



# Ysgol Clywedog

## PROSPECTUS 2023



It is my privilege to be the Headteacher of this caring and ambitious school and it is a responsibility I fully embrace. As a parent or carer of a child, choosing a secondary school is one of the most important decisions you will make. You can be assured that your child will feel safe, secure and confident enough to access a wide range of opportunities and experiences offered at Ysgol Clywedog.

Dedicated staff at all levels of the school ensure that every student, regardless of background, need or circumstance is thought about and cared for. We also ensure that every student is stretched to meet their full academic potential.

Education is most successful when parents are involved in their child's learning and so our approach at Ysgol Clywedog is founded on the important relationship between you as parents, teachers and other adults at the school and your child. We will, therefore, work closely with you to ensure your child achieves and becomes the very best they can be.

As an inclusive school, we embrace all students for their unique talents, dispositions, beliefs and backgrounds whilst fostering tolerance, understanding and respect. Academically and socially, Ysgol Clywedog students will develop the skills and intelligence required to succeed in a challenging modern world.

I know that with excellent teaching, a well disciplined environment and a structured system of guidance and support our students will develop into young capable people, well prepared for adult life, family life, careers and the world of work.

I invite you to see for yourself and very much look forward to meeting you.

Mr A Otero  
Headteacher





The movement from primary to secondary school is naturally an anxious time for children and their parents. At Ysgol Clywedog, we recognise this and realise the importance of working with you to make this change as smooth as possible.

To do this, we work closely with primary schools. Every child will be visited at their school and they will also be invited to exciting Induction Days in the summer term. This will allow us to get to know each student at a personal level, recognise their strengths and areas for development and fully plan for their needs in readiness for September.

Our strong ethos of care, support and guidance will ensure that from the start no child will be left behind.

### **Our School Motto is :**

“Be the best you can be”

### **Our Values are :**

“Ready, Respectful, Responsible”

At Ysgol Clywedog, these mean:

#### **Ready**

To be well rested, dressed smartly, equipped to learn, with a positive attitude to succeed and achieve

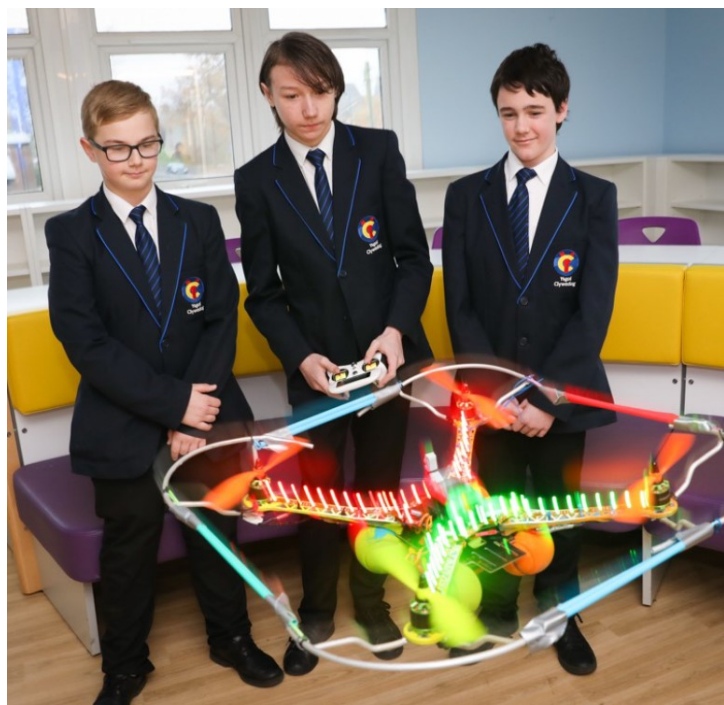
#### **Respectful**

To respect oneself and others, supporting the school and each other, being kind and thoughtful

#### **Responsible**

To value education, follow sensible rules that are in everyone's interests, take opportunities when they come, being safe at all times





We fully support and are excited about implementing the new ambitious *Curriculum for Wales*. All our young people will be supported to develop as:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead

**In Key Stage 3** (Years 7, 8 and 9). Our teachers develop and deliver lessons linked to rich questions, challenging problems and engaging themes. This enables students to connect their learning between different subjects in order to deepen their understanding and accelerate their progress. We also place Literacy, the ability to read, write and communicate orally, at the heart of all our lessons.

**In Key Stage 4** (Years 10 and 11). In Year 9, students will select courses which are relevant to their own interests and aspirations. In Year 10, they embark on personalised qualification pathways which offer academic, vocational and work-related opportunities in a blend which is appropriate to their needs.







Your child can expect high quality inclusive teaching every day in lessons. At Ysgol Clywedog, teaching is based on clear objectives being shared with students, new vocabulary carefully explained, lively and interactive teaching styles used and marking of work which gives clear guidance and helps your child to improve.

Our teachers work closely together to ensure there is a rich and varied collection of speaking, reading and writing opportunities that are linked to exciting themes, real world problems and genuine audiences which enables students to hone their skills and demonstrate their learning.

Students will have personal targets to achieve in each subject at a level that challenges them towards academic excellence and their progress towards those targets is monitored closely as they move through the school. If students fall behind, timely intervention and support will be provided. As parents, you will regularly receive reports on the progress your child is making throughout the year.

Homework is also an important part of the learning process. Therefore we encourage, challenge and support students to fully engage in homework which teachers set regularly. Homework is set in a variety of ways and offers students the opportunity to consolidate learning in the classroom and use new technology to present their work. We aim to make homework both enjoyable and rewarding.

Form time lessons, at the start of the school day, are used to support individuals through their learning and development. Form time is also used to increase students' understanding of wider social issues to enable them to develop personal learning, thinking and teamwork skills.



The importance of subjects like English, Welsh, French, Geography, History and RE cannot be underestimated. Excellent use of the English language is key to success across all subjects but we also aim for every student to leave Ysgol Clywedog able to read, write, speak and listen in Welsh and French to a high standard too. These subjects are passionate about the power that the spoken and written word has in influencing thoughts, values and people in society. To this end, we stretch our students not only to be correct in the use of language, but to also be creative and inspiring in their communication.



Together, these subjects provide deep understanding of events past and present, how religious thinking shapes people's views and attitudes towards the world we live in and how people respond to contemporary issues such as economic change, migration, religious conflict and sustainability.



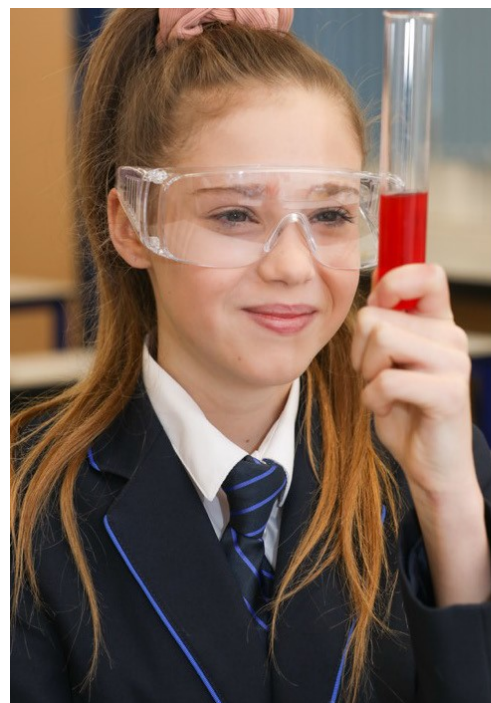
Through the joy of discovering the richness of language and the world around them, students become more able to express their own thoughts and opinions. In this way, they develop into global citizens of tomorrow. These subjects enrich their curricula through memorable school visits, including theatre trips, author visits, geography field trips, visiting places of worship and places of historical interest to name but a few.



These subjects have the capacity to bring awe and wonder into the classroom. Exploring how the physical world works, how to represent it and harness its resources creatively and responsibly is at the heart of these subjects. Together, they support the discovery of principles that govern the world around us; whether that be the workings of a cell, the cosmos or the intricate patterns and beauty of mathematical sequences. When we add the practical application of these ideas through the study of computing, ICT and design technology, then all our students are able to better understand how things work and how quality artefacts are produced. The national shortage of UK engineers for example, makes these subjects bridges to some of the most lucrative and rewarding careers.

High levels of scientific and mathematical knowledge and thinking and an excellent grounding in design, information and production principles developed through real life scenarios in the classroom is what the UK economy depends on highly as well as the skill to work collaboratively to solve challenging problems.

We also look to establish partnerships with notable companies to bring their expertise, industry standard resources and support into the school or alternatively through school visits to them. We also look to give our students the opportunity to enter a range of local and national competitions so they can give of their best and compete with the best.

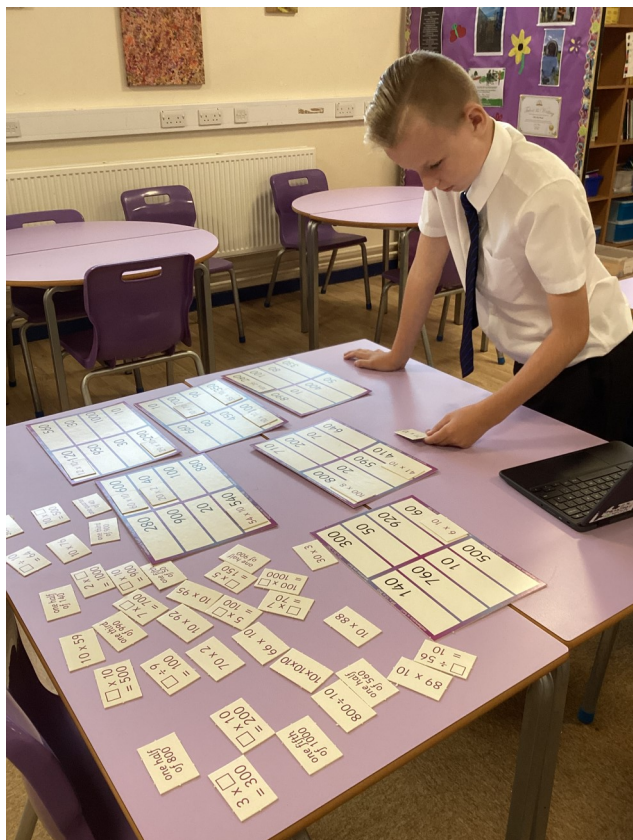




Our aim is the identification of a pupil's individual needs and the provision of appropriate programmes of study, in a supportive and caring environment. Ysgol Clywedog operates a 'whole school' approach to pupils with additional needs; therefore, all pupils are the responsibility of all staff and are fully integrated into the school community. Each department will provide differentiated activities to cater for the individual needs of the child.

It is hoped that through a whole school approach, we will be able to identify pupils of all abilities who need additional support, in order to help them achieve their full potential and gain the maximum benefit from their time at Ysgol Clywedog.

We follow the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales (2021) with regards to students with barriers to learning. We are committed to providing the best provision possible within the constraints of an affordable level of resources.







Art, music, drama, physical education, business studies, health and social care and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) complete our curriculum vision at Ysgol Clywedog. These subjects play an important role because we recognise what they offer the mind, body and soul. We are also committed to the opportunities they provide for young people to discover, grow and develop lifelong talents.

Together, these subjects are best placed to enable students to be confident and resilient by:

- Being able to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas artistically, often bravely in front of audiences
- Competing against others, and more importantly against themselves, in a range of sports and activities, challenging their limits and improving their health now and into the future
- Developing business and entrepreneurial acumen which are important to commercial life
- Understanding and appreciating the skills and attributes required to be thoughtful and caring towards others, and the many careers available to achieve this in society
- Developing self assuredness, resilience, the ability to make good decisions under pressure and staying safe and healthy





Every child matters at Ysgol Clywedog. If students are happy, safe and understand where to go for help, success will never be far away. Our pastoral care system is inclusive and well coordinated to ensure students needs are met and the development is fully supported.

Each child will belong to a tutor group, have a dedicated tutor to be greeted by every morning and who will foster a supportive family atmosphere where students help and support each other.

Each year group is ably led by a Head of Year and an Assistant Head of Year, who work closely together with the tutors. Each day begins with registration and form time which involve a range of activities which, not only set them up for the day ahead, but develop skills not normally found in traditional subjects.

To further motivate our students to be the best they can be, students are rewarded for a range of positive behaviours such as good attendance, effort, resilience, community involvement as well as meeting or exceeding their academic targets. Our philosophy is very much "Catch them being good!"

However, there are occasions when clear sanctions are applied to allow students time and space to reflect on inappropriate behaviour. As a school built on restorative principles, all sanctions are followed up robustly but with reflective discussions that encourage students to learn from their errors and make better decisions in future.







Our curriculum at Ysgol Clywedog consists of far more than the lessons students enjoy every day. Clubs and activities make up the extra curricular programme that plays an important part in the education of young people. Our students have access to a wide range of provision which includes subject-based clubs, sports and activities, including local and regional matches and competitions. We encourage as many students as possible to take part in the programme and to share in the success that these activities provide.

The Ysgol Clywedog Eco-Taskforce, started in 2019 by students of the school, aims to impact and improve the local and global environment. The group have so far planted over 250 native and rare breed trees, created an allotment providing fruit and vegetables for families that need help, worked with schools in Lebanon and Melilla to make educational videos and presented to the British Council and a TEDx talk. Some members of the group even travelled to Tanzania to help build schools and work on a Coral Reef restoration project. The group recently took delivery of a new apiary and will be collecting their first local honey this year.

In addition to this, teachers from every subject plan a variety of visits to places that will interest, enrich and consolidate valuable learning. Not only do our students enjoy these experiences, it also shows in their academic achievement.





Our school is set in beautiful grounds in plain view of the wonderful backdrop of the Clywydian range. Blessed with an abundance of green space, sporting facilities and major ICT infrastructure we are able to offer a modern environment in which students can learn, develop and flourish.

The school is proud to offer facilities to develop talents in Art, Music, Drama and Sport, including a full Football Association sized 4G pitch. We are also fortunate to have a leisure centre and a 25m heated swimming pool which is used extensively during the school day but also for the community in the evenings.







## OUR ADMISSIONS PROCESS

To apply for a place here at Ysgol Clywedog please visit :

<https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/service/school-admissions/secondary-admissions>

**If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school :**

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