



Ysgol  
**Bryn Elia**  
High School

Prospectus

2023/24



# Achievement for All Llwyddiant i Bawb

**Headteacher / Pennaeth:** Mrs L. Hastings  
Chair of Governors: Mr. P. Capper

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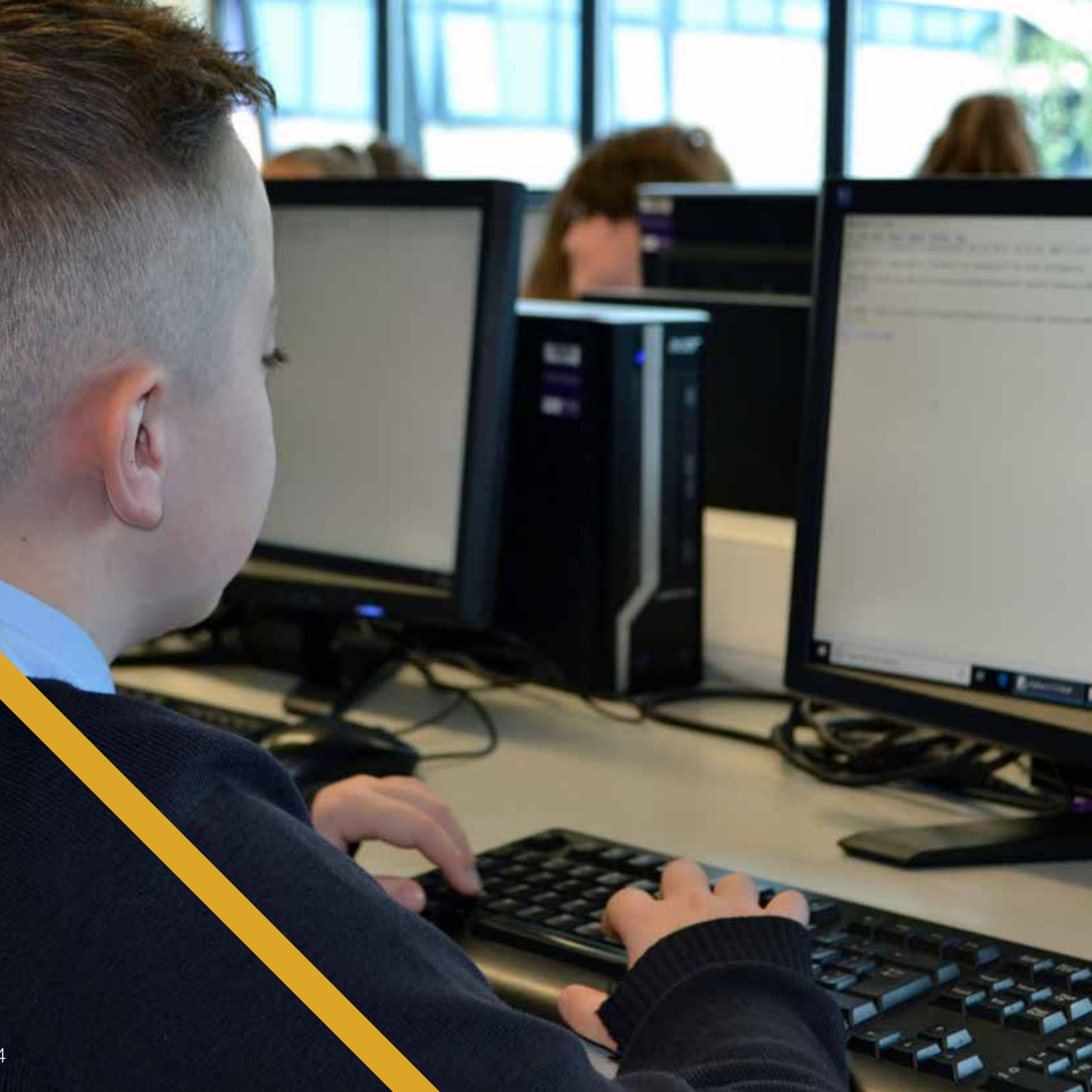
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# Croeso y Pennaeth Headteacher's Welcome

Achievement for All  
Llwyddiant i Bawb

On behalf of all the staff, pupils and governors of Ysgol Bryn Elan I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all. Here in Bryn Elan, we offer a purposeful and caring environment where we pride ourselves on the high quality of teaching, support and guidance offered to all our students.

We are a well-ordered, successful and happy foundation school, located on a spacious site with excellent facilities. The school's beautiful coastal location provides a quiet and attractive setting for the students to enjoy the full range of our amenities.

We have long been recognised for the care and individual attention given to our children. Having just over 1000 pupils across the age range of 11 to 18, we are a medium sized comprehensive school in comparison to some other secondary schools, which gives us the advantage of knowing our children well and being able to help them become successful members of this and the wider community. Our children talk fondly of the teachers here and the quality of care that they receive. They have a real sense of pride in being associated with Bryn Elan because we all see ourselves as a family school.

At Bryn Elan we strive to meet the individual needs of all our students. To that end we have a well established mentoring programme where your child can discuss his or her progress with a member of staff and realistic targets for achievement are set. Our mission statement "Achievement for All" really underlines our core purpose: to provide your child with a well rounded, support-ive education.

Here at Ysgol Bryn Elan we have very high expectations of our pupils both in terms of their academic achievement and their behaviour, we have our jointly constructed values which represent our core purpose.

Our curriculum covers the traditional range of subjects as well as having a deserved reputation for innovative curricular design including Cymru a Fi. We value extra-curricular activities including various clubs and sports, as well as a thriving Eisteddfod and a very well established Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Our theatre productions are excellent and sporting successes numerous.

Communication and partnership are vital to the success of our pupils and we will endeavour always to work closely with you for the good of your child. We believe that through partnership with you, your child and our staff, your children will be happy and successful while here at Bryn Elan.

The current Chair of Governors, Mr. P. Capper leads the Board of Governors, which takes a keen interest in the running of the school. Working as a co-operative team in conjunction with the school's staff, they contribute greatly in time, energy and commitment. Further information about our extensive range of Sixth Form courses is available in a separate prospectus and we would be delighted to have the opportunity to show you our school.

Mrs L Hastings  
Headteacher





## Why Bryn Elan?

Bryn Elan is a happy and successful English medium school with excellent teaching and support. We provide a well ordered learning environment, offering a range of extra-curricular activities and our facilities are first class, including a brand new 3G pitch, MUGA and outdoor gym. Our students are fully partners in learning. We are committed to developing lifelong learning habits in our pupils in order to enable them to be successful and ambitious individuals, who have a keen sense of their place in the world as healthy, confident people. Our core purpose is to provide our learners with opportunities and choices when they leave us, allowing them to contribute to our community.

Our pupils' wellbeing is paramount to us, and we are proud of the involvement and interest our pupils show in the school as a community, and their excellent attitudes towards each other. We are a school of high aspirations for all; our motto is in evidence in all we do around the school every day: 'Achievement for All.'







# Our Curriculum

# Our aims

We aim to continuously develop the school curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils regardless of ability, aptitude or gender. Whilst we are an English medium school, we fully embrace Welsh cultural influences throughout the school; encourage global awareness in pupils and continue to improve literacy, numeracy and digital competency skills.

Our pupils are placed in form groups from the start of Year 7 after detailed and careful consultation with our primary colleagues. Guidance is under the care of a Learning Manager for each Year group and over seen by the Assistant Head responsible for pupil services and well-being. We pride ourselves on the quality of care, support and guidance given to our pupils at all Key Stages. A Learning Mentor is assigned to each year group to support learning.

We constantly review the curriculum that we offer to our children so that we can help our learners follow the most appropriate pathway to match their needs and aptitudes. The school curriculum is organised to provide students with a broad and balanced education and its intention is to maximise the potential of all. Bryn Eliau is particularly proud of the expertise, experience and commitment of its teaching staff.

## Mission statement

At Ysgol Bryn Eliau we endeavour to serve our community by ensuring all learners are supported in reaching their full potential to become full and contributing members of society, based on a fully inclusive experience, developing a love of learning and ensuring Achievement for All.

## Curriculum rationale

The curriculum at Ysgol Bryn Eliau must be flexible, personalised and fully inclusive, supporting learners' learning, progress and achievement. It must raise standards, stretch the most able, and narrow any gaps in achievement and attainment for all our learners. Ultimately, all learners should be supported in reaching their full potential so that when they leave school, they can be full and contributing members of society who have choices about their future.

## Year 7-8

All learners study:

Languages, Literacy and Communication:  
English, Welsh and German or French

Expressive Arts: Music, Drama and Art

Health and Wellbeing: PE, PSE and Food and Nutrition

Humanities: History, Geography and Religious Studies

Mathematics

Science and Technology: Science, Technology and IT.

Cymru a Fi

Each Area of Learning and Experience has a unique approach to teaching and learning, most suitable to their subject areas. For example, Science work towards Big Questions, whereas Expressive Arts have taken a thematic approach.

Progress is assessed holistically through judgement of progress in knowledge, skills and experiences in the subject areas and also in literacy, numeracy and digital competence skills.

All students are required to take National Literacy and Numeracy tests in Year 7, 8 and 9.

## Year 9

All learners study the following: English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, French or German, Geography, History, Religious Studies, Technology, PE, Art, IT, Music and PSE. At the end of Year 9, pupils will be assessed in National Curriculum subjects.

## Year 10 and 11

All learners are required to study: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Numeracy, Science, Welsh, Skills Challenge Certificate, Equality and Diversity with R.S., PE, PSE and Work Related Education. They are then given a choice of optional subjects including but not exclusive to: History, Geography, Engineering, Product Design, Drama, Music, French, German, Art, Business Studies, iMedia, GCSE PE, Health and Social Care and Childcare, Uniformed Protective Services, Food and Nutrition as well as vocational courses in cooperation with other local institutions.

Learners, through this broad curriculum, can follow their learning pathway, supported by subject teachers, tutors and mentors. We have strong curricular links with Coleg Llandrillo and other local secondary schools in Conwy.

Option choices are regularly reviewed as the process always begins with an open option trawl as we seek to provide a curriculum that is varied and flexible enough to address the needs of all learners. Emphasis is placed throughout the curriculum on the acquisition of skills, which permeate all subjects throughout years 7-11, and are seen as the real key to unlocking potential and access to all subjects.

## Post 16

A separate prospectus is available on the website.







**Supporting you**

## Academic organisation

Academic organisation is geared to the needs of the individual. Pupils are taught in 60 minute sessions through a two weekly timetable of 50 peri-ods. All pupils study for external qualifications, and traditional values of self-discipline and hard work are stressed.

From Year 7, pupils are set according to literacy or numeracy ability in the majority of subjects. Those who require extra help receive inclass support or extra tuition from our specialist staff in the Learning Zone. We have very close links with our primary schools and are able to identify students with additional learning needs who require extra help. We have a well-developed ALN programme to support our children. In Years 10 & 11 teaching is in sets organised by ability in the core and in option groups according to subject choice. Those students who are identified as More Able and/or Talented are given further guidance and support to maximize potential.

Session times can be found on the school website.

## Attendance

Attendance during the academic year 2022-23 was 87%.

Staff at Ysgol Bryn Elian continue to develop their practice in the classroom. As a staff body

there has been a focus on the use of feedback as part of learning, and how feedback can be provided in a variety of timely forms that support learners with their learning. As well as this, staff have applied some of the principles of how learners learn and how information should be presented to them to develop their knowledge and skills. Modelling and retrieval practice continue to develop as part of the learning experience in a variety of subjects, strengthening long term learning and critical thinking. Moving forward, departments will begin to look at elements of teaching and learning that will be most beneficial to their practice, such as a questioning, formative assessment strategies and developing the use of feedback further. As part of this process, the sharing of practice and watching other practitioners teach will be used to drive collaboration forward.

## Additional education provision

In aiming to ensure “Achievement for All”, Bryn Elian recognises the need for appropriate support for some pupils. Our aim is to integrate pupils with additional needs as far as possible into mainstream classes but the school also makes the provision of smaller teaching groups where pupils can receive specialist attention. Pupils enjoy the benefit of specific interventions, and close liaison with parents is vital in the implementation of Individual Development Plans to address specific needs. The school’s Additional Learning Needs Policy is available on request.

# Home school partnership

In order to ensure that our motto of 'Achievement for All' permeates through all that we do, we feel that a good partnership and working relationship between our learners and home is essential. In every successful partnership there are responsibilities, which each group agree to.

## ***The school agrees to:***

- Continue to work to create and maintain a stimulating and challenging learning environment, with high quality teaching
- Celebrate our learners' efforts, successes and achievements
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum in order to meet individual needs
- Keep you informed of your child's progress and other school matters
- Challenge and monitor underachievement and provide support to improve
- Set and work assess progress and provide a facility for homework to be completed after school, if needed

## ***The learner agrees to:***

- Work to the best of my ability, taking pride in my work
- Show respect for our school, the staff and fellow learners
- Attend regularly and be punctual
- Be correctly dressed in line with the school's uniform
- Be appropriately equipped for the school day
- Observe our classroom code, allowing teachers to teach and learners to learn

All parties agree to develop and display our values.

- Behave appropriately on the way to and from school
- Follow the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies
- Talk to parents/carers and school about any concerns in school

## ***Parents/Carers agree to:***

- Value my child's education and take an active interest in their school life
- Ensure that my child attends school regularly and punctually
- Ensure my child is equipped for school each day and wears the school uniform, as per Uniform Policy
- Avoid taking any holidays in term time
- Communicate any information to the school which may affect my child's education
- Notify the school if there is a reason my child can't attend
- Support the school's Behaviour, Rewards and Anti-Bullying Policies, along with other relevant policies
- Endeavour to attend Parents' Evenings or any other meetings to discuss my child's progress whilst still in the school



## Transition

The number of pupils admitted to Year 7 is 170, drawn from the following schools:

- Ysgol Cynfran
- Ysgol Hen Golwyn
- Ysgol Llanddulas
- Ysgol Swn-y-Don
- Ysgol Y Plas
- Ysgol T-Gwynn Jones Infant School

There is a well-established transition programme and pupils transferring to us visit the School during the summer preceding their entry. This enables the pupils to familiarise themselves with the School and to also take an active part in selected lessons. The school's admissions policy and criteria can be found on our website.

## Complaints

We hope that you have no cause to complain about the curriculum offered in Bryn Elan or the way that your son or daughter is being looked after. However, even in the best run establishments concerns may arise. The following is a summary of our established complaints procedures:

- Complaints about the curriculum should be addressed to the Deputy Head teacher in the first instance;
- Complaints about exams should be addressed to the Deputy Head;
- If it involves pastoral issues or the Head of Department if it involves subject specific issues.
- Parents should always make, an appointment if they wish to visit the school or staff.  
The school's Complaints Policy is available on the
- school website



Preparing for  
the future

## **Personal and Social, education**

PSE is taught as a discreet subject from year 7-11, which encompasses economic and industrial awareness, citizenship, environmental and health education, careers education and guidance, relationships and mental health.

We have a very well established School Council where the student voice is fully represented, as well as a thriving Eco-Committee, Sports Ambassadors, Well-being Ambassadors and Welsh Ambassadors. Members of the school council attend Governors' meetings and participate in the life of the school.

## **The community**

We believe in raising global citizens; young people who are aware of and understand their place in the wider community. To that aim the school has many links with the local community which it has developed and sustained over time. Our commitment to Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship is demonstrated by being a platinum Eco-Schools award winner for many years. In addition, we are working with the new pilot Careers Initiative which is proof of our active procedures in place to support and improve learner outcomes.

The school is also proud to support feeder primaries by sending our expert teachers to work with transitioning classes, giving them a taster of our forward thinking curriculum. For older learners, delivery of Global, Enterprise and Community projects as part of the Welsh Bac-calaureate prepare our students for being global citizens meeting and overcoming the challenges of 21st century living.

MyBE is a community focussed project to bring together learners, staff, parents and the local community for the benefit of all those at YBE.

## **Collective Worship**

Each Year Group has a weekly assembly. The opportunity is given for all learners to take part in an act of Collective Worship everyday.

## **Religious Education**

Religious Education is compulsory for all students at the school.

## **Relationships and Sexuality Education**

Statutory provision of Relationships and Sexuality Education is planned into subjects and pastoral teaching and learning. All topics are addressed at an age appropriate level.



## STEPS at YBE

STEPS is a bespoke programme of pupil development at Ysgol Bryn Elan. An acronym for Setting Targets, Evaluating Progress, the sessions use up-to-date and consistent data directly from teachers for students to plan their own SMART targets and improve their overall learning experience. Students are given a score for their Attitude to Learning, and a code which supports the Teacher's input by giving some additional information. They also focus on the school values and how they support their progress. Students then use this information to set manageable targets for the following term, which they will then review with their Learning Manager, Learning Mentor and Subject Teacher. STEPS utilises coaching as an effective way of supporting students through their time at Ysgol Bryn Elan.

## Careers

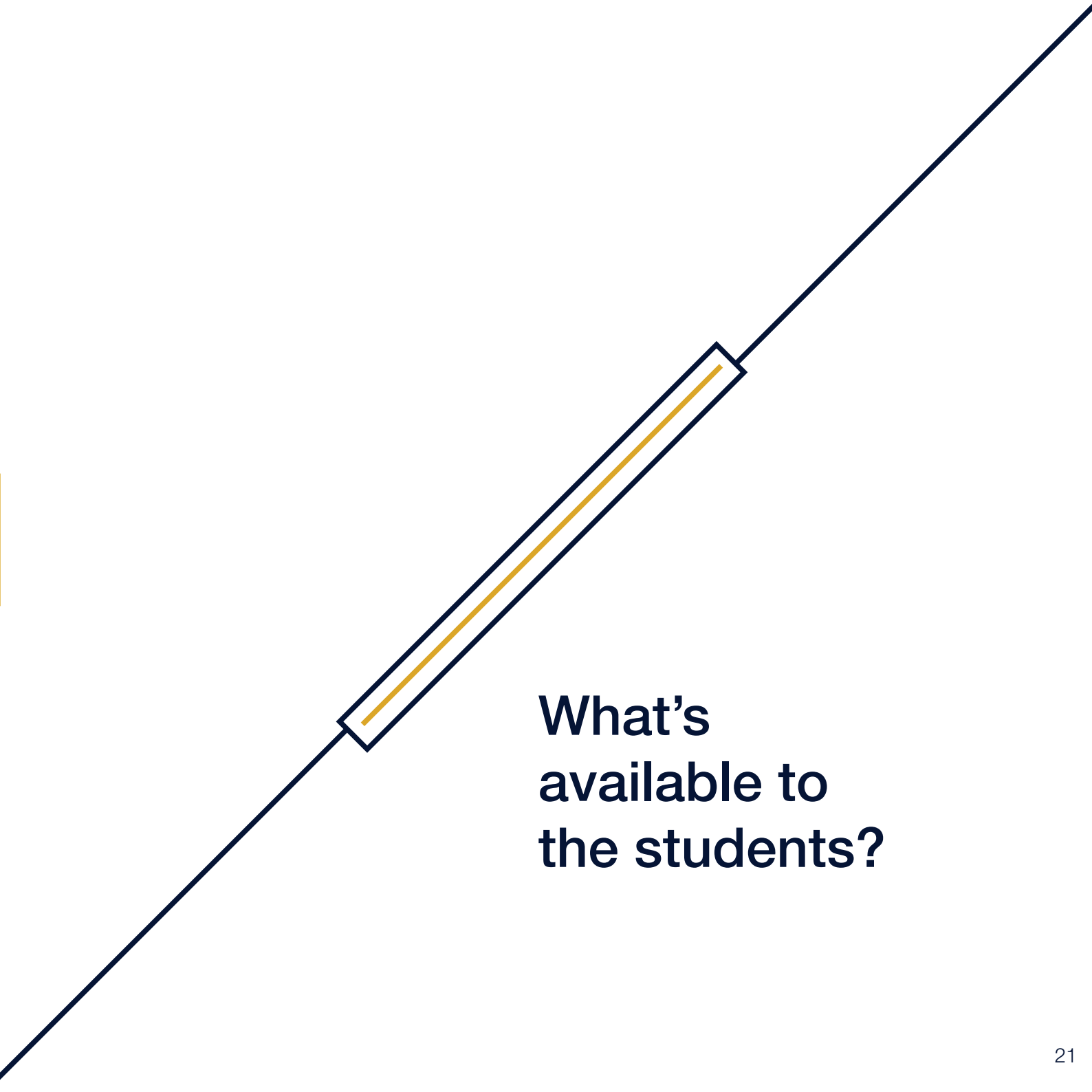
The school has a specifically designated senior teacher who devises a Careers programme within and beyond the PSE curriculum. We work closely with Careers Wales and North Wales Training Agency as well as local businesses to assist the pupils with their choices.

The school has a dedicated team of Learning Managers and Mentors to help the pupils take decisions with regard to their individual learning pathway. We have a well-developed Enterprise programme within the Welsh Baccalaureate, which gives the students an awareness of the world of work.

We also work closely with TRAC and Coleg Llandrillo to provide work placements. In addition, we have a programme of visitors in Year 10 from businesses to provide information about careers and apprenticeships.







**What's  
available to  
the students?**

# Extra curricular activities

We believe that our students need a range of experiences in order to develop as rounded individuals. Extra-curricular activities, therefore, form an essential part of the life of the school reflecting its core values. These encourage pupils to contribute fully to society in later life. Some notable examples are:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, where students achieving gold visit Buckingham Palace to receive their award.
- Sporting activities e.g. Rugby, football, hockey, netball, tennis and athletics
- Whole school drama/musical productions
- School Eisteddfod
- Musical tuition in a range of instruments
- Lunchtime clubs/societies such as English, Welsh, Art and Science
- Homework club
- Ski trips
- Community/business/environmental projects
- Educational visits to Germany, Italy and Iceland
- Educational visits, residential courses, field trips and theatre visits
- Chess club
- Activities week to provide extra-curricular activities to enrich learner experiences.
- MyBE Community opportunities
- Wellbeing after school clubs.

# Facilities and resources

Ysgol Bryn Elian is well equipped to cater for all the academic, creative and sporting needs of students. We also have a wide range of modern educational facilities including:

- An impressive and well resourced Sports Hall
- Large attractive campus on the edge of open fields
- All-weather sports pitch and tennis courts
- A fully-equipped theatre for large theatrical productions
- Music suite with up to date music technology
- “On-line” computers in all teaching areas
- 5 ICT rooms of 31 PCs which are used to teach the ICT curriculum and each department has a trolley with 30 devices which can be used to help enhance the lessons
- Design and Technology suite with state-of-the-art equipment, including 3D Printers
- Fully equipped science laboratories
- Wellbeing suite with gym equipment
- Each classroom is equipped with an interactive white board and a data projector
- Multi-use games area (MUGA)
- Laptop trolleys in all Departments
- Outside Classroom
- School Garden
- Outdoor learning space to develop forest skills and team work
- Zen Room
- Reading Garden



## Sport

The promotion of health and wellbeing has never been more important for the children in our care. The Physical Education Department at Ysgol Bryn Elian is doing more than ever to inform all our pupils of the importance of installing good habits in order for them to enjoy a more healthy and active lifestyle.

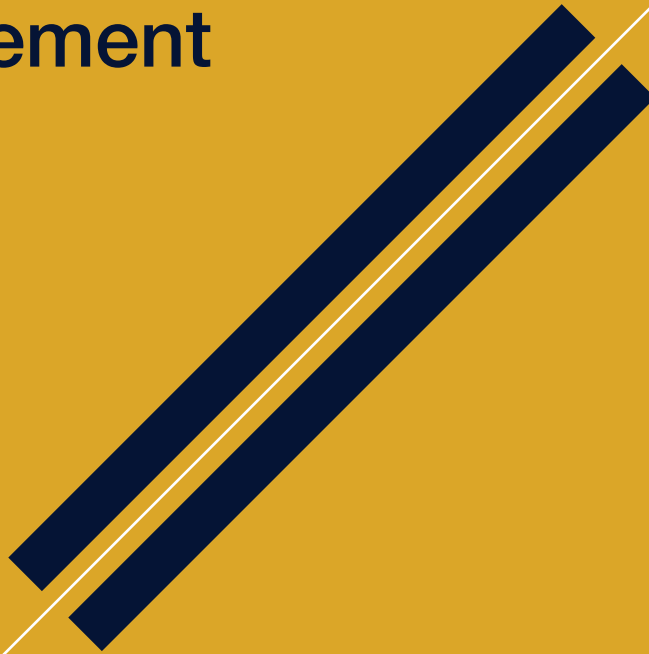
Sports facilities include a Sports Hall for pupil and community use, an all-weather pitch, tennis courts, Multi-use Games Area, Outdoor Gym and a brand new health and wellness facility. Stocked with the very latest cardiovascular and resistance equipment the facility allows pupils and staff to discover a range of fitness opportunities during lessons and extra-curricular clubs.

The school operates a full timetable of extra-curricular sports activities both at lunchtimes and after school





**Achievement  
for All**



## Safeguarding

The School is committed to Safeguarding and Child Protection. Relevant policies outlining this can be viewed on our website. The senior designated officer for Child Protection Dr Anna McCormack-Colbert and Deputy Safeguarding officer is Mrs Simone Gould.

Key members of staff to contact regarding safeguarding issues are:

- Mrs Lindsey Hastings
- Mrs Bronwen McKibben - looked after children
- Mr Jeff Powell
- Learning Mentors
- Ms Maggie McManus - Pupil support centre

### **Mental health first-aiders for adults:**

Mr R Render, Mr J Powell, Mrs L Hastings, Mr A Campion, Dr A McCormack-Colbert, Mr K Wallis, Mrs B McKibben, Mr M Jones, Mrs E Jones.

### **Mental health first-aiders for youths:**

Mrs B McKibben, Miss E Williams, Mr M Jones, Mr A Jones, Mr J Chaplin, Mr K Wallis.

### **Trauma Informed Schools Practitioners:**

Mrs Jane Jarvis  
Mr Aaron Jones  
Dr McCormack-Colbert  
Miss Catrin Owen

## Equal opportunities

The school is fully committed to implementing a policy of equal opportunity regardless of age, gender, race, creed and ability. The school has an Equality Plan and Equality and Diversity Policy which is available on request.

The school is built on a hillside so walkways and stairs are very steep. Some ramps to assist disabled access have been installed and steps have been painted to assist those with visual impairment. Attached to the school is an Individual Support Base which caters for pupils with moderate to severe learning difficulties. Pupils in the Base are integrated as far as possible into the life of the school. Admission into the Base is arranged in conjunction with the Local Education Authority.

## Welsh Culture and Language

While most subjects are taught through the medium of English, we are very proud of our Welsh heritage, culture and language and these values are reflected in our commitment to providing opportunities for all learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of all things Welsh.

The school will make use of every opportunity to promote the use of the Welsh Language and to foster a pride in being Welsh. Welsh is taught to all pupils in Year 7-11. The school has made a commitment to enhance the use of Welsh in written and oral communication, and operates a bilingual reception. Cymru a fi has been added to our curriculum offer to support learners in understanding their community, their local culture and what it means to be a young, Welsh person in Colwyn Bay

## Admissions

Our Admissions Policy is available to view on our website. We welcome parents and prospective pupils to our school and are delighted to show visitors around the school site. Enquiries should be addressed to Mr Jeff Powell, Assistant Headteacher [PowellJ190@ysgolbrynelian.cymru](mailto:PowellJ190@ysgolbrynelian.cymru). Term dates can be found on our website.

## Charging and remissions policy

As a foundation school, Ysgol Bryn Elan provides an education which is free at point of delivery. Certain activities, including visits and musical tuition will be charged for. No pupil will be excluded from such activities because of an inability to pay.

## School security

The school places a strong emphasis on the well-being and safety of all pupils. The school boundaries are well marked and our position at the edge of the town assists in providing a safe environment for pupils. Pupils are required to stay on the school premises throughout the day (with the exception of sixth form pupils) under the supervision of staff and lunch-time assistants. Visitors are required to sign-in at our main reception, and wear a pass. The school has extensive internal and external CCTV. No visitors will be allowed on site without a prior appointment / knowledge.

## School Policies:

The following policies can be found on the school website:

- Admissions Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- ALN Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Looked After Children Policy
- Charging and Remission Policy

Other policies are available on request.

## And finally

We hope you have enjoyed reading our prospectus and that you understand more about our school. We are proud of our children and their achievements while they are with us in Bryn Elan and beyond. We fully believe that the experiences they will garner at Ysgol Bryn Elan will lead to 'Achievement for all, Llwyddiant i Bawb'.



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