



Bryn El'ian

**Autumn**

Newsletter

**2022**



YSGOL

**Bryn Elan**

HIGH SCHOOL

# Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter

The first term is now drawing to a close and although the effects of Covid are long lasting, it has been nice for us to have a full term with no restriction on group work in the classroom, no need to segregate learners and be able to get on with what we do best –

Teaching and Learning.

One of our Covid recovery plans is to try to get our attendance levels to where they were pre Covid and we ask for your assistance here by not taking your children out of school on holiday during term time.

As we draw closer to Christmas we have some events for you to attend – The first is 'Get into Christmas' where our learners will perform all of your favourite Christmas songs to get you in the mood for the Festive period.

The second is a first for us as a school, well for a number of years anyway – The staff are performing a Christmas pantomime, Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs. This will be performed in the schools Theatre – Studio 1, on Wednesday 21st of December. We really look forward to seeing you at these events.

All that remains now is for me to thank you, once again, for your support of the school in all that we do and to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Staff changes for the new year

Christmas is not normally the time of year we say goodbye to staff moving on to pastures new, but this year we say good bye to 2 members of the science department – Mr Tom Lennox, one of our Science teachers and also Ms Emma McDuff, the science technician. We wish them both the very best in their futures.

## Thank you for your feedback

As learners and parents, you contacted us several times during this half term to give us feedback on the arrangements at lunch time. After listening to what you had to say we have tried and tested several new systems to try to make sure that lunch time runs more smoothly.

Our current arrangements seem to work best, where year groups have allotted times to come to the cafeteria for lunch. The last few weeks have seen year 7 come down last for their lunch and in the spirit of fairness, we will be changing the order after the Christmas break, allowing Year 7 to go for lunch earlier on in the lunch break. Our current arrangements are a temporary fix as we, the Senior Leaders at the school, look at more permanent plans to be put in place for next academic year.

Mr Humphreys  
Headteacher

## TERM DATES & TRAINING DATES 2022 - 2023

**23rd December 2022** – last day of term – training day – no learners in school

**9th January 2023** – term begins

**17th February 2023** – last day of the half term

**27th February 2023** – term begins

**31st March 2023** – last day of term

**17th April 2023** – term begins

**1st May 2023** – May Bank Holiday

**8th May 2023** – King's coronation Bank Holiday

**26th May 2023** – last day of the half term

**5th June 2023** – term begins

**19th July 2023** – Last day for learners

**20th July 2023** – training day – no learners in school

**21st July 2023** – training day – no learners in school

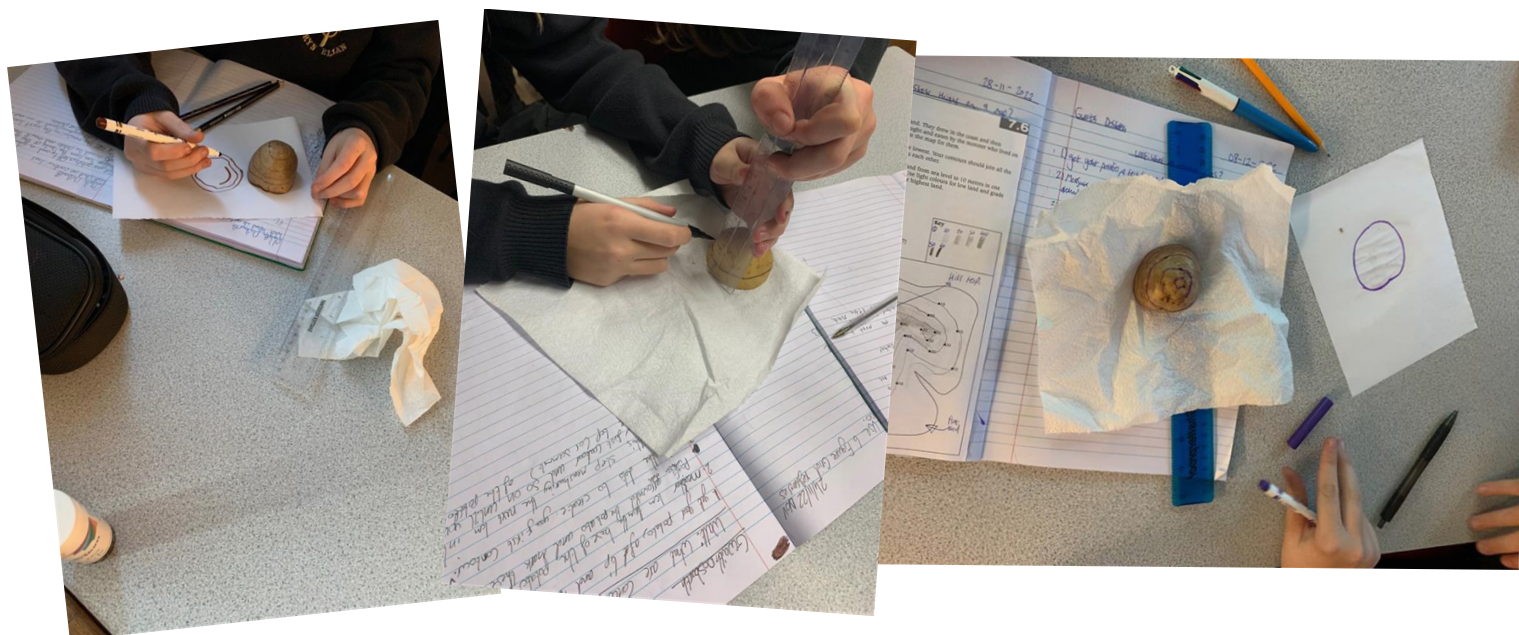


**Achievement for All**  
**Llwyddiant i Bawb**



## Measuring the height of mountains using potatoes - Really??

Year 7 have been very busy in their Humanities AOLE lesson using potatoes to estimate the height of mountains - Yep! Its true and here is the photographic evidence to prove it!



**"Good luck to all five"**

Five year 12 pupils have taken on the challenge with the EESW to work alongside the world leading engineering company, JCB. Ianto Evans, Christopher Jones, Ffion Boardman, Carys Dutton, and Joseph Elliott are all working to develop an AR (augmented reality) system, which would enable JCB trainee employees to learn and develop engineering and manufacturing skills, without needing to be in the factory.

With two visits to the JCB factory in Wrexham under their belts, and very encouraging feedback from the company's top engineers, the likelihood of the team achieving their Gold Crest Awards is looking extremely positive.

Good luck to all five.







## Year 7 AOLE – Science and Technology

Year 7 Textile learners have been learning about the word Biomimicry, what it means and how designers and engineers in industry use biomimicry to solve a design problem. Biomimicry is considered a blend of Art, DT and Science - innovation ideas inspired by nature.

Year 7 have looked at birds to inspire their fashion designs. Use of colour, pattern, feathers have been key elements.

Learners' Textile banner has been inspired by nature, leaf shapes, patterns and colour.



## Year 8 Textiles

Year 8 have been inspired by a Mexican textile artist 'Victoria Villasana'. Victoria Villasana, stitches into black and white portraits and uses uncut thread.

Year 8 learn the process of building on skills from year 7 and have used a variety of stitches and their own chosen image to create their own inspired final piece.





## PE Departmental Newsletter

This term has been an extremely busy one within the YBE PE Department.

Extra Curricular clubs have seen record attendance figures both during lunchtimes and after school. Pupils have enjoyed a wide range of activities including; football, netball, basketball, badminton, table tennis, gymnastics and fitness classes.

The school's new 3G facility has encouraged record numbers at football practice. Girls lower school football club has seen as many as 30 girls in attendance.

Mr Hooper, Head of PE said; "On the back of the success of the Women's Euros last summer we have seen a huge interest in football amongst girls, we have large numbers at training and were able to field a side in the Welsh School's Competition for the first time in many years. The school and the FAW have invested significantly to offer our pupils and the community of Old Colwyn this amazing facility. It is great to see so many young people benefiting from this project".

Competitively Girls netball at the school continues to thrive at YBE. Teams have competed in all age groups against other school's in the county.



It's not just the sporting success of our pupils that we like to celebrate.

Our very own Mr Chaplin (Learning Manager for Year 11 & Maths Teacher) has been starring for Llandudno in the Second tier of Welsh Football. Here is Mr Chaplin celebrating scoring a goal for Llandudno against Llanidloes recently.

Well Done Mr Chaplin!!





## News from the Humanities Department

### Year 13 Geography Fieldwork

The Year 13 Geography students enjoyed two days of fieldwork on the 18th and 21st October.

The focus of the days was to collect primary data with an emphasis on beach and sand dune characteristics. We visited North Shore, West Shore and Conwy Morfa over the two days and a great time was had by all.

We were blessed with mainly sunny weather and were able to enjoy the various beaches. This data will now be analysed and students will reach their own independent conclusions in relation to their main investigation focus.



### Year 13 Tourism Event

The Year 13 Tourism students organised two fabulous events for our group during November. One trip took place to Chester Zoo where we all enjoyed some very educational time wandering around the exhibits.

Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us. However, despite the soaking we received, we all concurred that it was a great day out! The other trip they organised was to an Escape Room in Liverpool which proved to be an activity filled with fun and a great team building experience. Well done to you all!





## School Garden Update



The garden club have been working really hard to get the garden back to how it was before the pandemic. The site has had to be cleared again and re planned. This has been done so far by the hard work from the year twelves for their Welsh Baccalaureate volunteering.

So far, they have made a clearing in the trees and the gully has been cleared alongside the garden for us to make it a new orienteering course for the PE department. New chairs have been made out of pallets and painted. A new bed made of tyres has been built by Year 11 learners.

Over the next couple of months, we hope to raise money for new picnic benches (possibly a litter pick sponsored walk down into Old Colwyn) so when classes are using the garden it will be properly set up for teaching

The area is also being used to conduct forest school lessons which have been a great success.



### Thank you

We are *extremely* grateful to the parents of some of our current Year 13 learners who made a donation of £216 to the school. The money was used to purchase resources to support some of our students in Gorwel – A bespoke provision to help some of our learners who need support in attending school, for whatever reason.





## School Council

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been appointed onto this years school council:

**Sophie Edwards**  
**Reece Aronwich**  
**Molly Roberts**  
**Oliver Heap**  
**Thomas Dentith**  
**Jamie Evans**  
**Alana Jones**  
**Rushay De Costa**  
**Amy Taylor-Eardley**  
**Ollie Adamson**  
**Brooke Bowler**  
**Jonath Thomas**  
**Summer Murray-Winn**  
**Ellan Wilson**  
**Summer-Faye Titchiner**  
**Evelyn Aspinall**



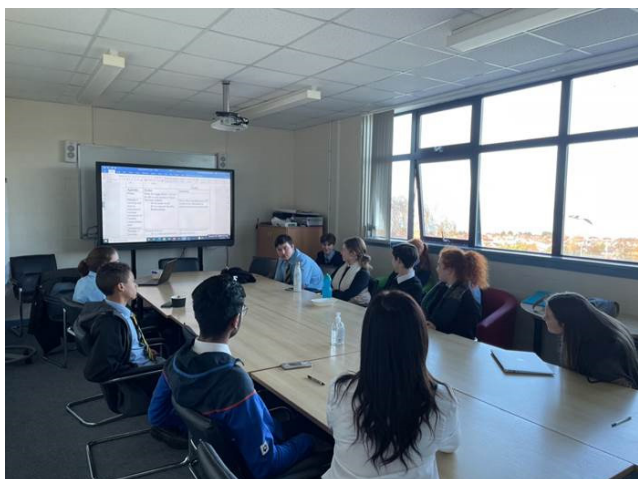
The school council have been meeting every Tuesday Week B at lunchtime to discuss their priorities for this year, along side any issues that the pupil body wish to raise. They are working on increasing awareness of peer on peer abuse within school communities, as well as focusing on Healthy Eating, working closely with our school provider Shire Catering. So far they have created two pupil questionnaires to share in January, have been working on content to display around school to raise awareness of the school council and are working on developing a school newsletter to share key information regularly. QR codes have been developed and displayed around school for pupils to raise any concerns, issues or ideas for the school council to discuss in their meetings.

On Thursday 1st December, the school council met with a team from Public Health Wales to discuss a new campaign project to promote immunisations in North Wales amongst the teenage population. They were asked to give their views and opinions on immunisations, ideas for promoting and increasing up take as well as creating posters for the team to take back to their design team at PHW. The school council will be meeting with them again in the new year to see what PHW have created and give further feedback.





## School Council



*"We had a great session with the students! They were really engaging and shared great ideas. They had good healthy debates and produced posters they felt would appeal to others their age. Their views and the posters they produced will be shared with the research and marketing company Social Change, and they'll produce new campaign material from these insights."*



## School Council 2022-2023



*Meetings every  
Tuesday Week B*

## Community Champions

On Tuesday 29th November a group of pupils met with Suzanne Pearce from Creating Enterprise. Suzanne is working on a range of projects for young people in the local areas, she discussed with the pupils what it is like living in local areas and how they felt about Anti-Social behaviour they might see or hear about. The pupils were fantastic in giving their perceptions of what it is like to live in North Wales as well as suggesting ideas for community spaces for young people to engage with. The pupils will be involved in developing the projects and making them come to life.



## PTA Newsletter

The School Parent and Teacher Association works to raise money for our learners.

In the past, they have donated to the following initiatives:

- Purchasing astro trainers for the P.E. Department to have a stock for learners to use if they cannot afford to buy their own.
- E-Pens for the ICT Department
- Young Enterprise Start-up Programme
- Pony lessons for students attending Learning Zone/Base
- 6th Form Room Dividers
- Thermostatically controlled bath for practical experiments for the Science Department
- Contribution to the Sensory Garden
- Water bottles for all learners and staff
- i-Pad for a learner with sight issues to enable them to access GCSEs.

The PTA really needs more support to continue to provide these opportunities for our learners. Please contact them at the following e-mail: [ysgolbrynelianpta@gmail.com](mailto:ysgolbrynelianpta@gmail.com) if you would be willing to provide your support. By getting in touch, you are not committing yourself to anything; you would only be asked to provide the time and support you are able to.

## YSGOL BRYN ELIAN FOREST SCHOOLS

As part of our curriculum we teach Forest schools where groups of learners use the school woodland in order to work together as a team, solve problems and learn about their environment. Michael Byrne has designed a fantastic Logo for the school's forest Schools provision – Well done Michael!





## Safeguarding

### **Who's Who:**

Designated Senior Safeguarding Lead: Dr Anna McCormack-Colbert

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Simone Gould

Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Bronwyn McKibben (Designated Teacher for Looked After Children)

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dave Humphreys

### **Spotlight on - Peer on Peer Abuse:**

Whilst it can be incredibly rare, Peer on Peer abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and/or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age. Peer-on-peer abuse or harm is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between children, and within children's relationships.

### **This can include but is not limited to:**

- bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse
- harmful sexual behaviours or sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and or videos .

Our approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment is part of the broader approach to safeguarding, which is transparent, clear and easy to understand for our staff, pupils and parents. Ysgol Bryn Elan has a clear set of values and standards underpinned by our behaviour policy and by a programme of evidence based content taught through our curriculum. Such content is age and development stage specific and tackles issues such as the following;

- Healthy relationships
- Respectful behaviour and consent
- Gender roles, stereotyping and equality
- Body confidence and self-esteem
- Prejudiced behaviour
- Addressing cultures of sexual harassment

Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys"; or not recognising that emotional bullying can sometimes be more damaging than physical harm, can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children therefore any form of peer on peer abuse is taken very seriously at Bryn Elan.

If you have any concerns about peer on peer harm or abuse, please speak to a member of the safeguarding or pastoral team.





Ysgol  
**BrynElia**  
High School

## **Learner Voice We Listen...**

**You asked to be involved in shaping the school's future...**

*Learner voice has been instrumental in the shaping of our new curriculum.*

*The school's new vision and values were drawn up after consultation with learner voice as well as parent, teacher and community voice*

**You asked if we could review the wearing of trainers and whether tailored shorts could be introduced as a Summer uniform...**

*All black trainers are now considered suitable footwear and black or grey knee length tailored shorts can be used from May through to July.*

**The queues for lunch was too long and time was wasted in queues making lunch time short...**

*We built an outside catering pod so that there was another area to buy food. We also re-modelled the cafeteria*

**To have an influence in school...**

*Learner council had a big involvement in the appointment process for the new Assistant Head*

**To have an influence in school...**

*School Council projects on Homophobia and race have won national awards*

**You wanted better facilities...**

*The school has decorated and is refurbishing the teaching block. The library has been refurbished along with the cafeteria and 6th form centre. Studio 1 is refurbished. We have 2 newly refurbished Science labs. We have also got a new 3G pitch with another MUGA all-weather pitch being built before Easter.*

**You wanted access to a supply of drinking water to keep you hydrated and alert...**

*We provided drinking containers to all learners and put a cold-water filling station in the cafeteria. We also put filtered water dispensers around the whole school*

**You wanted us to address the issue of toilets so that they were accessible to all groups of Learners...**

*We set up gender neutral toilets in the reception area of the school*

**You asked for shaded dry areas outside to eat, away from the rain and sun...**

*We remodelled the picnic area and provided a canopy and seating which can be used to eat and chat. This facility can also be used as an outside classroom*

**You wanted to support younger learners at the school...**

*The opportunity arose with the wellbeing ambassadors programme run by Mrs E Jones*



## Ysgol Bryn Elian Vision And Values

Over the past few months we have been developing and defining the values we think are important to us, here at Ysgol Bryn Elian.

In developing these values we have had input from all stakeholders including: parents, learners, staff, governors and the local community.

### **Our Mission Statement Is:**

“At Ysgol Bryn Elian 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’”

### **Our Motto Remains:**

Achievement for All

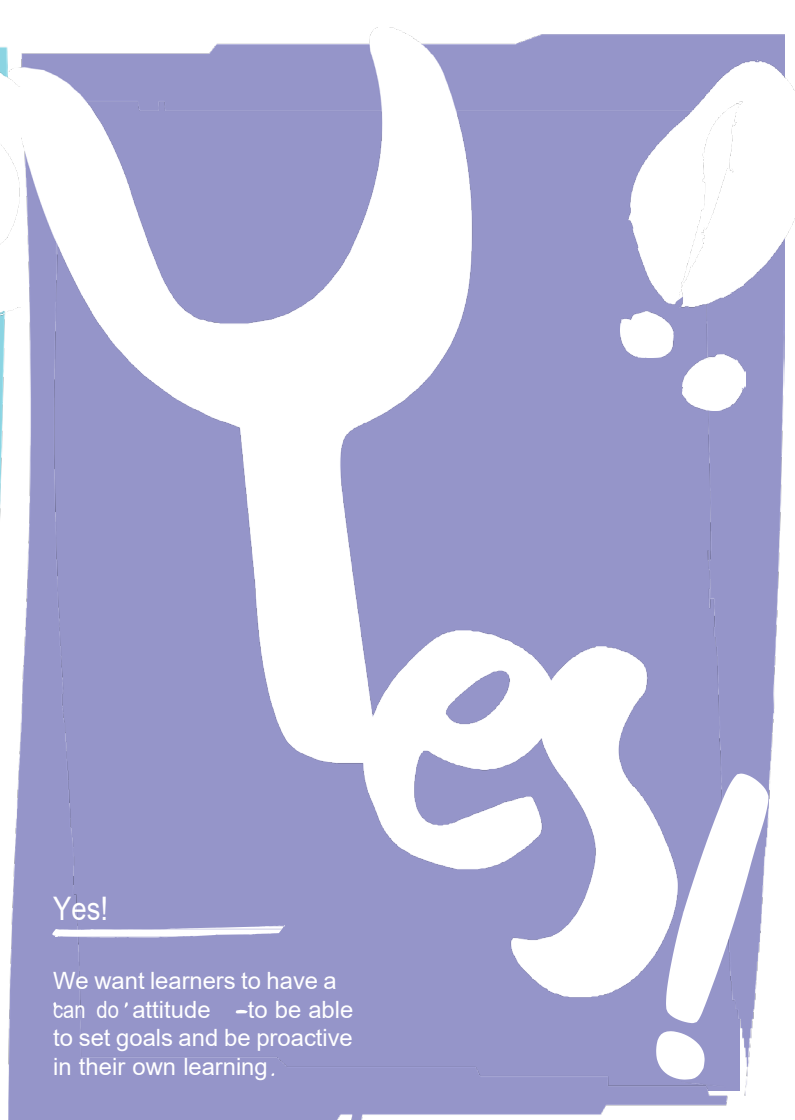
Our school values make up the acronym B.R.Y.N E.L.I.A.N





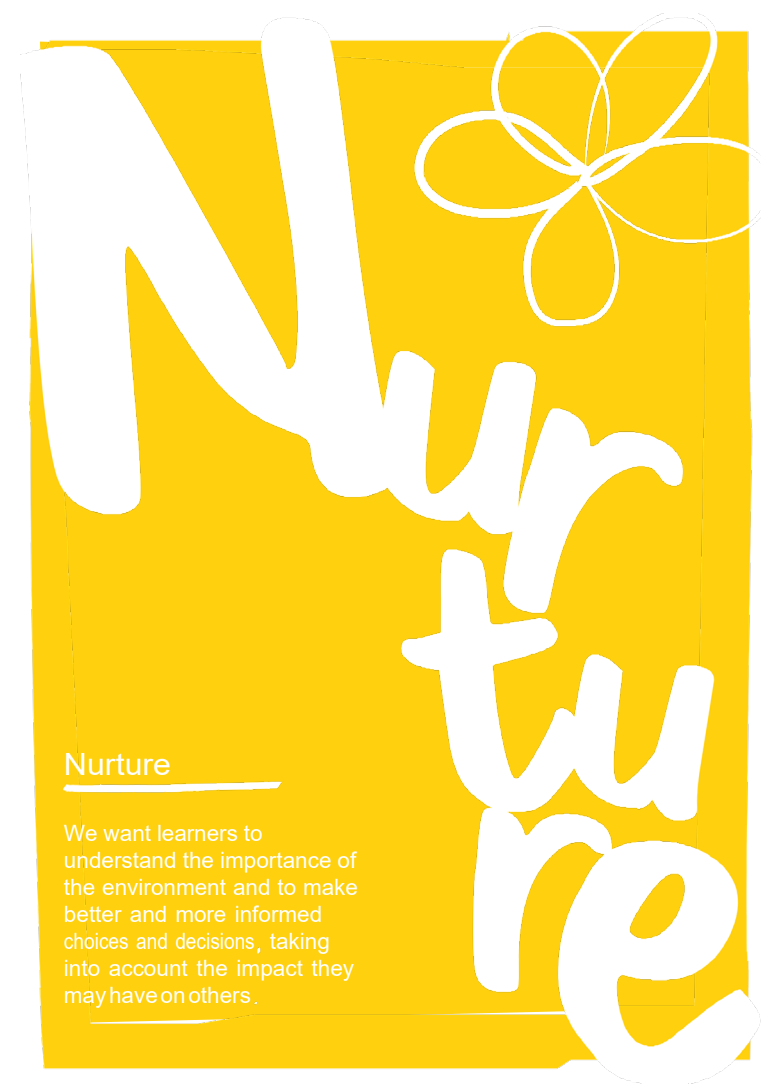
## Respect

We hope to model and teach learners what it means to be respectful and accepting of differences and diversity, and of their own rights and the rights of others.



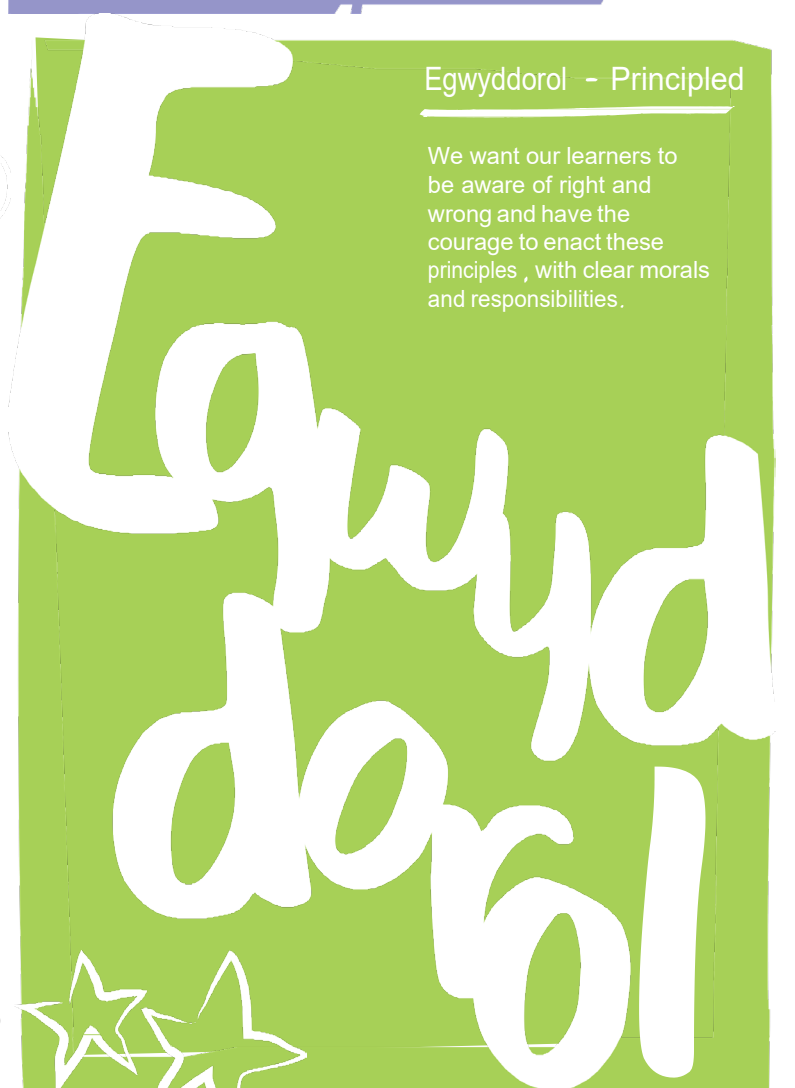
## Yes!

We want learners to have a 'can do' attitude – to be able to set goals and be proactive in their own learning.



## Nurture

We want learners to understand the importance of the environment and to make better and more informed choices and decisions, taking into account the impact they may have on others.



## Egwyddorol - Principled

We want our learners to be aware of right and wrong and have the courage to enact these principles, with clear morals and responsibilities.





# Llwyddiannus

Llwyddiannus - Successful

We want to develop a culture of high expectations where learners feel confident and able to aim high and seek out support to achieve their goals and dreams. We would like learners to have confidence in knowing that making mistakes is part of learning and to embrace a love of learning.



# Iach

Iach - Healthy


We want our learners to understand good mental, physical and sexual health with clear boundaries to build healthy, positive relationships.



# Annibynno

Annibynno - Independent

We want to ensure learners are supported to make their own informed decisions and to seek out ways to support themselves and their goals, where they challenge themselves and persevere in the face of difficulties.



# Nerthol

Nerthol - Strong

We want our learners to have the energy and strength to engage in, be comfortable with, resilient to, and adaptable to change, and to have an increased awareness of the outside world.