



Ysgol  
**Bryn Elia**  
High School

Prospectus

2022/23



# Achievement for All Llwyddiant i Bawb

**Headteacher / Pennaeth:** Mr D. Humphreys  
Chair of Governors: Cllr. P. Capper

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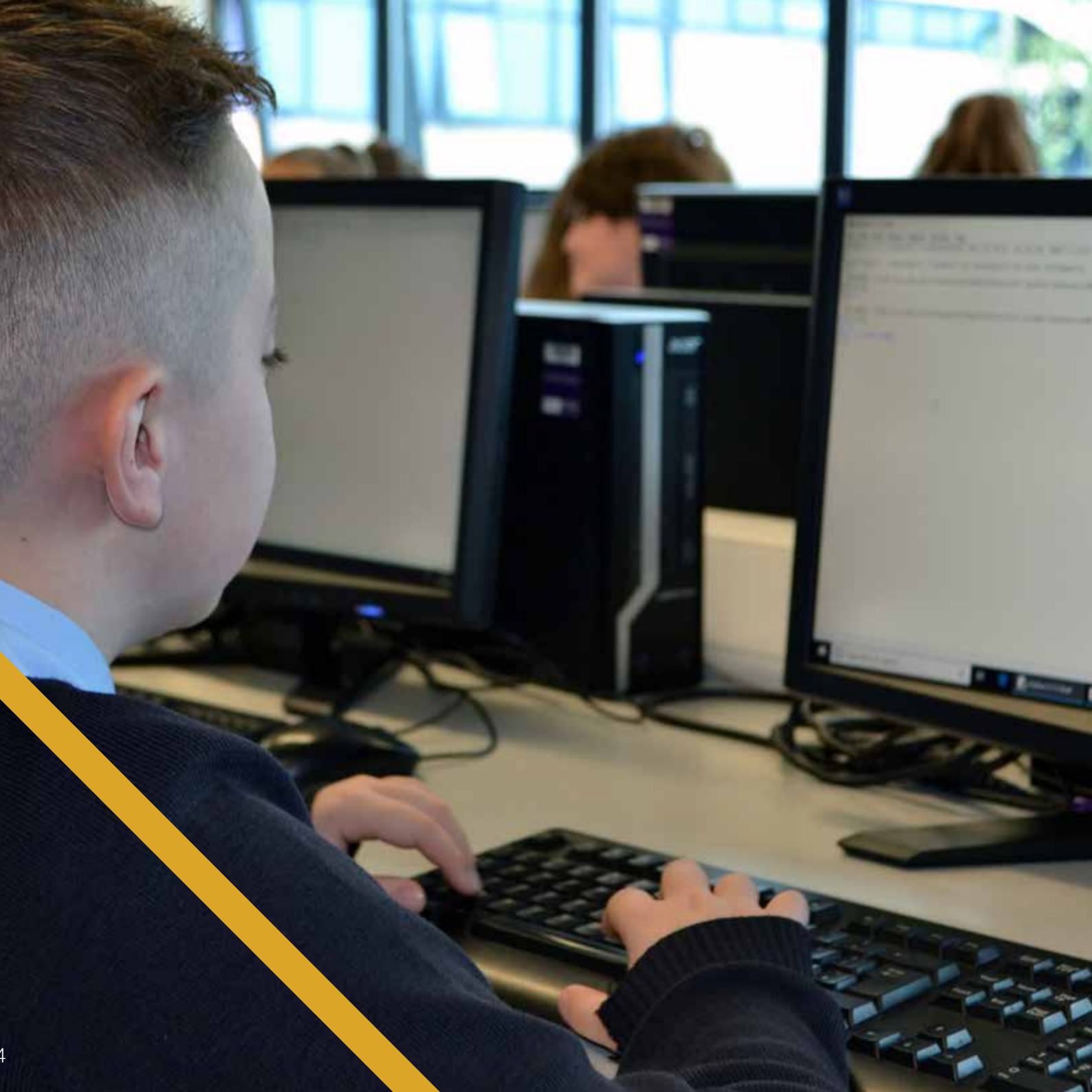
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# Contents

4-5	Headteacher's welcome
6-7	Why Bryn Elan?
8-11	The curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our aims</li><li>• Key stage 3</li><li>• Key stage 4</li><li>• Post 16</li></ul>
12-15	Supporting you <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic Organisation</li><li>• Additional Education Provision</li><li>• Home School Agreement</li><li>• Transition</li><li>• Complaints</li></ul>
16-19	Preparing for the future <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal social education</li><li>• The community/industrial links</li><li>• Careers</li><li>• Mentoring programme</li></ul>
20-23	What's available to the students <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extra-curricular activities</li><li>• Facilities and resources</li><li>• Sport at Bryn Elan</li></ul>
24-27	Achievement for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safeguarding</li><li>• Welsh language policy</li><li>• Equal opportunities</li><li>• Admissions</li><li>• Charging and remissions policy</li><li>• School security</li></ul>



# Headteacher's Welcome

Achievement for All  
Llywyddiant 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 under 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. Indeed, our last Estyn Inspection Report stated that:

*'The school provides exceptional support and guidance to pupils. This provision is an outstanding feature of the work of the 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, supportive education.

Here at Ysgol Bryn Elan we have very high expectations of our pupils both in terms of their academic achievement and their behaviour, as the Estyn report commented: 'Bryn Elan is a successful learning community, committed to education.' We regularly receive awards for our quality of service. Indeed individual teachers too, have received awards for professional excellence.

Our curriculum covers the traditional range of subjects as well as having a deserved reputation for innovative curricular design including the Welsh Baccalaureate. We value extra-curricular activities and have a national reputation for our successes

in the Urdd and in 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, the students will be happy and successful while here at Bryn Elan.

The current Chair of Governors, Cllr. 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.

Mr D Humphreys  
Headteacher





## Why Bryn Elian?

Bryn Elian 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. 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 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, and Estyn have commented that 'Learning Mentors provide highly beneficial support to pupils.'

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. The National Curriculum is followed in all subject areas and Bryn Elan is particularly proud of the expertise, experience and commitment of its teaching staff.

## Admission Applications 2020

Due to the exceptional circumstances surrounding Covid-19, should you require any further information about admission numbers, contact Mrs Hastings, Deputy Headteacher.

The admissions number for 2021 is 163.

## Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3 all pupils study English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, French/German, Geography, History, Religious Education, Technology, P.E./Games, Art, Information Technology, Music, Personal and Social Education. Literacy and numeracy skills are used as guides when setting pupils for lessons.

At the end of the Key Stage, pupils will be assessed in National Curriculum Subjects.

All students are required to take National Literacy and Numeracy Tests at the end of Years 7, 8 and 9. Results are reported to parents.

## Ares of Learning and Experience (AoLEs)

Year 7 pupils will experience the usual broad spectrum of subjects. Some lessons and experiences will have been collaboratively planned across an Area of Learning and Experience, to provide a platform for learning in order for pupils to transfer their knowledge, skills and experiences across topics and subjects.

## Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 pupils are required to study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Numeracy, Science, Welsh, the Welsh Baccalaureate, Religious Education and P.E./Games but are then given a choice of optional subjects including History, Geography, Technology, Art, Music, Drama, GCSE PE, Business Studies, ICT and a number of vocational courses in cooperation with other local institutions.

Students, 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 local secondary schools in Conwy.

Option choices are regularly reviewed as the school seeks to provide a curriculum which is varied and flexible enough to address the needs of all pupils. Emphasis is placed throughout the curriculum on the acquisition of learning skills, which permeate all subjects throughout key stages 3 and 4, and are seen as the real key to unlocking potential.

## Post 16

A separate prospectus is available on request.





**Supporting you**



## Academic organisation

Academic organisation is geared to the needs of the individual. Pupils are taught in 60 minute sessions through a weekly timetable of 25 periods. 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 Key Stage 4 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

Due to Covid-19, attendance figures have not been collected by Welsh Government for official purposes.

Staff at Ysgol Bryn Elan 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 Elan 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 Education 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 mark work 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

- 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, where possible
- 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 just over 160, 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 Head teacher in the first instance;
- Complaints about exams should be addressed to the Exams Officer;
- All other complaints should be addressed to the Learning Manager for your child's year.
- Parents are free to visit the school when Covid restrictions have been lifted, but an appointment should be made ahead of time
- The school's Complaints Policy is available on the school website



Preparing for  
the future

## Personal and Social, education

PSHCE is taught as a discrete subject at Key Stage 3, which encompasses economic and industrial awareness, citizenship, environmental and health education and careers education and guidance. We have a very well established School Council where the student voice is fully represented, as well as a thriving Eco- Committee and Sports Council. Members of the School Council attend full Governors' meetings and participate in the life of the school.

The Health Education programme includes sex education which is taught in a balanced way and addresses moral issues. Teaching materials and topics regarding sex and relationship education are taught according to the needs and ages of the pupils. Parents have a legal right to withdraw a child from these lessons if they apply to the school in writing.

## 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 hold the Careers Wales Mark 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 Baccalaureate prepare our students for being global citizens meeting and overcoming the challenges of 21st century living.

## 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. Parents and Sixth Form pupils can exercise their right to not to participate by writing directly to the Headteacher. Alternative provisions will be made in such cases.





## STEPS at YBE

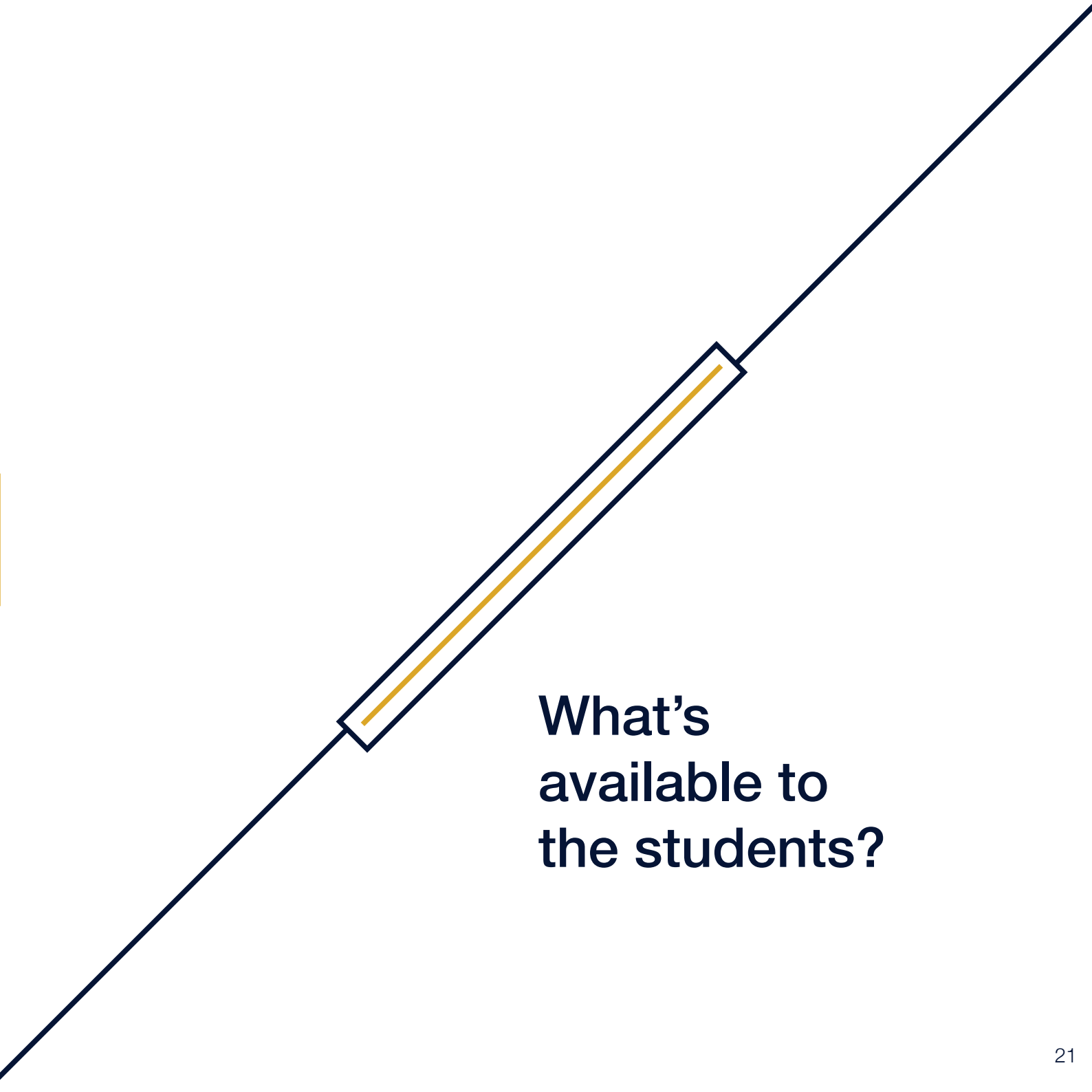
STEPS is a bespoke programme of pupil development at Ysgol Bryn Elan. An acronym for Setting Targets, Evaluating Progress, the sessions use up-to-date and consistent data directly from teachers for students to plan their own SMART targets and improve their overall learning experience. Students are given a score for their Attitude to Learning, which is derived from 5Rs for learning: Ready, Resourceful, Resilient, Responsible, Reflective and a code which supports the Teacher's input by giving some additional information. 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. Careers Wales have recently awarded Ysgol Bryn Elan the Careers Wales Mark.





**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 every year visit Buckingham Palace to receive their award.
- Sporting activities e.g. Rugby, football, hockey, netball, tennis and athletics
- Fund raising events to help with our link school in Madagascar
- Whole school drama/musical productions
- School Eisteddfod and also the Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- 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

## 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
- 4 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
- Fully equipped science laboratories
- Wellbeing suite with gym equipment
- Each classroom is equipped with an interactive white board and a data projector





## 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.

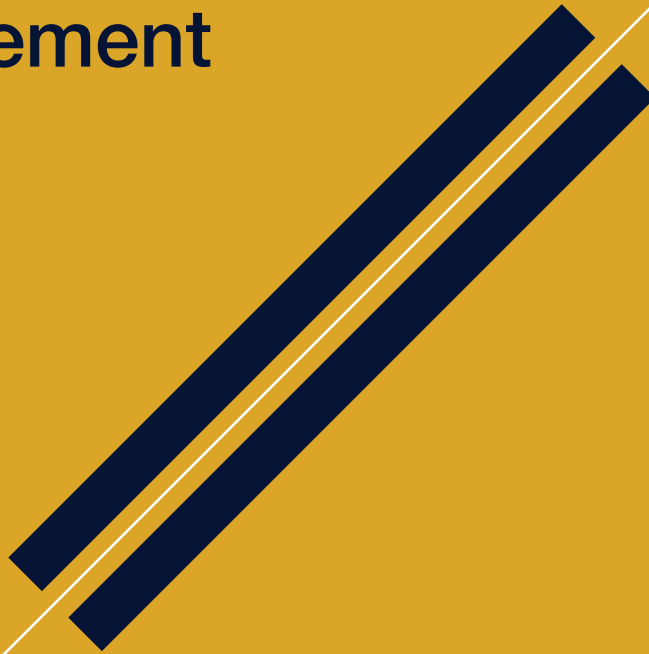
Sports facilities include a Sports Hall for pupil and community use, an all-weather pitch, tennis courts and a brand new health and wellness facility. Stocked with the very latest cardiovascular and resistance equipment the facility allows pupils and staff to discover a range of fitness opportunities 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 officers for Child Protection are Mr. Craig Stewart, Dr Anna McCormack-Colbert and Mrs. Bronwen McKibben, Learning Manager Year 7.

Key members of staff to contact regarding safeguarding issues are:

- Mrs Bronwen McKibben - looked after children
- Mr Craig Stewart
- Dr Anna McCormack-Colbert
- Learning Mentors

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

Mr C Stewart, 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, Mr P Woodhouse, Mrs E Jones.

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

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

## 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 a Learning Needs 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 language policy

While 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 the delivery of 'Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig' throughout the school and the development of bilingualism.

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 Key Stages 3 and 4. The school has made a commitment to enhance the use of Welsh in written and oral communication, and operates a bilingual reception.

## 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 Mrs L Hastings, Deputy Head [lh@brynelian.conwy.sch.uk](mailto:lh@brynelian.conwy.sch.uk)). 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.

## 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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