



LEWIS SCHOOL PENGAM  
YSGOL LEWIS PENGAM

# Annual Governors' Report to Parents 2023



## Introduction from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to present you to the Annual Governors' Report to Parents 2022-23.

As the chair of the Governing Body, I would like to thank and congratulate all pupils and staff for their hard work and academic achievements this year. We are very proud that our learners have worked consistently throughout the year and the school has seen its highest set of key stage 4 results this summer. I would also like to thank you, our parents and carers. We are very grateful for the your support and cooperation to work with the school to enable our learners to achieve their full potential. Working together as a team, we are ensuring that every pupil has the best possible chance in life.

The school has made good progress with its improvement priorities, which are detailed in this report. The school will continue to build on this progress with the improvement priorities for this year. These areas include exam outcomes, progress in skills and the next steps of implementing both the new curriculum for Wales and the ALN bill.

In this report you will find a summary of the responsibilities of the Governing Body and information on the the school and its outcomes and achievements.

Duncan McIntosh

Chair of Governors, Lewis School Pengam



## School Information

Address	Gilfach, Bargoed, CF81 8LJ
Telephone Number	01443 873873
Email Address	<a href="mailto:lewisschoolpengam@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk">lewisschoolpengam@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk</a>
School Website	lsp.wales
School Facebook	Official Lewis School Pengam
School Twitter	Twitter.com/lsp_wales
Chair of Governor	Mr Duncan McIntosh
Vice Chair of Governor	Mrs Cerys Sage
Headteacher	Mr Christopher Parry
Age Range	11 – 18 years
Number on Roll	612
Language	English
Number of Teaching Staff	43
Number of Support Staff	20



## School Values, Vision, Mission Statement and Aims

### LSP Values

Our values underpin everything we do. We are a **TEAM** and that means:

**T**ogetherness

**E**ngagement

**A**ccountability

**M**otivation

Only as a **TEAM** can we maximise **L**earning.

Only as a **TEAM** can we achieve **S**uccess.

Working as a **TEAM** gives us a sense of **P**ride.

### LSP Vision

These values provide the foundations for our mission which is a simple one: we want to make sure that **every pupil has the best possible chance in life**. Our most important contribution is to provide an education that delivers the academic success, health and well-being needed to prepare for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. It is essential that we foster an environment, which has at its heart high expectations, care, support, challenge and respect. We must be inclusive and celebrate the uniqueness of every single person that makes up our team. Together, we can ensure our community thrives as a result of our contribution to it.

### LSP Mission

Our school was established in 1726 and throughout this time its historical Motto has been “**Ni ddychwel doe**” yesterday never returns. This remains as relevant today as it did in 1726. We will seize every opportunity to deliver our mission.

Our **TEAM** will create authentic learning experiences that are academically rigorous within a broad, innovative and inspiring curriculum.

Our **TEAM** will use research-led practice to provide a safe environment that has highly effective pupil care and support.

Our **TEAM** will develop highly effective strategies to support the mental health and well-being of all.

Our **TEAM** will use high-quality professional learning, coaching and mentoring to secure excellent pedagogy and leadership.

Our **TEAM** will use excellent links with our community, agencies and providers to inspire and support the aspirations of young people and their ambitions for their future success.

Our **TEAM** will share our excellent practice to ensure our pupils become inclusive, confident, and active citizens who are:

- 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 fulfilling lives as valued members of society.



## School Values, Vision, Mission Statement and Aims

### LSP Aims

Our **TEAM** includes our **pupils**. We will work together to:

- support them in their learning and wellbeing;
- develop their knowledge, understanding and skills;
- encourage resilience and independence;
- actively engage them in enjoyable learning experiences.

Our **TEAM** includes our **parents**. We will work together to:

- support their child in all aspects of school life;
- provide feedback on their child's progress and guidance on their next steps;
- encourage feedback and opportunities to contribute to school improvement.

Our **TEAM** includes our **community**. We work together to achieve its ambitions to:

- enable employment;
- create healthy lifestyles;
- improve wellbeing;
- promote sustainability.



## The Governing Body-September 2023

Name	Status	Office Expires	Sub-Committee	Link Governors
Mr Duncan McIntosh	Chairman of the Governing Body, Community Governor	07/07/2025	Curriculum, Finance, Standards, Policy, Pupil Disciplinary, H/T Performance Management, Selection Panel	Association of School Governor Representative
Mrs Cerys Sage	Vice Chair of the Governing Body. Caerphilly LA Governor	2025	Curriculum, Finance, Policy,	Self -Evaluation Champion, Training Governor
Mr Grant Santos	Community Appointed Governor	25/10/2026		
Mr Andrew James	Community Appointed Governor	17/04/2027	Finance, Policy, Staff Disciplinary, Complaints, H/T Performance Management, Pay Review, Staff Capability Appeals.	
Cllr Martyn James	LA Appointed Governor		H/T Performance Management, Staff Capability	
Mr Stephen Evans	LA Appointed Governor		Standards, Finance, Staff Capability, Capability	Safeguarding, LAC/ALN, Hwb Champion
Mr Andrew Cannan	LA Appointed Governor		Staff Disciplinary Appeal, Grievance, Redundancy, Capability	
Mr Lee Robins	LA Appointed Governor		Standards, Staff/Pupil Disciplinary & Exclusion, Grievance, Redundancy, H/T Performance Management, Pay Review, Capability	Closing the Gap
Mr Steve Bowen	Parent Governor	30/06/2025	Staff Disciplinary/Dismissal appeal, Grievance Appeal, Redundancy Appeal	



Name	Status	Office Expires	Sub-Committee	Link Governors
Amanda Burton	Parent Governor	25.04/2027		
Stacey Humphries	Parent Governor	25/04/2027		
Rae Gordon	Parent Governor	30/06/2025	Complaints, Pupil Discipline & Exclusion, H/T & Deputy Selection, Policy, Curriculum	MAT, Distance/Blended Learning
Claire Harding	Parent Governor	30/06/2025	H/T Performance Management Appeal, Pay Review Appeal, Curriculum	ALN
Kathryn Franklin	Parent Governor	07/07/2023	Grievance Appeal, Redundancy, Pay Review Appeal, Curriculum, Finance,	
Debra Williams	Support Staff Representative	19/10/2024	H/T & Deputy Selection, Curriculum, Standards, Finance, Policy	Health & Safety

The Governing Body is fully compliant with Statutory Committees and Members are appointed or reappointed each year at the Annual General Meeting/ Full Governing Body Meeting at the beginning of the new Academic Year.

The Chair or each sub-committee reports to the Full Governing Body following each sub-committee meeting. The current sub-committees are:-

- Standards and Wellbeing
- Teaching, Learning and Curriculum
- Resources, including Finance, Staffing and Digital Resources.

The next date of the governors' AGM is 19th October 2023.

# Financial Statement

<b>SCHOOL: LEWIS SCHOOL PENGAM</b>	
<b>OUTTURN REPORT 2022-2023</b>	
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>OUTTURN BUDGET</b>
	<b>EXCEEDED</b>
<b>EMPLOYEES</b>	
Teachers	2,899,872.00
Support Staff	421,694.00
Other Staff related costs	113,192.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3,434,758.00</b>
<b>PREMISES RELATED</b>	
Building Maintenance	566,178.00
Insurance	7,713.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>573,891.00</b>
<b>SUPPLIES &amp; SERVICES</b>	
Computer Costs	68,999.00
Furniture	585.00
Postage	2,398.00
Capitation/Stationary	26,926.00
Medical	75.00
Licences	2,804.00
Music Support Services	15,912.00
Telephone Charges	1,711.00
Photocopying	5,796.00
Transport Hire	8,534.00
EOTAS	78,449.00
Activities / Trips	
Long Service Award	
Exam Fees	127,131.00
Community Focused spend	1,000.00
School Website	
Marketing	1,294.00
Revision Club	1,111.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>342,725.00</b>
<b>SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS</b>	
All Services	31,323.00
<b>SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANS</b>	
	9,439.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	
	<b>4,392,136.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Reimbursement School Meals	
Supply Compensation	
LA Income	513,183.21
Miscellaneous (Not vatable)	15,425.60
Rent	
Donations	
Grant Funding	368,117.23
GTC & other training grants	29,203.00
Secondment Income	50,128.00
Music Income	5,350.00
WRU Income	5,000.00
Retrospective Funding Other	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>986,407.04</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	
	<b>3,405,728.96</b>
<b>LOCAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	
	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	
	<b>3,405,728.96</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL</b>	
<b>FUNDING</b>	
Formula Allocation (net of retro. adj)	3,266,987.00
Retrospective Adjustment from prev yr.	- 56,608.00
<b>Total Formula Allocation</b>	<b>3,210,379.00</b>
Total Carried forward from prev. yr.	145,320.00
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>3,355,907.00</b>
<b>BUDGET SURPLUS/ALL</b>	<b>- 49,822</b>





## Key Stage 3 Performance Data 2023

	3	4	5	6	7	8	EP	5+
<b>English</b>	0.0	17.8	13.6	62.7	5.9	0.0	0.0	82.2
Oracy	0.0	17.8	13.6	62.7	5.9	0.0	0.0	82.2
Reading	0.0	17.8	13.6	62.7	5.9	0.0	0.0	82.2
Writing	0.0	17.8	13.6	62.7	5.9	0.0	0.0	82.2
<b>Mathematics</b>	0.8	17.8	16.1	47.5	17.8	0.0	0.0	81.4
<b>Science</b>	0.0	21.2	16.9	54.2	7.6	0.0	0.0	78.8

		3	4	5	6	7	8	EP	5+
<b>Welsh Second Language</b>	2023	0.0	14.4	22.9	52.5	10.2	0.0	0.0	85.6
<b>Modern Foreign Language</b>	2023	0.0	11.0	14.4	70.3	4.2	0.0	0.0	89.0
<b>Design and Technology</b>	2023	0.0	22.0	32.2	23.7	22.0	0.0	0.0	78.0
<b>Information and Communication</b>	2023	0.0	6.8	21.2	62.7	9.3	0.0	0.0	93.2
<b>History</b>	2023	0.0	10.2	16.1	38.1	35.6	0.0	0.0	89.8
<b>Geography</b>	2023	0.0	10.2	16.1	38.1	35.6	0.0	0.0	89.8
<b>Art and Design</b>	2023	0.0	14.4	23.7	50.8	11.0	0.0	0.0	85.6
<b>Music</b>	2023	0.0	11.0	11.9	65.3	11.9	0.0	0.0	89.0
<b>Physical Education</b>	2023	0.0	12.7	22.0	50.8	14.4	0.0	0.0	87.3



## Key Stage 4 and 5 Performance Data 2023

<b>Year 11 2023</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Capped 9 score	386.9
Avg Scaled Capped 9 score per student in Literacy Area	38.3
Avg Scaled Capped 9 score per student in Numeracy Area	38.1
Avg Scaled Capped 9 score per student in Science Area	33.4
Core Subject - Welsh Bacallaureate Skills Challenge Certificate	41.5
5+ A*-A GCSE (or equiv.)	14.8%

<b>Year 13 2023</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Students achieving 3+ A*-A L3 quals (or equiv.)	9.4%
Students achieving 3+ A*-C L3 quals (or equiv.)	53.1
Students achieving 3+ A*-E L3 quals (or equiv.)	96.8%
Students achieving 2+ A*-E L3 quals (or equiv.)	100%

## Destinations of Learners

Year 11	Number of pupils	Year 12	Number of pupils
Returned to Year 12	32	Higher education	24
College	72	Gap year	1
Apprenticeship	2	Apprenticeship	3
Employment	5	Employment	4
Other	3	Other	1



## Attendance Data

Improving school attendance is a key priority for the school. The school's attendance figures are improving and are in a good position compared to other schools in the Local Authority area.

### School attendance 2022-23

School 2021-22	85.5%
School target 2022-23	87%
School 2022-23	87.7% (+2.2%)
Unauthorised absences	5.6
School target 2023-24	89.5%

### School attendance per half term 2022-23

Half Term	Attendance %	Unauthorised absences
HT1	89.1%	3.2%
HT2	81.7%	8.7%
HT3	89.2%	5.8%
HT4	89.7%	5.3%
HT5	90.2%	4.4%

### School attendance per year group 2021-23

Year group	Attendance
Year 11 2021-22	83.9%
Year 11 2022-23	87.4% (+3.5%)
Year 10 2021-22	85.5%
Year 10 2022-23	86% (+0.5%)
Year 9 2021-22	84.2%
Year 9 2022-23	84.6% (+0.5%)
Year 8 2021-22	84.7%
Year 8 2022-23	89.3% (+4,6%)
Year 7 2021-22	89.5%
Year 7 2022-23	91% (+1.5%)



## Community links

Head students participated in the remembrance service in Ystrad Mynach.

In July, all of Year 10 completed interviews with local employers.

## Extra Curricular

We provide many opportunities for our students to engage in a range of extracurricular activities. Pupils are encouraged to develop their skills and talents outside the classroom by engaging in activities such as:

- Sports and exercise including football, rugby, tennis, table tennis, cross country during lunchtimes and after school
- Music and drama shows
- Music lessons
- Lunchtime clubs-politics club, board games, coding club
- School trips and visits-our trips calendar can be found on the school website.

## Prospectus

The school prospectus is on the school website and a hard copy is available on request. The school prospectus has been updated in June 2023.

## Policies

The school is fully compliant in its statutory requirements for policies. Policies are either re-adopted or where necessary revised and then approved by the full Governing Body. All policies are available from the school on request. A list of policies available can be found at the end of the report.

## Facilities

The school is a privately funded school and works well with MITIE to maintain and improve the facilities across the school in classrooms and sports areas. There have recently been upgrades to the science rooms. The school meets health and safety requirements for the number of toilets needed for the number on roll. Disabled toilets are also available. The toilets are cleaned regularly during the day.



## Disabled Learners

The school meets the needs of all students with appropriate procedures to ensure accessibility across the school site. There is a lift available to transport from floor to floor and disabled amenities.

## Review of school Strategies

### Changes to school uniform

- Black trousers
- White polo shirt with school logo
- Black sweatshirt with school logo
- Black shoes

### **Optional Summer Uniform-introduced through the school council and agreed by the governing body**

- Polo shirt (Years 7-10) Plain white T-shirt (Years 11-13)
- Plain black shorts

### **PE Kit**

- Black shorts
- Black polo shirt with logo
- Black sport socks
- Pair of football or rugby boots



## The School Day

<b>Pastoral</b>	08.25 – 08.40
<b>Lesson 1</b>	08.40 – 09.40
<b>Lesson 2</b>	09.40 – 10.40
<b>Break</b>	<b>10.40 – 10.55</b>
<b>Lesson 3</b>	10.55 – 11.55
<b>Lesson 4</b>	11.55 – 12.55
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12.55 – 13.25</b>
<b>Lesson 5</b>	13.25 – 14.30

## Term Dates

<b>AUTUMN TERM 2023</b>		
<b>Term Starts</b>	<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Friday, 01 September 2023	Monday, 30 October 2023 -Friday, 03 November 2023	Friday, 22 December 2023
<b>SPRING TERM 2024</b>		
<b>Term Starts</b>	<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Monday, 8 January 2024	Monday, 12 February 2024- Friday, 16 February 2024	Friday, 22 March 2024
<b>SUMMER TERM 2024</b>		
Monday, 8 April 2024	Monday, 27 May 2024 - Friday, 31 May 2024	Friday, 19 July 2024

## INSET Dates

1st September 2023  
27th October 2023  
4th December 2023  
9th February 2024  
20th June 2024  
21st June 2024



## Progress towards School Improvement Priorities 2023

Focus Area	Priorities for Improvement
Learning-key stage 4 and 5 standards	<p><b>Key Stage 4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly all of the main key performance indicators were in line with targets set.</li> <li>Nearly all departments who have targeted A*-A grades were in line or above the target set for MEG.</li> <li>Many departments were in line with A*-C, A*-G and average points targets</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Stage 5:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All performance indicators have improved since 2019.</li> <li>Many key performance indicators were in line with targets set.</li> </ul>
Learning-standards and progress in learning and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many pupils made suitable progress from their individual starting point. •The majority of pupils in year 7 have made progress or above expected progress in their PTE assessments.</li> <li>Many pupils used their literacy skills well across the curriculum. Many pupils make good progress in their writing skills across the curriculum, however, pupils need to ensure greater technical accuracy.</li> <li>AWRT: Many pupils in year 7-9 make progress at least in line with learners in the same year group/or above (980-1020). Year 7: 77%; Year 8: 80%; Year 9: 80%</li> </ul>
Well-being and attitudes to learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupil attendance has improved to 87.7% (overall) and 82.5% (FSM).</li> <li>Number of exclusions was in line with targets set.</li> <li>Learners have started to engage with good opportunities to express their views regarding wellbeing.</li> <li>School leadership roles have been effective. Most of these groups have been run independently by pupils. The school council introduced a school summer uniform successfully.</li> </ul>
Teaching and learning experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many lessons used DRICE principles.</li> <li>Many lessons allowed for worthwhile challenge and engagement of pupils.</li> <li>There are worthwhile written activities in Communication/English.</li> <li>All pupils in year 7 have the opportunity to access high quality formal and informal learning experiences in and across the 6 challenges.</li> <li>Many teachers use the baseline expectations with regards to Welsh.</li> </ul>
Care, support and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 2 of the ALN bill has been implemented effectively in line with Welsh Government requirements.</li> <li>Safeguard My School has been implemented successfully and is now used for the record keeping processes.</li> </ul>
Leadership and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many middle departmental leaders can accurately self-evaluate and plan for improvement.</li> <li>Nearly all department middle leaders have evaluated progress against targets and planned for improvement.</li> <li>Pastoral learner voice has been strengthened and used regularly during the self-evaluation cycle.</li> <li>The teachers who have accessed a coaching programme based on Walkthrus, and internal NQT mentoring program have demonstrated that there has been a positive impact on their pedagogy. Teaching is developing through the OLEVI programme and Walthrus.</li> </ul>



## School Improvement Priorities 2023-26

Focus Area	Priorities for Improvement
Learning-key stage 4 and 5 standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve standards in Welsh and Science in key stage 4.</li><li>• Improve A*-A% in key stage 5</li></ul>
Learning-standards and progress in learning and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve standards in literacy, digital literacy and Welsh skills</li><li>• Improve standards and progress of FSM and ALN groups of learners.</li></ul>
Well-being and attitudes to learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to improve pupils' attendance</li><li>• Enable learners and staff to develop good mental health and wellbeing</li><li>• Further develop pupil leadership roles and responsibilities</li></ul>
Teaching and learning experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure there are consistently good standards of teaching and learning</li><li>• Further develop key stage 3 curriculum and provision in line with Curriculum for Wales</li><li>• Further improve provision for literacy, digital literacy and Welsh skills across the curriculum</li><li>• Prepare for 'Qualified for the Future'</li></ul>
Care, support and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve provision for mental health and wellbeing</li><li>• Continue to embed the ALNET in line with Welsh Government requirements</li></ul>
Leadership and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enable middle leaders to accurately identify strengths and area for improvement</li><li>• Widen professional learning offer</li><li>• Develop a coaching and mentoring approach</li></ul>





## Health and Wellbeing

At Lewis School Pengam we provide holistic support for our young people, supporting the wide range of needs through our own in house provisions but also working closely with external agencies.

We have a robust pastoral structure that provides support through upper, middle and lower school. In addition, we have a team of Learning Support Assistants, School Counsellors and Youth Workers. All staff members prioritise the safeguarding of our young people.

We are a Thrive school, we prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils. More information can be found at [thriveapproach.com](https://thriveapproach.com).

Regular pupils wellbeing surveys have been introduced this year, along with pupil focus groups for each year group to strengthen opportunities for pastoral learner voice.

## Learner Voice and Leadership roles

Pupils participate in a range of learner voice opportunities including our school council, year councils, Criw Cymraeg and pupils wellbeing surveys. In addition, we regularly listen to learners about their learning and progress.

Pupils are involved in a wide variety of leadership roles across the school. Our student leadership roles include head students, the school leadership team, digital leaders, sports leaders and our eco group representatives.

This year, the year and school councils have introduced a new optional summer uniform. This process involved surveying all stakeholders and presenting a proposal to the governing body, which has been approved.



## Curriculum

The primary purpose of the curriculum at Lewis School Pengam is to provide every young person with the necessary experiences, skills, and qualifications to go on to realise their potential in a world that is ever-changing and increasingly demanding. Intrinsic to the curriculum is the development of pupils' essential skills in literacy, numeracy, and digital competence. In addition, as we build knowledge and understanding, we embrace a growth mindset to promote independence, confidence, and resilience so that our pupils emerge as ambitious, capable learners; enterprising, creative contributors; ethical, informed citizens, and healthy, confident individuals.

As an inclusive school, we challenge ourselves to provide a modern, relevant, purposeful and balanced education, flexible enough to meet the needs and requirements of all our learners. The curriculum is not only what we teach, but how we teach it and why; at LSP we promote and encourage best practice as we endeavour to provide an exceptional experience for all. At our school, the learning experiences, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every young person matter.

### Years 7 and 8

In years 7 and 8, pupils follow the Lewis School Pengam 'Challenge Curriculum'. There are six challenge areas, each reflecting one of the areas of learning and experience from The Curriculum for Wales Framework.

The challenge areas and their respective AoLE are:

- **Calculation:** Mathematics and Numeracy
- **Citizenship:** Health and Wellbeing
- **Communication:** Languages, Literacy and Communication
- **Community:** Humanities
- **Construction:** Science and Technology
- **Creativity:** Expressive Arts

With the four purposes underpinning curriculum planning, pupils develop their skills, knowledge, and experiences in each of these areas, according to the 'what matters statements' and 'descriptions of learning'. Planning also ensures the mandatory elements, relationships and sexuality education(RSE); religion, values and ethics (RSE), and careers and work-related experiences (CWRE) are delivered as per Welsh Government guidance.

The cross-curricular skills of literacy, numeracy, and digital competence are embedded in each of the challenge areas. The curriculum incorporates the integral skills:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Personal Effectiveness
- Planning and Organising



The curriculum also includes the cross-cutting themes:

- Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE)
- Human Rights/The Rights of the Child
- Diversity
- Careers and Work Related Experience
- Local, National and international contexts, with a particular focus on Cynefin (a sense of Welsh identity and belonging)

With the exception of Calculation, learners are taught in mixed ability classes.

### **Year 9**

In year 9 pupils currently follow a curriculum with subjects being taught by subject specialists. The curriculum is broad and balanced and includes English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh Religious Values and Ethics (RVE), Physical Education (PE), and Personal, Social and Education (PSE) as the statutory components of the national curriculum. Curriculum opportunities allow pupils to engage in learning and provide a clear pathway for progression, ensuring stretch and challenge for all learners. Learners are taught in classes set according to ability.

### **Years 10 and 11**

The year 10 and 11 curriculum is designed to allow progression from year 9. All learners study English, Maths, Science, RE, PSE and Welsh. Learners also specialise by choosing a range of traditional GCSEs or vocational subjects that best suit their future aspirations. Curriculum opportunities provide a clear pathway for progression, ensuring stretch and challenge for learners as they advance through the key stage. This year, science pathways have been widened and AGORED qualifications to provide a range of qualifications to meet the needs of our learners.

### **Years 12 and 13**

At post 16, we are a member of the Upper Rhymney Valley Partnership which enables our learners to have access to over 30 different A-Level and vocational courses available across the consortium. In addition to their chosen subjects, learners complete the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge. Learners study 3-4 subjects. Curriculum opportunities provide a clear pathway for progression.

## **The Welsh Language**

Welsh is taught as a second language to all pupils in years 7-11. Teachers and learners use basic Welsh across the school.



## Teaching and Learning

In 2022-2023, we have developed our teaching and learning model. Our learning and teaching strategy is centered around the DRICE model. This model ensures that learners are provided with opportunities to deepen their learning. Teachers and learners regularly role model the work and activities ensuring that all pupils make progress. Activities are designed to have impact on learning, challenging expectations and engage learners. Learning is to be accessed by all, with stretch and support, as appropriate.

## Professional Learning

In 2022-2023, the professional learning offer has focused on in-house, local, national and international opportunities.

Our in-house professional learning has centered around the implementation of Curriculum for Wales, the ALN reform bill and the DRICE. learning and teaching model.

We held a cluster INSET based on the principles of progression and these discussion have been developed further in subsequent meetings with our feeder primary schools and LGS. throughout the year.

Collaboration with other schools has also been part of the PL offer in 2022-2023. We have shared good practice with schools within the LA and have also visited other schools to see good practice.

## Careers support and guidance

All learners in Year 11 have received careers and guidance and have attended an interview with the school's careers advisor. Year 10 have completed an application process and mock interviews with employers including British Transport Police and Welsh Water, Wales and West Utilities. Year 9 have had sessions with our careers advisor to match pupils with suitable careers.

## Healthy Eating

The school canteen is maintained by Chartwells Catering and offers a healthy menu on a two week cycle. Menus are available on request if your child has any allergies so that you can make sure of their safety and the canteen will accommodate accordingly.

## Safeguarding

Miss H Clark/Miss S Beech are the Child Protection/Safeguarding Officers at the school. Mr S Evans is the Safeguarding Governor.



## **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)**

Pupils with additional learning needs are identified on the ALN register which is monitored and regularly updated. The support provided to ALN pupils is currently changing with the phased introduction of the ALN bill. As of 2022/2023 pupils in year 8, 10 and 11 requiring targeted or specific provision, including an Individual Development Plan (IDP) have been identified. Pupils requiring specific provision in these year groups have had a Person Centre Review meeting followed by the completion of an IDP and identification of Additional Learning Provision (ALP) where required. All remaining year groups will join this system in the 2023 - 2024 academic year.

In line with these changes to ALN provision our targeted pupils will have a one page profile which identifies useful strategies and approaches to use when planning lessons and preparing resources. Pupils requiring specific interventions will have a one page profile and targeted learning plan available for teachers to review, along with their IDP (with the ALP) which is reviewed on a yearly basis. Regular departmental meetings with an ALN focus take place through the academic year. These meetings, along with 'In School' Training opportunities provide staff with the tools and strategies to best support our targeted and specific provision pupils.

We have introduced further opportunities to test literacy and numeracy progress in all year 7 pupils which allows us to identify pupils requiring intervention programmes in literacy and/or numeracy. It also allows us to monitor progress being made by pupils who are receiving intervention to see if these programmes are developing the pupils skills as we would expect or if they require a different programme or approach.



## **Pupil achievements**

### **Progress achievements**

4 year 9 pupils collaborated to write a book 'The Rage of the Pirates', which has been published by P.E.T.R.A Publishing

15 pupils have read over a million words, and one pupil over 2 million words, on our Accelerated Reader Program

### **Sporting achievements**

#### Football

Year 8 and 9 Caerphilly Champions, Seniors - Caerphilly finalists

18 players from Year 7 to 11 representing Caerphilly schools.

A year 8 pupil represented Wales u13 regional

#### Rugby

Year 9 and 11 Caerphilly Plate runners-up

Year 8 -Caerphilly plate champions

3 pupils represented Dragons u16s, 5 represented Rhymney Valley schools u15s.

Welsh champions in Taekwondo, MMA, Boxing.

### **Music achievements**

A year 12 pupil has attended the National Youth Arts Wales Musical Futures Programme and the Sound Progression Studio Programme for Young Artists

A year 11 pupil has attended National Youth Arts Wales Musical Futures Programme and achieved Grade 8 Guitar

A Year 11 pupil has played with the National Youth Brass Band of Wales and achieved Grade 8 Piano

Two pupils in Year 11 have achieved Grade 4 and 5 Drums

### **Extracurricular achievements**

Two year 13 students have been Holocaust Ambassadors. As part of their role they have spoken with survivors, attended a conference, visited Poland for the day and taught Year 8 classes what they learnt.