a bucket: we want to inspire our pupils, encourage their interests, and give them the confidence and the ability to go out into the world and carve a path for themselves... 





HOW WE DO IT: FROM LEARNING TO READ TO GCSEs

From as early as two, our children begin to learn the basics: how to read, write and work with numbers. But this more traditional classroom education is extended and enhanced by the use of the wider school facilities for dancing, music, P.E. and swimming, as well as exploring the forest and the coast.


From the ages of four to eleven (Reception to Year 6) our pupils are taught with a blend of elements from the Welsh Foundation Phase Curriculum and the English National Curriculum. This combination allows for **a high quality academic education enhanced by a strong sense of independence and self-belief**, alongside the ability to work as part of a group. Pupils have an established Form Tutor but are also taught by subject specialists for Music, Religious Studies, Art, Welsh and Spanish. Within the timetable, pupils take part in weekly swimming lessons as well as gymnastics, dance and a wide range of outdoor team and individual sports; from the age of seven all pupils begin sailing lessons at our own sailing centre.

This broad and varied curriculum is varied further as pupils transfer seamlessly into Year 7. They will begin timetabled Drama, Food & Nutrition and Outdoor Education amongst other regular new areas of study. Many new pupils join the school in Year 7, the traditional starting year for Secondary Education. Pupils will start to experience more independence as they move around the school grounds to their next lesson and continue to take on more responsibility for their own learning and organisation. Learning to pack your bag for the correct combination of lessons and after school activities can be a challenge initially but the pastoral staff team is always on hand to help!

Therefore, we choose to have teachers who are specialists in this transitional phase to be our Year 7 form tutors. Teachers who can be empathetic and caring, but who will also give our children the tools and knowledge they need to adapt and succeed. We believe in:

'PREPARING THE CHILD FOR THE ROAD, NOT THE ROAD FOR THE CHILD.'

We want our children to have been exposed to a broad range of subjects before they make their GCSE choices. Not only will this enable them to make an informed choice at GCSEs, it will also open their minds and help them discover what they are passionate about.

Having a consistent marking and assessment process during studies enables our staff to identify areas of improvement and the strength of a pupil. This allows us to form a study plan to enhance their progression academically, which is a proven method of improving results. 

HOW WE DO IT: GCSEs AND A-LEVELS

The core curriculum allows for eight GCSEs and most pupils will extend this to eleven GCSEs by taking additional Maths, English Literature and Triple Award Science.

For A-Levels, we have developed a rigorous timetable to maximise teaching time during this enormously important period of our pupil's lives. We also support pupils that want to pursue Cambridge Technical courses, as well as the Extended Project Qualification and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

From Year 11 onwards, **we encourage our pupils to think about what they want to achieve in higher education and the world beyond.** The choice of subjects is the first, and perhaps most important, step on this road. We want our students to gain access to the university and the course of their choice, but we also want our students to pick subjects that they enjoy.

At Rydal Penrhos, we are focused on great teaching, thorough marking, and excellent feedback. Our studies accommodate Welsh as both a first and second language.

'LESSONS ARE GIVEN TO US IN A WAY THAT IS INTERESTING, UNDERSTANDABLE AND CHALLENGING AT THE SAME TIME.'

KEIRA - CURRENT PUPIL

Expert university guidance and career advice is made freely available to our pupils, which includes frequent visits to universities, informative lectures and career fairs. Furthermore, each day after school, Year 12 and Year 13 pupils will have the opportunity to attend academic clinics for 'support' or 'extension work' dependent on the pupil's needs.

Both at GCSE and A-Level, we want our pupils to succeed, but we also want them to be happy and secure – the environment at Rydal Penrhos ensures that they will do both. 🐉





HOW WE DO IT: ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

At Rydal Penrhos, we offer a pupil-centred learning environment. Throughout their school lives, our pupils will be taught by inspired, highly motivated members of staff, in classes that are small enough for every child to receive the individual attention they need and deserve.

CHILDREN THAT ARE WELL SUPPORTED ARE CHILDREN THAT WILL THRIVE IN THEIR SCHOOL LIVES.


We have made provision both for those pupils that have been identified with learning needs and those pupils that are exceptionally gifted and talented. Specialised programmes are available to both of these groups, giving them help and guidance beyond the typical curriculum.

We offer wraparound care and holiday clubs, so that there is always some support for our valued parents and carers.

We are known for our exemplary standards of care and the consistent attention we pay to the academic education and emotional health of all of our children and young people.

Our whole system is constructed to support our pupils: from their form tutors to their heads of key stage, from the chaplain to the pupil liaison officer, each and every member of our staff is dedicated to our ethos of care and well-being. 🐉





HOW WE DO IT: IT'S ALL ABOUT
TRYING NEW THINGS

HOW WE DO IT: IT'S ALL ABOUT TRYING NEW THINGS

From our youngest pupils to our young men and women, every member of the Rydal Penrhos community has access to a wide range of activities: from sport to the performing arts to a variety of fun excursions. We want our pupils to find their passion and to carry that passion into later life...

Within the curriculum, our pupils will have a chance to try out sailing, windsurfing, skiing, climbing, golf, rugby, tennis and so much more...

A comprehensive outdoor education provision is also built into our timetable, enabling our young people to embrace nature, learn resilience and life skills. Our combined cadet force teaches team work, leadership and confidence.

‘THE SCHOOL’S...EXTENSIVE EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME, MAKES A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO PUPILS’ PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.’

ESTYN - HER MAJESTY’S CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN WALES.

With more than forty extra-curricular activities on offer, we pride ourselves on providing a fuller, more interesting and more inspiring school day. 🐉





HOW WE DO IT: THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Historically Rydal Penrhos has been a vibrant and diverse school, committed to principles of inclusion and fair play.


An incredibly caring Methodist community underpins our philosophy, though our staff and pupils are drawn from all faiths and walks of life. We are guided by an ethos of tolerance and forgiveness, which lays out clear rules and boundaries for work and life, and which tells our pupils and staff to **‘do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can.’** John Wesley.

All of our pupils are encouraged to look out for one another, and to accept each other into the school community: our Year 9s and Sixth Formers peer mentor newer arrivals; a buddy system is in place from reception all the way to Year 13. We are welcoming to parents and carers – who, it must not be forgotten, are important parts of the school.

‘THEY HAVE BEEN IN RYDAL PENRHOS SINCE EARLY YEARS AND THE SCHOOL HAS BECOME THEIR SECOND HOME AND EXTENDED FAMILY. WHILST THE KIDS HAVE HAD MANY AMAZING EXPERIENCES ALL THE WAY THROUGH SCHOOL AND LOVED EVERY MOMENT OF IT, AS PARENTS, WE TOO CAN HONESTLY SAY WE HAVE ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE JUST AS MUCH.’

CURRENT SCHOOL PARENT

The school has a strong community spirit, we assemble together, eat together, take part in sports together, and together we share a well-rounded education.

We want our pupils to leave us, not only as excellent learners, but as caring and courageous members of society. 



HOW WE DO IT: FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

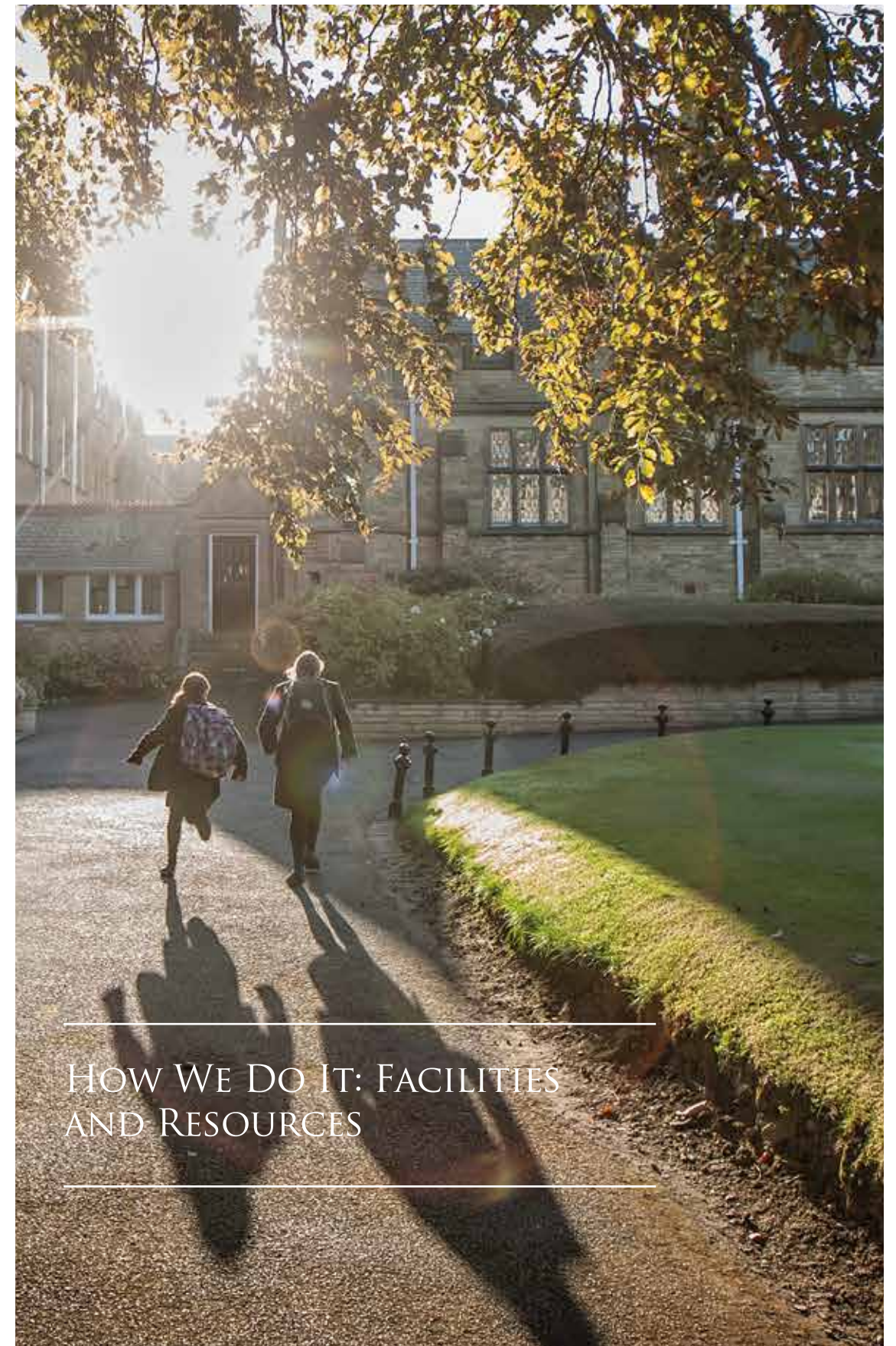
We are fortunate enough to have extensive facilities to support the full extent of our academic and sporting curricula.

Throughout the week, pupils can be seen on our extensive playing fields and astroturf, in our indoor swimming pool, sports hall with gym, squash and tennis courts, as well as at the Rydal Penrhos RYA sailing centre. All of our pupils have access to a wide range of team sports, activities and individual pursuits.

Our spectacular location also means that pupils can take part in a variety of fun and enriching activities off campus, such as rock-climbing, river and sea kayaking, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and more!

Rydal Penrhos also possesses a number of well stocked libraries and a wealth of superb resources for the classroom. We have worked hard to make sure that the school provides its pupils with all the tools to succeed.

And, speaking of tools, we have an excellent Design and Technology suite, as well as fully-equipped science labs, the Food and Nutrition kitchens, music rooms and – of course – the Rick Maple Drama Studio.





HOW WE DO IT: WINS AND
LOSSES, AND DEALING WITH
BOTH

HOW WE DO IT: WINS AND LOSSES, AND DEALING WITH BOTH.


Leadership, courage, sportsmanship and team spirit – these are central to our sporting ethos, a set of lifelong skills that our pupils should learn, regardless of the ability.

Nevertheless, we are proud of our long and storied sporting tradition. It is a tradition that reveals an impressive record of achievement, both among our pupils and alumni. Many of our pupils have gone on to play for national and international teams.

Our school sports include traditional team games such as rugby, field hockey, netball and cricket. We have also seen great success in water sports, tennis and Eton Fives. Pupils regularly participate in sporting fixtures against teams from other schools, which fosters an appreciation of the rewards of fair play and healthy competition.

‘OUR SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN GET TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF PARTICIPATION, THE DELIGHT OF WINNING AND THE FAR SUPERIOR DELIGHT OF MATCH TEAS!’

The overall goal of our sporting programme is to reinforce the sense of school community, to demonstrate to our pupils that their participation matters, and to teach lessons about teamwork and physical health that will last a lifetime.

So, whilst our pupils succeed in county, regional and national competitions, they also take part in inter-house tournaments and sponsored events that support local and national charities. 





IMPACT: RESULTS DAY

Year after year, our pupils see outstanding academic success, earning excellent examination results and securing admissions to the UK's top universities. Almost all Rydal Penrhos pupils proceed to higher education and most secure their first choice of university, either immediately after they leave school, or after a gap year. We pride ourselves on providing close and expert support throughout the UCAS application process, which enables pupils to focus on their A-levels, making sure they never find their exciting first steps towards life beyond school a burden.

Each year several of our pupils are offered places at Oxford or Cambridge and many offers are received from Russell Group universities. In recent years Durham has proved a very popular choice, as has London University with pupils going to Kings, Goldsmiths and LSE.

We also support pupils in their applications to universities overseas and, in recent years, have had a number of pupils head on to MIT, West Virginia and Dartmouth, along with universities in Thailand, China and Europe.

However, whilst we measure our success in part by our results, **we also want to emphasise and celebrate the gains our pupils make in leadership skills, self-motivation and compassion for others.** These are an important part of the Rydal Penrhos experience.

Our pupils are encouraged to be ambitious and industrious at every stage of their school career. They work hard to represent the school as impeccable ambassadors, giving back to the school and the wider community their energy and enthusiasm.

And whilst our curriculum is as challenging as it is broad, we seek to deliver teaching that is supportive, understanding and tailored to each pupil – you only need to look at our examination results to know that this approach works!

'THE SCHOOL TAUGHT ME TO DEVELOP A WORK ETHIC, APPROACH THINGS WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND BECOME A SUCCESSFUL PUPIL. I WAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED IN MY FAVOURITE SUBJECTS, AND AS A RESULT I AM NOW HIGHLY MOTIVATED TO START STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY.'

RICHARD WOLFENDALE (HEAD BOY 2020/21)

4 A* grades - Geography, Maths, Music, Physics - A* grade in Extended Project Qualification

Durham University (1st choice) – Physics

IMPACT: THE GREATEST OAKS HAVE BEEN LITTLE ACORNS

At Rydal Penrhos, and other education establishments across the country, 'value added' statistics are produced and monitored, to determine just how well pupils are doing academically. A school 'adds value' by significantly influencing a child's performance – through high standards of teaching – thus helping them to attain grades that were far better than expected.

The value-added outcome at Rydal Penrhos is nothing short of outstanding. Through a combination of small classes, high teacher-to-pupil ratios and student-centred teaching and learning, we help our pupils to thrive.

An example of this can be seen in a recent cohort of A-Level pupils at the school: these young people, who already achieved excellent GCSE grades, went on to increase their 'value added' score by a further 0.5 at A-Level. This means that, in a class of 51 Year 13 pupils, 100 additional 'A' grades were attained. An incredible testament to the success of our system.

'THIS IS A SCHOOL WHERE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IS PART OF THE CULTURE...'

THE GOOD SCHOOL GUIDE

Our entry process is non-selective, but our academic achievement is high. With the right tools and the right help, we believe that every pupil can succeed to the best of their ability.

In the end, **we judge ourselves on our ability to support and nurture our pupils:** we love to see our young people exceed expectations and maximise their potential... 



IMPACT: ONWARDS AND UPWARDS


The prospect of leaving school can be as daunting as it is exciting. Years 12 and 13 are a transitional stage – they are not the compulsory classes and tight structure of earlier years, nor are they yet the total independence of university life.

To make this transitional period as enjoyable and rewarding as possible for our pupils, we offer our Year 12 and Year 13 pupils a dedicated student centre with extensive facilities, including areas for studying and socialising. Working and relaxing in the Ferguson Centre will not only foster a new ethos of independence in our pupils, it will also help to inculcate the strong sense of community amongst the Sixth Form.

We offer a wide-ranging academic programme of A-Levels and Cambridge Technicals, designed to accommodate all levels of ability and all kinds of aspiration.

Experienced and dedicated academic staff and tutors are there to guide each pupil through this higher level of learning and to help them with their university and career choices.

Progress in Year 12 and Year 13 is measured by public exam results, however we also recognise the importance of developing the qualities of **leadership, self-reliance and self-motivation**. We want to ensure that all of our pupils are ready for life after school: we strive to help them find success, whether that is in higher education, apprenticeships, gap years, the armed services, or the world of work.

A young person will leave Rydal Penrhos with a **strong sense of self, a wide range of passions, and a perspective that will guide them in the years to come...** 



THE ALUMNI

Our network of alumni includes more than 3500 active members. These Old Boys and Girls continue to play an important part in the school community, supporting us both financially and with their time.

Our commitment to a caring educational community does not end when pupils leave the school. We maintain strong ties with all of our pupils, and continue to provide support.

At Rydal Penrhos, pupils share not only lessons, but experiences and hobbies and activities in a tightly-knit familial environment. The alumni society is dedicated, in part, to ensuring these links of friendship last. Alumni keep in touch and work together to support the school's interests; and they attend reunion dinners, alumni sports matches and volunteer their help at school events. Friends made at the school are friendships that will last for life...

The influence of Rydal Penrhos is like the writing that threads its way through the centre of a stick of rock: wherever our students are in life, wherever they are in the world, whatever challenges they face and overcome, the Rydal Penrhos spirit will run through their heart and give them the confidence, resilience and kindness they need to succeed.

'THE SCHOOL CAN BEST BE JUDGED BY MEETING OUR PUPILS, WHO ARE INVARIABLY WELL-MANNERED, KIND, RESPECTFUL, WELL-EDUCATED, HARD-WORKING, EXCELLENT COMPANY AND GOOD FUN. WE WARMLY INVITE YOU TO SEE FOR YOURSELF.'

JOHN WASZEK

PRINCIPAL



Independent School
Colwyn Bay, Wales
Pwllcrochan Avenue, Conwy, LL29 7BT
01492 530155