



Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr  
Gorau byw cyd-fyw

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025 / 2026



## **REVISED STATUTORY GUIDANCE OF THE SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013**

The Welsh Government has issued revised statutory guidance of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 in relation to the Annual Report to Parents Meetings. The new arrangements mean that it is no longer necessary for school governing bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents. However, the Welsh Government considers that parents should be able to engage with governing bodies on issues that matter to them.

- It is still necessary for an annual report to parents to be produced and distributed.
- If 10% of the parents of registered pupils at the school or the parents of 30 pupils registered at the school – whichever is the lower number- request a meeting with governors, the school governing body is required to hold a meeting.
- A school governing body can be required to hold up to 3 meetings with parents each academic year.

For your information, there were no matters raised by the parents to be discussed with the Governing Body in 2024/25.

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY 2025/26**

The constitution, in accordance with the relevant Articles of Governance, is based on 1136 pupils from September 2025: 6 parent governors, 5 LEA governors, 2 teacher governors, 1 staff governor, 5 co-opted governors and the Headteacher = a total of 20 Governors. The vacancy for LEA representative should be noted as being under appointment. Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr is a Group 7 school.

Miss Aldyth Williams (Cadeirydd)	LEA	until July.	2029
Mr Jeffrey Connick	Headteacher		
Mr Ben Roberts	Clerk		
Parch. Dr. Adrian Morgan (Is-gadeirydd)	LEA	until Dec.	2029
Mr Phil Morris	LEA	until July	2026
Parch. Dr. Ian Morris	LEA	until July	2029
Dr Robert Smith	LEA	until Aug.	2028
Mrs Helen Osborne	Parent	until Nov.	2026
Mrs Kate Reed	Parent	until Nov.	2026
Mrs Luned Jones	Parent	until Nov.	2028
Mrs Karen Thomas	Parent	until Nov.	2028
Mr Darrill Williams	Parent	until Nov.	2028
Dr Tricia Skuse	Parent	until Nov.	2026
Mrs Meinir Hutchings	Co-opted	until Nov.	2026
Mrs Rahel Williams	Co-opted	until Nov.	2026
Mr Peter Morgan	Co-opted	until Nov.	2028
Dr Steve Morris	Co-opted	until Sept.	2027
Mrs Saran Thomas	Co-opted	until Sept.	2028
Mrs Non Lewis	Teacher	until Sept.	2028
Mrs Jan Ohlsson Jones	Teacher	until Sept.	2028
Mrs Marie Davies	Staff	until Sept.	2028
Prif Ddisgyblion	School Council	until Aug.	

## WORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BODY



It is a great pleasure to greet you as the Chair of the Governing Body of the school once again this year.

The year 2024 – 2025 has been a very busy one as the school celebrated its 40th birthday. On 9 September 1984, Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr opened as West Glamorgan's second Welsh-medium secondary school with only 100 pupils on roll. The catchment area was extensive, including the Morryston and Port Talbot areas at the time. A number of special activities were held to celebrate the school's landmark anniversary including the musical *Nôl i'r 80au* (Back to the 80s); rugby and netball matches between former pupils and school staff; a special dinner for staff and former staff at the King Arthur Hotel on the Gower Peninsula, and a gala concert at the Brangwyn Hall in July which served as a huge finale to the celebrations. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the evening was witnessing a choir of over 250 staff, pupils and former pupils, led by our former Head of Music, Meinir Richards, singing the song *Dathlu'r Deugain* (Celebrating Forty) which was specially written by Gareth Williams, our current Deputy Headteacher, and composed by Eric Jones, the distinguished musician and former Deputy Headteacher. It was an evening to remember with the cameras of the TV show, *Heno*, also there to record the occasion!

There was a lot of competition and much commitment shown to all of the activities connected with the 2025 *Urdd Eisteddfod Dur a Môr*, held in the Glamorgan *Urdd* Region – a hugely successful *Eisteddfod* for the school's pupils as they won 25 stage and homework prizes. In addition, as part of the preparations, Gŵyr pupils joined their friends from Bryn Tawe and Ystalyfera Bro Dur schools to record the *Eisteddfod* song, composed by Huw Chiswell and Bronwen Lewis, and the three schools also came together to perform the contemporary work *Teilwng yw'r Oen* (Worthy is the Lamb) at Christmas time in order to raise money for the *Eisteddfod*. What a year indeed!

During 2024-25, the school's focus has been on improving buildings and educational provision. In collaboration with the Education Authority, the school's Specialist Teaching Centre was relocated, from the building near the main school gates to the top floor of the main building. There is now an inclusive, modern and colourful teaching and learning unit comprising a lift and special toilets enhancing the facilities and expanding the space available to a maximum of 18 learners. The new centre is aptly named *Y Goleudy* (The Lighthouse). Inclusion is a priority for us as governors and therefore witnessing the completion of this project is a matter of great pleasure. It will also be a step forward in the development of the Welsh-medium education provision in the county.

At the end of the last school year, as usual, some staff bade farewell for various reasons, but in particular we must record our debt to Aled Tinnuche, as Head of the Design and Technology Department, who served the school for 30 years. Hundreds upon hundreds of pupils benefited from his inspirational guidance and education. We wish him a long and happy retirement. We also wish Alun Rennolf, Head of the Physics Department, well as he left us in July 2025 to go to serve as a minister of religion in North Wales. His contribution to school life was also significant.

There are close to 1,200 learners in the school and the school site is extensive. That of course comes with its challenges, especially to maintain a safe site. The school's growth is due to its endless success. This success continued with the very good GCSE, A and AS Level results last summer and we congratulate the staff and learners on their conscientious work in ensuring this. We, as a Governing Body, wish the Headteacher and the Leadership Team of Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr all the best as they continue to maintain the school's excellent reputation.

Before concluding, we extend our thanks to you, parents and guardians, once again for your support and willing cooperation. We look forward to working together smoothly over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

## **POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN**

A summary of the Plan's main targets in response to the last Estyn Inspection report, October 2023:

- Improve the shortcomings identified about teaching in the report
- Ensure that leaders at all levels have clear and strategic responsibilities to drive improvements across the school
- Ensure that all leaders undertake a wide range of quality assurance activities and strengthen their ability to evaluate the impact of provision on pupils' progress
- Work with the local authority to address the health and safety issues identified during the inspection

## **RAISING STANDARDS**

The school continues to aim for the highest possible attainment in every Progression Step and Key Stage by ensuring that the standards of teaching and learning are consistently high, through setting ambitious targets for each pupil, through tracking progress carefully, through supporting pupils in target groups with additional assistance and through working closely with parents. The school continues to promote the attainment of groups of learners to develop robust study skills in order that their standards are consistent with those of other pupils. We aim annually to narrow the gap between the performance of boys and girls and also to reduce the impact of deprivation and additional learning needs on the achievements of pupils in order to help all individuals achieve their full potential. The *Trobwynt* and *Encil* centres were established in order that specialised staff can support vulnerable and SEN pupils in a proactive way. These centres help pupils with challenging work and staff also support pupils emotionally so that they become more effective learners. Through Class Charts, we inform parents of uncompleted homework and behavioural issues, in order to promote a closer working partnership between staff and parents. The focus continues in the development of strategies to reduce the impact of deprivation, as well as curricular planning in response to the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 with special attention given to recognising what progress means and looks like. In addition, focus is also upon supporting the literacy standards of students following the *Covid 19* lockdowns and self-isolation periods to ensure that they reflect their age and ability. The school is also planning the implementation of the new GCSE and VCSE courses proposed by Welsh Government for 2025 - 2028

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

We continue to utilise the five-part lesson plan across the school, supporting skills development and the thinking cycle of planning, developing and reviewing with specific emphasis in the early years in responding to the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales 2022. The utilisation of the 12 Pedagogical Principles of the New Curriculum is central. Great emphasis is placed upon developing lessons that promote the use of skills in literacy, numeracy and digital competence and which raise the standards of these skills through their practice across the curriculum in a meaningful way. The school remains focused on ensuring all staff have a shared understanding of what makes an excellent lesson. All teachers are observed during the year, in order to monitor standards and share good practice. Teachers are encouraged to work together in order to observe each other thus learning from each other. Our aim as a school is to ensure consistent high-quality lessons throughout the year. Scrutiny of pupils' books at all Key Stages is an important part of the school's self-evaluation processes on an annual basis in addition to Learning Walks. Feedback of observations of teaching and learning, and scrutiny of books to the staff is a regular feature of school life in order to drive higher standards. Senior leaders, as a part of the work of monitoring the quality of middle leader's self-evaluation processes, ensure that findings are addressed in improvement plans in order to improve standards.

## **CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL'S HANDBOOK**

Any changes to the school's handbook since its publication are included in this report.

## **2025-26 DEVELOPMENT PLAN PRIORITIES**

- To further strengthen the use of the Welsh Language across the school among learners and staff in order to take pride in our linguistic identity and safeguard the best use of the language in all situations in school life
- Continue to target issues such as individual attendance, trauma, school avoidance (Emotional Based School Avoidance), Relationships and Sexuality Education and redesign of Personal and Social Education in the form of the Dysgu Byw curriculum
- To spread excellence in learning by developing a course for our learners on Learning Effectiveness as part of the school's Dysgu byw curriculum to focus on nurturing effective and independent learners
- Ensure that middle leaders and teachers undertake a wide range of quality assurance activities and further strengthen their ability to evaluate the impact of provision on pupils' progress, i.e., identify their learners' strengths and areas of improvement through book scrutiny, regular observation of lessons and professional discussions
- Continue to ensure that leaders at all levels have clear and strategic responsibilities to drive improvements across the school to include maintaining the school's excellent KS4 historical standards
- Continue to work with the local authority to address the health and safety issues identified during the 2023 inspection and those that appear with the passage of time.

## **THE USE OF WELSH**

Welsh is the official language of the school and it should be used exclusively on the school site by staff and pupils, except in lessons such as English, Science (when taught through the medium of English) and Modern Foreign Languages. With the exception of English, all subjects are taught through the medium of Welsh, but in KS4 it is possible to choose to study Science either through the medium of Welsh or English. In KS5, the Sciences are taught through the medium of English at Gŵyr but it is possible to study them through the medium of Welsh at Bryn Tawe, through the Gŵyr-Bryn Tawe Partnership.

## CROSS-CURRICULAR / HOLISTIC SKILLS

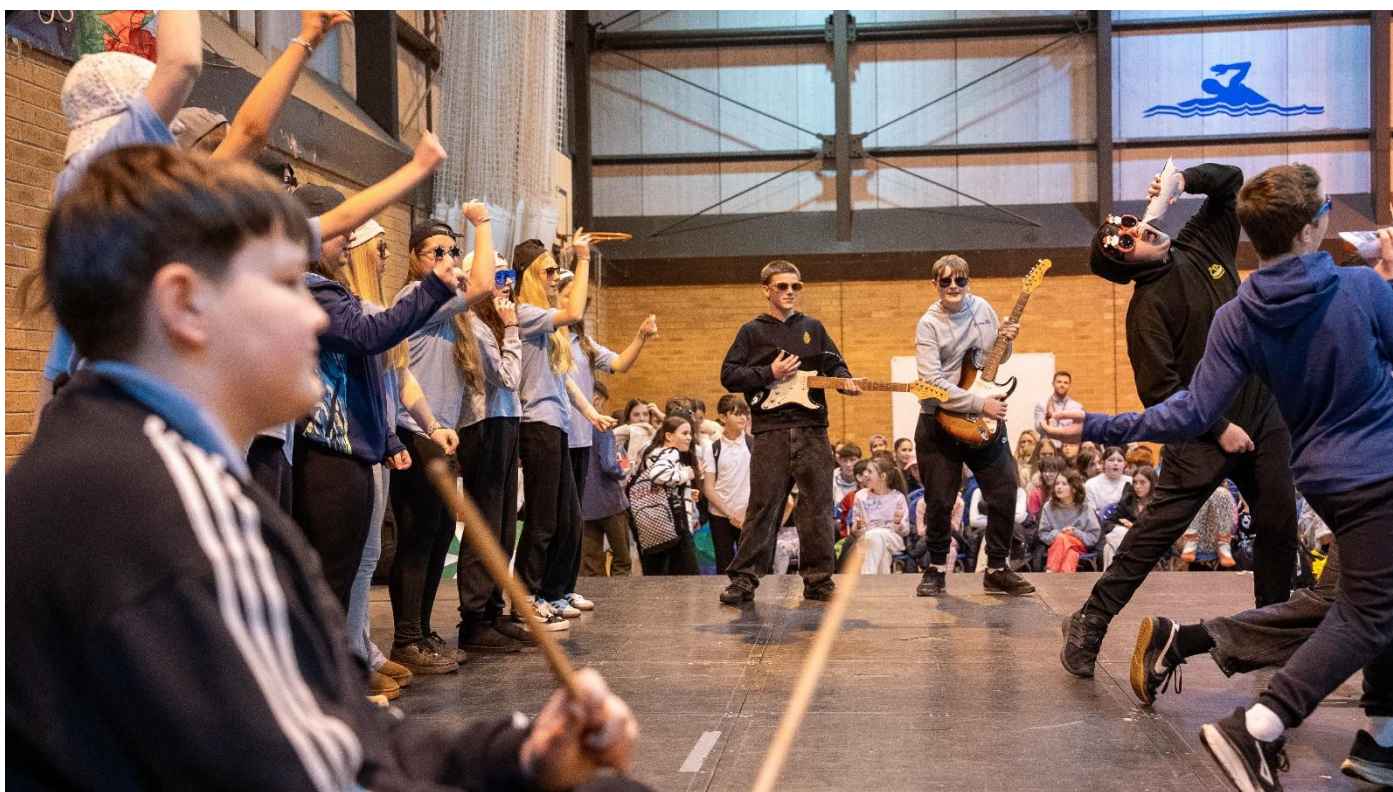
The school is very keen to continuously improve the cross-curricular and holistic skills of all pupils so that they can: -

- read, write, speak and listen in all languages
- apply their numeracy skills to a level necessary to progress in school
- develop their digital skills
- further develop their creativity
- think critically
- solve problems
- deepen their metacognitive skills

As part of this important work, our pastoral periods focus on aspects of these skills such as literacy and numeracy of e.g., 'language rule of the week' or 'numeracy puzzle of the week'. An integral part of the implementation of Curriculum for Wales 2022 is to statutorily promote these cross-curricular and holistic skills from Year 7 onwards however the school's vision demands that these skills are also broadened and deepened in the teaching, learning and assessment all pupils whatever their Progression Step / Key Stage. Strategies used are strategies such as the Eight Reading Behaviours; the Six Non-Fiction Writing Methods; Metacognition Skills with an emphasis on learning how to learn. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend parents' evenings or contact the school to promote the development of these key skills in their children.

## REVIEW OF SCHOOL POLICIES

Every school policy was reviewed in 2024-25 to ensure that they are all current.



## **ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)**

A person has additional learning needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision.

Children of a compulsory school age has a learning difficulty if he or she:

- a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age;  
or
- b) has a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010, which prevents or hinders the from making use of facilities for education or training of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream maintained schools or mainstream institutions in Further Education Sector.

The school aims to ensure that all pupils are equally valued and to achieve this the school accepts that all individuals should have the opportunity to partake of a varied, balanced and differentiated curriculum, whatever their additional learning needs may be, and to develop to the best of their ability within this curriculum. This policy is based on the principle of inclusion and is reinforced by the school's inclusion policy. We shall ensure that we undertake a pupil centered approach and consider parents and pupils thoughts in all decision making.

To achieve this the school will:

- i) integrate pupils to ensure mixed ability classes in year 7 and encourage the use of appropriately differentiated tasks where necessary and wherever possible.
- ii) from year 8 onwards, establish a procedure that enables pupils with difficulties to have the attention and support that they deserve, and to work at a suitable pace to enable them to achieve their potential.
- iii) employ specialist assistants for literacy and numeracy, in order to work with individuals and small groups to support their specific difficulties.
- iv) Employ a HLTA to oversee the daily running's of the Encil to ensure targeted provision to those living with social communication needs. The Encil will ensure consistency and provision to those learners studying a different curriculum due to their ALN e.g., French in KS3 / BAC in KS4.
- v) employ an Additional Learning Needs Coordinator who will:
  - Provide information, advice and training for teachers on specific pupils with various educational difficulties (please see the guidance on Various Difficulties)
  - Evaluate the educational experiences of pupils with learning difficulties and monitor the school's provision in this respect
  - Be a link between the children, parents, school and all specialist professionals/agencies
  - Prepare, create, maintain and review the Individual Development Plan system
  - Prepare the school for the new system entailed by the introduction of the new Additional Learning Needs Act from 2021 onwards
- vi) maintain assessment tools across the curriculum that recognises strengths and weaknesses of pupils with special educational needs, track the progress of those pupils and set appropriate targets in order to promote further development.
- vii) recognise that the individual pupil has a voice in discussing his/her educational needs.

- viii) accept that all teachers are teachers of ALN and all members of staff have a vital contribution to make to the education of ALN pupils at the school.

At present, there are 83 pupils on the ALN register and all year groups are now following the new ALNET Act. All 83 pupil have an individual development plan (IDP).

The ALN Unit was opened at the school in September 2009 with a new refurbishment for September 2025 under a new name, 'Y Goleudy'. The Goleudy will provide for a maximum of eighteen pupils with Social Communication difficulties and/or Learning Difficulties. The Goleudy aims to offer specific, specialist provision to the pupils in a quiet, homely environment, whilst promoting pupils' confidence and independence. The Goleudy has a strong integration policy, and pupils attending are given every opportunity to attend mainstream lessons and activities. All pupils attending the Unit will have an Individual Development Plan that Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr maintains on behalf of the LA. To be given a place in the Goleudy, the primary schools, after the year 5-person centred review, must make a referral to the LA and ALN Panel for it to be reviewed and for a decision to be made.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Working in partnership with the Authority and others has allowed the school to focus on complying with all the relevant statutory requirements to ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are kept safe at all times. The school has a Health and Safety Policy which is reviewed annually. Also, the school is committed to a Healthy Eating Policy and as a result we have restricted the availability of fatty foods, such as chips, in the school canteen. School catering, also conforms to Welsh Government guidelines on Healthy Eating.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND EXTRACURRICULAR SPORTING ACTIVITIES

The school offers a wide range of different physical activities to ensure that our learners are as active as possible and to create lifelong enjoyment of sport and physical activity. Through curricular and extra-curricular physical activities, there are opportunities for every individual to participate. The following activities are offered: netball, hockey, football, rugby, basketball, gymnastics, swimming, cross country, athletics, rounders, baseball, tennis, cricket, baseball, volleyball, skiing, outdoor activities. The school has also started a Dance Club this term.



## **DISABILITY**

The Governors are fully committed to ensuring equality for every disabled individual that uses our school premises. As a result of this, the school has in place a Strategic Equality Plan in order to improve the school's provision. The plan is reviewed annually and as a consequence the school possesses a record of stakeholders' disabilities and has made significant progress as part of on-going improvement works in renewing doors, building accessibility ramps, etc. The school intends to continue to work hard over the next few years in order to ensure more disability equality.

## **BUILDINGS AND SCHOOL SITE ISSUES**

The most significant building developments in the last year were the conversion of the first floor in the main building into the school's Specialist Teaching Facility, from the building near the main school gates to the top floor of the main building. There is now an inclusive, modern and colourful Teaching and Learning Unit comprising a lift and special toilets which enhance the facilities and expand the spaces available to at least 18 learners. The new resource is called "Y Goleudy".

The old STF facility was modified in order to relocate the resources in order to allow the relocation of the above. The new Improvement unit will be on the top floor, and the "Trobynt" and Counselling Room will be on the ground floor.

We are currently working on plans to improve other areas around the school in 2026/27, but financial constraints may not allow for any major adjustments such as the renewal of the Science Department in the coming years.

## **SCHOOL TOILETS/DRINKING WATER**

The school has a sufficient number of toilets on site in relation to pupil numbers. Toilets are located in most of the main teaching blocks earmarked for the use of specific school years. Adequate staff toilets, in accordance with staff numbers, are also provided. The toilets are cleaned to a high standard on a daily basis by the Local Authority's Cleaning Services. All toilets are inspected daily by cleaners and site staff. Toilet requisites are provided from school budget. Most of the toilet areas have electronic hand dryers. Also, the provision of clean drinking water is normally available throughout the school day to both pupils and staff.

## **SCHOOL DAY TIMES**

- 8.30 - Pre-school meetings
- 8.40 - Registration / School Assemblies
- 9.00 - Lesson 1
- 9.50 - Lesson 2
- 10.40 - Break
- 11.00 - Lesson 3
- 11.50 - Lesson 4
- 12.40 - Lunch
- 1.30 - Lesson 5
- 2.20 - Lesson 6
- 3:10 - Commence the release of pupils at the end of the school day

## TERM DATES AND SCHOOL CLOSURE PERIODS 2025-26

### Half Term Closures

Term	Term Start	Term End	Start	Finish	Term Start	Term End	Number of Days
<b>Autumn 2025</b>	Monday 1 September	Friday 24 October	Monday 27 October	Friday 31 October	Monday 3 November	Friday 19 December	75
<b>Spring 2026</b>	Monday 5 January	Friday 13 February	Monday 16 February	Friday 20 February	Monday 23 February	Friday 27 March	55
<b>Summer 2026</b>	Monday 13 April	Friday 22 May	Monday 25 May	Friday 29 May	Monday 1 June	Monday 20 July	65
						Total	195

The school will be closed for the following INSET and Preparation days on:

**Monday 1st September 2025; Tuesday 2nd September 2025; Friday 24th October 2025; Friday 27th March 2026; Friday 19th June 2026; Monday 20th July 2026; May Day will fall on 4th May 2026**

### FINANCIAL DETAILS (April '24 - March '25)

For information relating to the school budget 2024-25, **refer to the Appendix** provided by the City and County of Swansea.

In July this year an independent financial audit of the school's finances and monetary affairs was undertaken by the Authority's auditors. Following a joint collaboration of over a month, including the provision of information and a visit to the site, a very successful inspection was undertaken. We are pleased with the judgment of 'substantial assurance' that accurate and safe fiscal action is in place. The award is a reflection of the organisation and processes in place at the school in relation to our financial affairs. Thanks must go to the finance team led by Business Manager Ben Roberts for the conscientious and thorough work that takes place day in and day out that has delivered an admirable report.

Once again, members of the Governing Body did not claim any travel or subsistence costs. Despite this, the Governors would like to thank the school for providing tea/coffee and biscuits as light refreshments at the Governing Body meetings – this is greatly appreciated.

We also wish to declare that at no time have Governors/School Staff received financial benefits or other favours during 2024-25.

**YSGOL / SCHOOL: Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr**

**MANTOLEN GWARIANT BLWYDDYN ARIANNOL 2024/2025  
STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2024/25 FINANCIAL  
YEAR**

	<b>Delegated Expenditure</b>	<b>Non- Delegated Expenditure</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Teachers' Salaries	4,933,951	33,118
Salaries	1,235,223	51,464
Other Employee Costs	-2,527	712
Premises	30,419	0
Transport	5,918	1,172,524
Supplies & Services	1,534,030	0
Recharges	13,956	70,939
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>7,750,969</b>	<b>1,328,757</b>
Grant Income	-661,618	0
Other Income	-745,460	-40,542
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>-1,407,077</b>	<b>-40,542</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>6,343,892</b>	<b>1,288,215</b>
<b>RESERVES:</b>	<b>£</b>	
FINAL FORMULA ALLOCATION:	6,184,946	
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE:	6,343,892	
<b>TRANSFER TO / (FROM) RESERVES:</b>	<b>-158,946</b>	
OPENING BALANCE ON RESERVES 01/04/24	582,773	
<b>CLOSING BALANCE ON RESERVES: 31/03/25</b>	<b>423,827</b>	

## EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS 2025

Warmest congratulations to our staff and pupils for all the hard work undertaken resulting in the achievement of such excellent KS4 and KS5 results.

This year, see the Appendix giving full details of the results.

<b>TERM: JUNE 2025</b>	<b>QUALIFICATION: GCSE</b>									
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>U</b>
PE	66	3	11	21	22	7	2	0	0	0
RE	13	0	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	0
MEDIA STUDIES	12	0	0	3	3	3	2	1	0	0
ART	20	5	4	3	5	2	0	1	0	0
MUSIC	10	3	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
COMPUTING	14	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	0	0
WELSH LITERATURE	149	5	16	40	43	35	10	0	0	0
WELSH LANGUAGE	181	1	21	58	53	25	13	7	2	1
GEOGRAPHY	45	4	9	7	12	6	5	2	0	0
DRAMA	13	1	1	2	3	2	4	0	0	0
D.T.	67	1	7	24	23	8	1	2	1	0
PHOTOGRAPHY	44	7	11	17	5	1	2	0	0	0
FRENCH	14	5	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
HISTORY	33	7	13	6	3	3	0	1	0	0
HEALTH AND SOCIAL	23	2	7	6	4	2	0	1	1	0
MATHEMATICS	182	26	28	32	38	30	21	1	1	5
MATHEMATICS NUMERACY	160	15	30	22	47	18	18	0	0	10
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	184	5	22	42	58	39	15	3	0	0
ENGLISH LITERATURE	165	7	30	63	41	16	8	0	0	0
SPANISH	27	5	5	4	7	3	2	1	0	0
TEXTILES	26	2	2	5	8	3	3	3	0	0
LATIN L1	9	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
	<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>U</b>
ELECTRONICS (Eduqas)	14	2	2	1	2	0	2	2	2	1
LATIN (Eduqas)	6	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
<b>WELSH BAC</b>	<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>P*</b>	<b>P1</b>	<b>U</b>		
SKILLS CHALLENGE KS4	161	18	20	44	68	10	0	1		

<b>TERM: JUNE 2025</b>	<b>QUALIFICATION: GCE/ A LEVEL</b>							
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>
RE	3	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
GERMAN	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MEDIA STUDIES	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
BIOLOGY	29	1	7	10	5	3	2	1
ART AND DESIGN	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
ART DESIGN AND TEXTILES	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
CHEMISTRY	21	1	6	8	5	1	0	0
MUSIC	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
WELSH 1 <sup>ST</sup> LANGUAGE	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
GEOGRAPHY	5	0	2	1	2	0	0	0
D.T	9	0	1	6	2	0	0	0
ELECTRONICS	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
PHYSICS	18	1	2	4	6	3	1	0
FRENCH	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
POLITICS	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
HISTORY	7	0	3	1	3	0	0	0
MATHEMATICS	27	3	5	6	6	4	2	1
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	4	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
ENGLISH	16	1	4	6	3	2	0	0
SPANISH	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
PHYSIOLOGY	11	1	3	7	0	0	0	0
CRIMINOLOGY	4	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
TOURISM	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	4	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
<b>WELSH BAC</b>								
HER SGILIAU - TYST.L3	61	7	26	15	11	1	1	0
<b>DIPLOMA / CERTIFICATE L3</b>								
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (Diploma L3)	6	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
BUISNESS STUDIES (Diploma L3)	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
		<b>D*</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>U</b>		
FOOD SCIENCE NUTRITION (Diploma L3)	7	0	0	3	3	1		

<b>BTEC QUALIFICATION L3</b>	<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>D*</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>
PROTECTIVE SERVICES L3 BTEC	3	2	0	1	0

<b>TERM: JUNE 2025</b>	<b>QUALIFICATION: GCE / AS</b>						
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>
ELECTRONICS	9	0	0	3	2	0	3

<b>VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>Dist*</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Merit2</b>	<b>PassL2</b>	<b>PassL1</b>	<b>U</b>
PUBLIC SERVICES (BTEC L1/2)	17	3	2	2	5	4	1

	<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>Dist*</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Merit2</b>	<b>PassL2</b>	<b>Dis*L1</b>	<b>DisL1</b>	<b>MeritL1</b>	<b>PassL1</b>
HOSPITALITY AND CATERING (CERT. L1/2)	22	0	2	6	6	7	1	0	0
RETAIL BUISNESS (CERT. L1/2)	6	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0

<b>DOUBLE AWARD QUALIFICATION GCSE</b>	<b>ENTRIES ENGLISH WELSH</b>		<b>* *</b>	<b>* A</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>CC</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>D D</b>	<b>D E</b>	<b>E E</b>	<b>E F</b>	<b>F F</b>	<b>F G</b>	<b>G G</b>	<b>U</b>
SCIENCE	152	24	8	15	10	22	14	25	28	13	17	7	6	5	3	1	2	0
<b>QUALIFICATION L2</b>					<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>Dist</b>					<b>Merit</b>			<b>Pa ss</b>	<b>U</b>			
FURTHER MATHEMATICS L2					33	11					6			2	14			

		<b>LEVEL</b>		
<b>ENTRY LEVEL</b>	<b>ENTRIES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
MATHEMATICS	2	0	2	0
ENGLISH	3	2	1	0
WELSH	2	0	2	0
SCIENCE	2	0	1	1

## SCHOOL CULTURAL AND SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM 2024/25

We extend our many congratulations to the pupils for their successes in both cultural and sporting spheres outside the classroom again in during a very challenging year. We also thank the staff for all their support.

See **Appendix** for full details.





Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr  
Gorau byw cyd-fyw

School

Successes

2025





## **CELEBRATING THE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PUPILS AT YSGOL GYFUN GŴYR**

It was a big year for Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr in 2024–25, as we celebrated its 40th anniversary with a feast of events for the wider school family. Learners and current staff had opportunities to learn about the school’s history, and to enjoy celebrations that included former pupils and former staff members.

Since opening its doors for the first time back in 1984—after a long campaign to secure Welsh-medium secondary education in Swansea—this successful school has gone from strength to strength. The cog has remained part of the school logo from the very beginning, symbolising learners and staff working together to create the school’s close community within the wider communities of Swansea and Wales. The past year’s celebrations have made it a pleasure to see how many people’s lives have been shaped by the school, and to hear them praise their wealth of experiences; the words “Teulu Gŵyr” (the Gŵyr Family) encompass everyone, and members of this family have travelled to all corners of the world.

It is a pleasure to note that the experiences are just as rich and exciting today as they were forty years ago, and within the pages of this booklet you will get a flavour of what the Gŵyr Family has been doing over the past year.

# 'DATHLU'R DEUGAIN' - CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS OF EDUCATION

## SCHOOL SHOW - 'Back to the 80's'

With rehearsals already underway since summer term 2024, we hit the ground running in September as the Drama, Music and Art departments collaborated to produce the show \*Back to the 80s\* to mark the school's 40th anniversary. Rehearsals were diligent, and it was wonderful to see the learners' enjoyment as they immersed themselves completely in the music and fashion of the era.

As part of the preparations, a "Back to the 80s Day" was held, with staff and pupils wearing 80s clothing and enjoying music from the time. Some even managed to dig out the original fashion items they'd worn back then!

In the Taliesin Theatre at the start of November, on went the legwarmers and shoulder pads as we stepped into the time machine for an evening of fun with 1980s music and fashion. With an original script by our deputy head, Mr Gareth Williams—skilfully woven around two intertwined love stories—it was a vibrant performance from a large cast, with an enthusiastic contribution from the audience during the final song. It was an electrifying experience for both performers and audience, with plenty of singing and dancing from the seats as well as the stage, while we followed the ups and downs of the characters in the vibrant early days of Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr.

Huge thanks go to the Music and Drama departments for the dynamic performance, to the DT and Art departments for producing the set, and to the many staff members and parents who helped by playing instruments, organising costumes, coordinating the cast and working behind the scenes to make it such a successful production.

It was an energetic start to the school's 40th anniversary celebrations!



## 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

After the busy run of performances, there was an opportunity to relax in the company of old friends, as staff from all periods of the school's history gathered for a grand dinner at the King Arthur Hotel on the Gower Peninsula. Entertainment was provided by a folk group and there was a speech by the Headteacher, Mr Jeffrey Connick, who spoke of his own experiences as a staff member, and acknowledged his debt to former headteachers and everyone who has been part of the Gŵyr Family over the last 40 years.

It was a wonderful atmosphere in which to mark the school's special birthday and reminisce with colleagues. Thanks to Mr Ben Roberts and the team for organising a very successful evening.

## Sports Tournament February 2025

The school had the opportunity to celebrate its sporting achievements in February 2025, with an evening of netball and rugby matches between teams of former pupils. The event was held at Gowerton Rugby Club, providing a chance to socialise and share memories after the exercise.

There was plenty of fun, and once again it was a tribute to the school's influence that so many responded to the call to take part—and brought their families too. Thanks to Mrs Sara Thomas for organising a very successful event.

## 40th Anniversary Concert

To end the academic year, a grand concert was held in the Brangwyn Hall, showcasing the cultural talents of past and present learners, including performances by pupils and staff choirs, choirs of former pupils (who showed dedication by attending rehearsals on weekends in the run-up to the final performance), folk-dance groups, and musical performances by current and former pupils.

Interwoven throughout the evening were former pupils compering the proceedings—Lowri Morgan, Rhodri Owen, Meleri Williams, Rhys Williams, Owain Clarke and others—performances by soprano Elin Manahan Thomas, harpist and folk musician Angharad Jenkins, singer-songwriter Geraint Rhys Whittaker, soloist Liam Edwards, pianist William Morris and more.

Others came to the stage to share heartfelt accounts of their time at the school. It was an unforgettable evening that testified to the passion within the school family and the respect felt towards it in its wider community.

It was lovely to see so many friends of the school in the audience, giving the opportunity to thank all who have been part of the school's story over the past 40 years.



# ON THE SPORTS FIELD

## P.E. Achievements 2024-25

A fantastic opportunity came for some of the school's Year 7 and 8 learners as they became Sports Ambassadors. Congratulations to Zakaria Karam, Soffia Thomas, Daisy Stephens, Blake Morris-Carlyon, Skye Cannon and Hari Lillicrap from Year 7, and to Dylan Rees, Eliza Parry, Paige Williams, Thomas Bevan, Leela Rees and Olivia Roberts from Year 8.

## NETBALL

Congratulations to the Year 8 netball team for coming second in the Swansea County Netball Tournament. They went down to a very narrow loss in the final game, having won every game before that. Well done girls!



## RUGBY

### Individuals:

- It was another successful year on the field for Lewis Edwards from Year 13, who played his first game for the Ospreys in August 2024. He went on to represent the Wales U20 team in January 2025 – when he was the only player still at school – and again in April against Ireland U19. In May he was selected once more for the Wales U20 training squad, playing against England in June and Spain in July. To crown it all, Lewis was selected for the Wales U20 squad for the Rugby World Cup. An exceptional achievement – the school is very proud of him.
- The year began successfully for several boys on the threshold of Year 11, as the following were selected for the Swansea Schoolboys team in August 2024: Jack Goddard, Tomi Davies, Harri Williams, Arthur Downing, Maccsen Holland, Dafydd Jones, Jack Courtney and Cai Davies. Congratulations to all of them.
- Arun Templeton from Year 13 was selected as captain of the Crawshays team against Christ College, Brecon in December 2024, and went on to play again for the Crawshays first team in Scotland in March 2025. Congratulations to Arun.
- Cai Davies from Year 11 played a game for the Ospreys U16 team against the Scarlets in February 2025, and Tomi Davies and Maccsen Holland, also from Year 11, were selected for the squad in March. Well done to them all.
- Cai Davies, Maccsen Holland and Jack Courtney also played for the Ospreys West U16 team against the Ospreys East in March, contributing towards a victory for the West!
- Callum Hedges from Year 11 played twice for the South Wales U16 team in March 2025, beating East Wales on both occasions. What a special experience for Callum!

### Teams:

The school's rugby successes continued, with the following praise for the boys' rugby teams:

- The Year 11–13 rugby team reached the West Wales Schools semi-finals in November 2024 and won the Wales Cup in January 2025. Quite an achievement!
- The Year 9 seven-a-side team won the plate in a competition in Bishopston in March 2025.
- Teams from Years 8, 9 and 11 reached the Swansea finals in April, with Year 8 winning the Cup.

Ymdrech arbennig gan bawb!

## FOOTBALL

### Individuals:

- Evie Evans from Year 9 became one of only three Swansea pupils selected for the Wales Schools U14 football squad. Evie played her first game in May 2025, with the Wales Schools team beating England 3–0. A victory to savour!
- Congratulations also to Poppy Harris-Evans from Year 7 on being selected for the Wales U12 Academy Training Squad in February 2025. She went on to be selected as goalkeeper for the Wales U14 team in May. Well done, Poppy!
- Congratulations to Betsi Williams and Isabella Williams from Year 8 on being selected for the Swansea Schools U14 football squad in July, following a series of challenging trials. Their dedication and perseverance, which paved the way for this success, are to be commended. Well done!



### Teams:

The school's football teams enjoyed the following successes in 2024–25:

- Winners of the Wales Cup against St Cyres in October 2024
- Over 40 Year 7 pupils took part in an after-school football tournament in December 2024 to celebrate the end of their first term at the school. What a great way to end the term! Thanks to Mr Rhys Evans for organising the fun.
- The Year 7 boys' team won every game and became West Swansea champions, then lost a close match against Bishopston in May 2025 to come second in the whole Swansea Competition. Quite an achievement!
- The Year 8 girls' team won the cup in the Urdd 5-a-side Competition in October 2025. Congratulations girls!

## HOCKEY

One of our hockey players, Sam Cross from Year 11, represented Wales in the School Games in September 2024, soon after travelling to France with the Wales Touch Rugby Association. A busy period for him and a special success!

## CRICKET

### Individuals:

- Tomos Edwards from Year 11 represented the South & West England and Wales team at the Bunbury Cricket Festival in Loughborough in August 2024. Tomos was also selected for the Glamorgan Cricket Academy in December 2024 and played his first game for Glamorgan's second team in July 2025, taking his first wicket for the team. Well done, Tom!
- Tomos was also selected for the league XI for the first time, along with his brother Lewis from Year 13.
- Lewis Edwards, John Mann, Ioan Richards, Theo Rogers and Ryan Evans (a former pupil), all from Year 13, were selected for the South Wales youth cricket team to face the over-50s team in August 2024.
- Dylan Rees from Year 9, and Nia Thomas and Payton Bishop from Year 7 represented South Wales cricket teams in May. Congratulations to them!
- Congratulations also to Nia for representing the Glamorgan U12 girls' team and to Efa Killa from Year 9 for playing for the South Wales U14 team in May.

Well done to them all!

### Teams:

The Year 8 boys' team enjoyed the opportunity to compete in a cricket tournament on Barry Island in Summer Term 2025.

## **BADMINTON**

The school has enjoyed considerable success in this sport in recent years, and this continued as Year 8 and 10 pupils competed in the South Wales Badminton Competition in March 2025, with the Year 8 boys becoming South Wales champions. Excellent!

## **CLIMBING**

In September 2024, we heard that Seren Matthews from Year 7 had won a climbing competition and, as a result, had earned a place to represent Wales once again. Well done, Seren!

## **JUDO**

Tomas Roberts from Year 12 represented Wales in an international judo tournament in the Netherlands in November 2024, and his sister Olivia Roberts from Year 8 competed at Warwick University in December 2024, becoming British champion in the under-44kg category with a gold medal. Very well done indeed, Tomas and Olivia!

## **GOLF**

- Tomos Williams and Mathew Lewis represented the Wales Schools Golf Team in September 2024 in Stoke. Another success for the pair, who have excelled in numerous competitions throughout the year.
- There was fierce competition in the school's annual competition at Fairwood Park Golf Club in July. Congratulations to Deri Evans from Year 10 on winning the main prize, to Osian Evans from Year 10 for getting nearest the pin, and to Jamie Hodge for winning the stableford.

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

- There were gold medals for Tomi Jones from Year 7 and Eliza Parry from Year 8 in the Elba cross-country competition in November 2024. Congratulations to both of them!
- Holly Humphreys from Year 12 succeeded in winning the senior girls' race in Brecon in October 2025. Fantastic, Holly!

## **SWIMMING**

- Huge congratulations to Osian Richardson from Year 12, who competed in the Welsh National Swimming Championships in December 2024.
- And an incredible opportunity came for Thomas Morgan from Year 8, as he represented Wales in the National County Team Swimming Championships in October 2025. Very well done, Thomas!

## **ROWING**

Tegan Webster from Year 9 competed in the British Indoor Rowing Championship at the NEC in Birmingham in December 2024, and won a bronze medal in the 500m sprint category for Year 9. Excellent, Tegan!

## **ATHLETICS**

Once again this year, the school's athletes – both individuals and teams – enjoyed considerable success, and the school reached the finals of the Wales Athletics Competition in July 2025. Well done, everyone!

## SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

A busy day of sport and fun took place at Ashleigh Road for the school's Sports Day in June 2025. There was lively competition between the houses, and it was lovely to see the learners taking part but also celebrating their peers' successes. This is the Gŵyr Family at its best – but despite the teamwork, only one 'llys' (house) could be victorious! Llys Dylan took the title this year, with Gwenllian second and Olwen third.



## SPORTS TRIPS

### Dubai Trip

In October 2024, learners had the unique opportunity to travel to Dubai to take part in a variety of sports and enjoy unforgettable experiences with their peers. Rugby and netball matches were held during the trip, along with opportunities to visit local attractions and learn about the culture. There was sincere praise for the learners' behaviour, and they were very grateful to the staff who worked so hard to organise this special trip.



## Ski Trip

Learners in Year 8 and the sixth form enjoyed fantastic experiences on the slopes when they attended the school's ski trip to Austria in December 2024. The learners' behaviour was excellent, and the wonderful atmosphere ensured an unforgettable trip.



## ON THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE STAGE

### Cymreictod (Welsh Identity)

The school was awarded the 'Tystysgrif Siarter Iaith' (Welsh-language Charter Certificate) in March 2025. A great deal of work had gone into demonstrating what the school does to promote Welsh identity, and our thanks go to Mrs Non Lewis from the Welsh Department for leading this. This is high praise for the school and testament to the special opportunities that enable us to give all our learners a sense of belonging.

The following additional activities were held to promote our learners' Welsh identity in 2024–25:

- The Urdd board-games club continued weekly, with a devoted group of learners attending and enjoying every week.
- Awareness of the Urdd Goodwill Message was raised through activities in May 2025.
- Santes Dwynwen Day was celebrated on January 25th with a fun disco for Year 7.
- The 'Taflen Gymreictod' (Welsh-speaking record chart) also continued to run in Years 7 and 8, and the competition was fierce to win the prize for the best class.
- The 'Cymreictod' crowd were very active in preparing for this year's Urdd Eisteddfod, holding non-uniform/red, white and green days and decorating the front of the school with Mistar Urdd and Y Ddraig Goch decorations.

Congratulations to Heledd Francis and Erin Hill of Year 12, who were chosen as Coleg Cymraeg Ambassadors, an important role in raising awareness of Welsh-medium university opportunities. Well done, girls!

The year ended with a special celebration in July for all members of the Welsh Identity Committee, together with competitors from the Urdd Eisteddfod. This was an opportunity to celebrate group and individual successes, all while having a good time through the medium of Welsh. Thanks again to Mrs Non Lewis for organising.

### Cogurdd October 2025

It was wonderful to see around 30 learners from Years 7, 8 and 9 donning their aprons and rolling up their sleeves to take part in the Cogurdd and Poburdd competitions, overseen by Mr Lloyd Henry. It was great to see such young learners' skills in the kitchen – it is clear that Mr Henry's legacy is in safe hands!



## YSGOL GYFUN GŴYR SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD 2025

We enjoyed a day of fun and excitement as the school community gathered in the Gym once again this year to celebrate our annual Eisteddfod. This was an opportunity for learners to celebrate their Welshness and uphold some of our cultural traditions, as well as create some new ones for the modern age. From enchanting harp solos to noisy kitchen bands, learners showcased a variety of talents as they performed to win points for their houses! Thanks to Mrs Non Lewis, the Welsh Department and others for organising, and to Tom Mills for coordinating sound and taking the photos.



### SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD - MAIN PRIZES

In the school's main prizes, the judges were once again struck by the craftsmanship and imagination shown by our learners. It was a pleasure to hear the judge of 'Y Gadair' (the bardic chair), Mari Stevens, praising the standard of the competition before announcing that the winner of the Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr Eisteddfod Chair 2025 was Heledd Francis of Year 12. This is another victory for the multi-talented Heledd, who is an excellent footballer as well as a gifted poet and writer.

The winner of this year's English Award was Catrin Watkins of Year 12. Again, the judge, Owain Clarke, noted all the learners' ambition in experimenting with language and ideas, and praised Catrin's work in particular for its creativity. Huge congratulations to Heledd and Catrin, and thanks to the judges Mari Stevens and Owain Clarke: two former pupils and former winners of the trophies themselves. We appreciate their willingness to give of their time as we celebrate Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr's special anniversary



### OTHER LITERARY TROPHIES AND AWARDS

The Dafydd Rowlands Memorial Trophy and Prize, awarded in a ceremony held at Capel y Nant, Clydach, was won this year by Maccsen Williams of Year 13, continuing the school's many years of success in this competition. Many congratulations to Maccsen on this wonderful achievement. In his adjudication, the judge, Dewi Lewis, described how he was astonished by two powerful and perceptive prose pieces by Maccsen. Continuing the school's success in this award, Garan Jenkins, also of Year 13, came second with a story described as imaginative and sensitive. Well done, Maccsen and Garan.

Building on her success in the School Eisteddfod, Heledd Francis of Year 12 came second in the Young Writer's Trophy at the Hendy Eisteddfod and also in the Young People's Trophy competition at 'Gŵyl Fawr Aberteifi' (Cardigan Festival) 2025 in July. Very well done, Heledd!

In addition, Mr Jeffrey Connick, the Headteacher, was invited to be President of the Hendy Eisteddfod in May. He took the opportunity to thank this eisteddfod for all the enriching experiences it has offered Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr learners over the years.



# RESULTS FROM THE 'DUR A MÔR' (STEEL AND SEA) URDD EISTEDDFOD 2025

There was excitement throughout the year as learners and staff prepared to welcome the Urdd Eisteddfod to Margam Park. A number of fundraising activities were held, including red, white and green non-uniform days. Mrs Non Lewis organised the Mistar Urdd Walk from Mumbles to Margam Park, with photos of the triangular man himself shared on social media to mark his progress every step of the way!

During the Eisteddfod week, the school shared a stall on the 'maes' with Bryn Tawe, Ystalyfera and Bro Dur schools, and it was a pleasure to meet many former pupils and staff who had dropped by to say hello, enjoy a cup of tea and browse the photo collections.

It was a joy to watch the school's learners approach competitions of all kinds with enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoy the experience. The school also enjoyed considerable success, with the main prizes noted here:

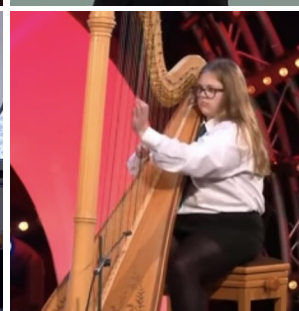
## Literature Homework Competition Successes

Elin Powell 3rd: Prose Yr 7  
Carys James 3rd: Prose Yrs 12 & 13  
Heledd Francis 3rd: Prose under 19  
Garan Jenkins 3rd: Prose under 25  
Heledd Francis and Erin Hill came 1st and 3rd respectively in the poetry competition for Yrs 12 & 13



## Stage Competition Successes

Orion Summers Yr 11 – 1st in the monologue  
Beca Richardson Yr 9 – 1st in the harp solo  
Harri Trick Yr 7 – 2nd in the piano solo  
Emily Carlson Yr 13 – 2nd in the Cogurdd competition  
2nd prize for the junior vocal and instrumental ensemble groups  
Rhianwen Hopkin Yr 12 – 3rd in the harp solo  
3rd for the junior girls' singing party



The school also received an invitation to perform the show 'Dy Enw Marw' on the Eisteddfod stage, which provided another opportunity to showcase this remarkable drama following its success at the National Theatre in London last year. Well done to all involved!

## THE ARTS

### Musical Successes

It is clear from all the Eisteddfod work that learners continue to receive musical experiences of the highest standard, maintaining the school's good name in this field. However, the Music and Drama Departments were also busy with other competitions and performances during the year. Here is a selection:



- The senior choir contributed to a performance of 'Teilwng yw'r Oer' at the Brangwyn Hall in December 2024
- The junior choir entertained shoppers at the Swansea Christmas Market in December 2024
- In April, the Avanti television company came to film the choir ahead of the Urdd Eisteddfod 2025
- A number of our learners performed at 'Gŵyl Tawe' at the Waterfront Museum in June
- Several of the school's choirs performed in the Quadrant Shopping Centre as part of the celebrations of 10 years of Swansea as a UNESCO City of Learning
- The school's junior girls' choir went to sing at St Catherine's Church, Gorseinon, as part of the 60-year celebrations of Waunarlwydd Choir

Thank you to the learners for their dedication and to Miss Carwen George and Mrs Siân Wynn for preparing them.

## Drama

There were also various drama opportunities this year, including learners taking part in a workshop with The National Theatre in December 2024.

Orion Summers, Year 11, was employed by the National Theatre in London to provide the voiceover for a video celebrating 30 years of the Connections festival! A remarkable year for Orion - many congratulations again!

Congratulations also to Amelia Porter of Year 9, who played the role of 'Marian' in the film 'Mr Burton', starring the well-known actors Toby Jones and Lesley Manville. What an experience for Amelia!



## **OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

### Year 12 Glan-llyn Course

In mid-November 2024, Sixth Form pupils had a wonderful opportunity to attend the Glan-llyn A-Level Course, with visits to Hedd Wyn's home, Yr Ysgwrn, writing poetry for 'Y Talwrn', and making use of other camp facilities. It was an opportunity to enjoy themselves and to socialise while learning and refining their writing skills.

### Public Speaking

There was considerable success in public speaking again this year, under the leadership of Mr Rhodri Evans and Miss Kate Smith.

In November 2024, a group of Year 9 learners went to the Guildhall to take part in a training session organised by the Seren Network. The group learned important skills relating to the rules of formal debating. A fantastic experience!

These learners went on to win the regional English-medium Debating Competition organised by the Seren Network, competing against seven other schools in three debates. The next step was to go to Jesus College, Oxford. Well done to Beca, Zofia, Eiliw and Georgie-Bo! To add to this achievement, the Welsh-medium team also enjoyed success later in the month and therefore joined the English team for the competition in Oxford. Very well done indeed to Gwion, Elise, Chloe and Mared!

Further success came to both groups in the final round at Jesus College, Oxford, as they defeated 89 other schools across Wales to win both the Welsh and English competitions. These were outstanding performances from the learners, who benefited greatly from the experience. They gained insight into university life through a tour of the college and stayed in student accommodation at the university. There was high praise for their strong arguments, thoughtful responses and confident speaking – skills that will be of great benefit in their academic and professional futures. Excellent work!

In February 2025, a group from Years 11 and 12 went to the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition. Although they did not progress to the next round this time, they received praise for the standard of their competing, and their thanks go to Mrs Rhiannon Lewis for her coaching.



## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT SUCCESSES**

### **Scientist of the Year - Dr John Davies Award 2024**

The Dr John Davies Award is presented annually to the pupil who achieved the highest mark in the Double Award GCSE Science qualification and who has excelled in the field. Dr John Davies was one of the giants of Welsh science, a well-known figure in the Swansea community, and a true friend of Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr. Among the career highlights of Dr Davies were studying at MIT and receiving the Science and Technology Medal at the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan for his services to Science and Technology in Welsh.

It is pleasing that Dr Davies's name continues to be associated with science at Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr. This year the award was given to Amy Thomas of Year 12. Congratulations to Amy on gaining this distinguished status and on joining the gallery of former pupils who have excelled in science over the years.

### **'Top of the Bench' Competition**

Learners from Years 8–11 had a special experience in December 2024 as they took part in the 'Top of the Bench' Chemistry Competition at Swansea University. Two teams took part, with each team consisting of one pupil from Year 8, one from Year 9, one from Year 10 and a Year 11 captain – two teams of four. Congratulations to the following for their dedication and for showing excellent teamwork:

Jac James-Mathias, Safia Sullivan and Isaac McAdie (Yr 8); Rhys Jones and Elektra Thomas (Yr 9); Niamh Cresswell and Gwennan Jones (Yr 10); Logan Burrow and Genova-Rose Scalise (Yr 11).

### **Hydrogen Competition March 2024**

The hydrogen energy team once again enjoyed success this year, coming second out of 24 schools. Huge congratulations to the group: Harley Vessey-McPherson, James Sartori, Xanthia Williams, Joe Lewis, Ffion Morris Griffiths, Chloe James, Iolo Ruddy and Nathan Lewis, all of Year 10. The judges gave high praise for the group's project on the theme 'Decarbonisation of Swansea Waterfront Winterland'.

### **RSC Analyst Competition – Swansea University Chemistry Trip January 2025**

Congratulations to the following for taking part in the RSC Analyst Competition: Ffion Morris Griffiths, Chloe Phillips, Xanthia Williams, James Sartori, Harley Vessey-McPherson, Joe Lewis, Nathan Lewis, Iolo Ruddy.

### **STEM Day**

A STEM Day was held on the school site in collaboration with Ystalyfera and Bryn Tawe schools in July 2025, welcoming former pupils and former staff members to speak about their journeys through STEM subjects and the possible careers they lead to. Thanks to everyone involved for inspiring our learners.

### **Hydrogen Show**

In July, Year 10 learners had the opportunity to attend The Bay Studios in Swansea to showcase their work on hydrogen and decarbonisation. They had the chance to discuss "all things hydrogen" with international companies, as well as explore stalls, buy food and try the rodeo bronco – all powered by hydrogen, of course!

### **ICE Civil Engineering Competition**

In September 2025, the Year 12 Physics class had the chance to bridge the gap between science and engineering by taking part in the ICE civil engineering competition against other schools across Wales. The students used their knowledge from the classroom and the real world to build the strongest bridge possible using the materials available! There was plenty of fun while collaborating and developing important skills as part of the activity.

## ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Thank you to the Computer Science department for organising opportunities for learners to take part in the following clubs and competitions during 2024–25:

- Technocamps Robotics Competition July 2025
- ICE Wales–Cymru Engineering Challenge
- 'Cybergirls' Competition
- EESW STEM Cymru Engineering Competition
- Urdd IT Club

It is wonderful to see so many learners taking an interest in this work and enjoying socialising while collaborating on various projects. Special thanks to Miss Emily Studley for her work in promoting girls' commitment to the world of technology.



## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

During the summer of 2025, Xanthia Williams and Lili James attended a five-day outdoor course organised and paid for by the Rotary Society. They had to undergo an interview, which took place in June, before being offered a place and being sponsored to take part in the course.

The course was held at the Storey Arms Outdoor Centre and included activities such as rafting, caving and walking, all with a group of young people who had never met before. Lili and Xanthia were not there during the same week, so had to get to know and work with people they hadn't met before. While there, Xanthia also gave a presentation in Welsh - apparently the first time this has been done - and it made a big impression on the organisers! Both will now have to present their experiences in front of the Rotary board at meetings in the coming months. The two thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the experiences, and the school is very proud of them!

## RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

### Year 9 Glan-Ilyn Trip

A group of Year 9 learners went to Glan-Ilyn Centre in November 2024 with the Welsh Department, taking the opportunity to visit some important attractions on the way, such as the National Library and Hedd Wyn's home at Yr Ysgwrn. The learners greatly enjoyed the varied experiences and learned much about our country's history and culture.

### Trip to the Waterfront Museum

A special day was had at the Waterfront Museum and at the pantomime in December 2024 with learners from the Specialist Teaching Facility. The group also visited the Grand Theatre in March.

### Testimony 360 Trip

Year 12 and 13 learners went on a trip with the History and Religious Education departments in January 2025. This was the Testimony 360 activity, which raises awareness of the Holocaust and the stories of victims and survivors.



### Haworth Trip - English Department

In April, Year 12 learners enjoyed the opportunity to travel to Yorkshire to visit Charlotte Brontë's home and learn about the inspiration behind her most famous novel, 'Jane Eyre'. They also had the chance to visit several significant sites connected to the life of poet Ted Hughes, giving interesting insight into the backgrounds of these authors and enriching learners' understanding of context.



## Year 7 Paris Trip

Year 7 learners went on a special trip to Paris in July 2025 to refine their French skills and get a taste of French culture, with visits to Disneyland Paris, tours around the city's iconic sights, a boat trip along the River Seine, and plenty of delicious cuisine to keep them energised throughout. It was a fun-filled trip led by staff from the International Languages Department.



## Choir Trip to Belgium

To end the year, a special trip to Belgium was held for the school's choirs and musical performers. This was a wonderful opportunity to share Welsh culture with others and to raise awareness of our unique heritage. There were passionate performances that touched members of the audiences and earned high praise. And there was plenty of fun and enjoyment too while socialising through Welsh and teaching others about our country. There was also, of course, an opportunity to visit Hedd Wyn's grave and learn more about the experiences of the Welsh during the First World War.

## New York Trip

The first half-term of 2025–26 concluded with a special trip to New York. It was an unforgettable experience for learners as they visited the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, as well as a variety of museums and other historic sites such as the Twin Towers memorial, the High Line (the city's former railway track) and Grand Central Station. Learners enjoyed the full experience of busy life in the Big Apple, with miles of walking, including through Central Park – not forgetting time for shopping, of course! This was an incredible experience for the learners, and their sincere thanks go to all staff who attended and to Mrs Jan Ohlsson Jones for coordinating the trip.



## **CEFNOGI CYD-DDYN**

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Thank you to Mr Henry from the Catering department for his hard work once again in running the Macmillan Coffee Morning at the end of September 2024. A very respectable amount was raised by school staff as they enjoyed chatting over treats and a cup of tea in the Food Technology room.

### **National Well-being Day October 2025**

A non-uniform day was held to raise money for local mental-health charities in October 2025. This was a great opportunity to promote empathy and raise awareness of the local charities that do wonderful work in our community.

### **Children in Need 2024**

Various activities were held across the school to celebrate Children in Need Day 2024. Learners enjoyed the opportunity to attend school in non-uniform and to take part in games and quizzes. Thanks to the staff and learners who organised the activities.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

A colourful array of Christmas jumpers was seen as the school held Christmas Jumper Day in December 2024, raising £1 from each pupil who wished to take part. The money went to the charity Save the Children and a good amount was raised for the cause.

### **Supporting Morriston Hospital**

Year 8 did excellent work raising money and organising gifts for children on Oakwood Ward in Morriston Hospital. A group of learners had the opportunity to go to the hospital to deliver the gifts – well done everyone!

### **Singing at Pen-y-Bryn School**

Year 12 and 13 learners, along with staff members, once again came together to sing carols at Pen-y-Bryn School, an activity that has been a tradition for years and brings joy to everyone, whether taking part or in the audience. For many in our community, this event marks the start of Christmas celebrations and is a lovely way to share the spirit of the season.

### **Comic Relief 2025**

There was an opportunity to wear red noses and odd socks to raise money for Comic Relief in March 2025. Thank you to everyone who organised activities to make it a fun day for all for a good cause!

### **'Voice of the Pupil' Trip to Norway**

Also in October 2025, representatives from Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr travelled to Norway, under the care of Mrs Sara Horan and Miss Chloe James and in partnership with Bryn Tawe and Bishopston schools. The trip formed part of the 'Seen, Heard, Belong' project, which celebrates pupil voice and diverse cultures in schools across Wales, Norway, and France. Our learners had the opportunity to speak about Wales and their own experiences with Norwegian learners – and to teach them a little Welsh, making new friends there.

There were chances to try curling and plenty of laughter while practising this unique sport! There was also the opportunity to travel further north and visit an underground copper mine, as well as go aboard the Crazy Coyote ship. The hope is to maintain the relationship with our friends in Europe by organising more trips of this kind and sharing ideas about promoting young people's voices.



## Human Rights Committees

The human rights working groups continued their work throughout 2024–25, with groups focusing on racism, Islamophobia, LGBTQ+ rights, women’s rights, fundraising for charities, and caring for the environment.

A number of learners from the Women’s Rights Committee came together to mark White Ribbon Day 2024 in November, a global day campaigning against violence towards women. The day is marked by wearing white ribbons, and the group worked very hard to create and distribute them to school staff and learners. They also did good work raising awareness in our community of the purpose of this day.

A group from the Human Rights Working Group went to the Waterfront Museum in November 2024 to mark World Children’s Day. There was plenty of fun to be had while taking part in a variety of activities. In March 2025, the ‘Big Conversation’ event was held at the Waterfront Museum, Swansea, organised by Swansea Council. It was a valuable opportunity for young people to voice their opinions on issues that affect them, reflecting Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was a worthwhile experience for the four members of the School Council who attended. Another opportunity to take part came in June, this time focusing on Article 12 and anti-racism. These are inspiring young people – the true future of Wales!

In July, Zofia and Beca from Year 9 represented the school in a ‘Pupil Voice’ event with Swansea Council, along with representatives from other schools in the city. This was an opportunity to voice opinions to the Council on matters from the environment to mental well-being to anti-racism, pressing the Council to listen and act on the voices of young people. In October 2025, members of the School Council had the opportunity to attend the event ‘Safe, Heard, Respected’, organised by the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.

The group learned how the voices of young people can influence policies and practices that affect them directly. Their aim is to contribute to a Wales where every person feels safe, heard and respected.

## The Environment

It was wonderful to see a group of learners from Years 10–12 taking part in a visit to the Senedd as part of a mass lobby to encourage action on environmental issues. They had the opportunity to discuss their ideas with the Minister for the Economy, Rebecca Evans (Gower MS), and the Regional Member, Sioned Williams. The sessions were extremely valuable and offered insight into how decisions are made.

## “Acceptance” – LGBTQ+ Working Group

The LGBTQ+ Club continued its work, with various activities such as making bracelets and lanyards. The group once again walked in Swansea’s ‘Pride’ parade this May, led by Ms Becky Lindholme-Evans, and it was lovely to see family and friends there to support them.



## ACADEMIC SUCCESSES AND EXPERIENCES

### School Council

A new team of Head Pupils was elected in the Summer Term 2024. Ten pupils put themselves forward and took part in speeches, interviews, and a vote in order to select the successful candidates. The four who came out on top were: Lewis Edwards, Meg Evans, Garan Jenkins and Catrin Watkins. They began their work before the summer holidays in 2024, alongside a team of senior officers.

Together with the other School Council members from Years 7–11, they made an outstanding contribution to school life over the past academic year, giving presentations on open evenings, leading discussions in the School Council and demonstrating their ability as leaders of the pupil and student body in the school. We thank all four of them for approaching their work so conscientiously and for representing the school in such a mature and respectful way at many public events.

### Subject-Based Events

In December 2024, Year 7 members enjoyed a video presentation on the ancient poem 'Beowulf' by Professor Catherine Clarke from the University of London. There was an opportunity to ask Professor Clarke questions at the end of the session, and it was great to see the learners' excitement and enthusiasm as they offered their questions. Professor Clarke praised their dedication and it was a great experience for everyone!

Also in December 2024, the English Department took Year 10 and 13 members to the Taliesin Theatre to see a performance of Charles Dickens' famous novel 'A Christmas Carol'. The learners received high praise for their excellent behaviour and it was the perfect opportunity to immerse themselves in the festive atmosphere.

In December too, Year 13 English Literature had the opportunity for a Q&A session with the renowned historian Dr Janina Ramirez on the influence of women in the Middle Ages – there was even a shout-out to the school from the British Library!

English reading clubs for KS3, 4 and 5 continued this year, with learners enjoying meeting occasionally to discuss their responses to the chosen text. These are great opportunities to encourage reading for pleasure. As part of this initiative, Year 7 had visits to Gowerton Library and the chance to borrow books to read in school.

Thanks to the Psychology Department for organising a visit to CUBRIC (the Brain Imaging Centre) in Cardiff for sixth form members. It was a special opportunity to see innovative research and experimentation taking place, and there was plenty of fun to be had while trying out some experiments!

In February 2025, Year 10 learners went to the Millennium Centre in Cardiff to watch a performance of 'An Inspector Calls', a play they are studying for their GCSE English Literature course. It was an impressive performance and the learners benefited greatly from seeing the play come alive on stage.

There was plenty of fun in March 2025 celebrating World Book Day, with various competitions and quizzes across the school and the Catering Department running a 'Book Bake Off' under the care of Mr Henry.

Also under Mr Henry's care, Year 10 learners took part in an attempt to break a world record by cooking live! As part of 'Live Cooking with Jamie Oliver', they produced fresh pasta and a delicious tomato sauce, even receiving a special mention for their efforts on the live streams!

A memorable experience was offered to some Year 9 learners in June 2025 as they took part in the 'Seren Network Classics Project'. They had to reimagine one of the Greek myths featuring the goddess Athena. Their creativity received high praise, showcased in the form of a huge comic strip (along with a 3D spider!). The group travelled to Oxford University in June to present their work in a special ceremony... and they won! Very well done to Harry, Matthew, Summer, Mia, Elin and Betsi! They had the opportunity to visit the University and the Ashmolean Museum to discover the ancient worlds of the Romans and Greeks. Thanks to Miss Kate Smith for coordinating the work and looking after the group on their trip.



## REWARDING EFFORT AND DEDICATION

Over 200 pupils were rewarded in July 2025 during a special ceremony recognising learners who had achieved the highest number of points on the Classcharts system. Special acknowledgement was given to individuals from each year in Key Stage 3 for topping their year groups.

### Year 13 Farewell Ceremony

We held a special farewell ceremony for Year 13 in the drama studio in June 2025. Staff and students enjoyed delicious food before a ceremony celebrating the year's achievements and an opportunity to reminisce. Kind words were given by the Headteacher and Heads of Year, wishing the group well on the next stage of their life journey. They will certainly look back fondly on their special time at Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr. We thank everyone for their contribution to a memorable afternoon.

### End-of-Year Activities

A range of activities were offered to finish the year in July 2025, with learners enjoying opportunities to surf, kayak, take part in outdoor activities and enjoy a variety of fun on-site events, including a treasure hunt, table tennis, a quiz and Just Dance. These were exciting opportunities to socialise and have fun through the medium of Welsh before heading off for the summer holidays.

Over 150 Year 8 learners went on an exciting trip to Alton Towers and had a day full of thrills and fun. There was plenty of screaming and laughter, with the odd lost voice by the end of the day!

There was also a lovely day at the beach for a group of learners who took advantage of the surfing training opportunity in Llangennith, under the care of experienced instructors. Thanks to Mr Longman for organising a memorable day.

### Former Pupils' Successes

Our former pupil, Cai Gealy, appeared for the Bristol Bears rugby team in October 2024, becoming the youngest player in the club's history to represent them. Well done, Cai!

Former Gŵyr pupil Liam Edwards took part in the musical competition 'Y Llais' (The Voice) on S4C in March. This was an exciting opportunity for Liam to receive recognition and coaching from experienced singers.

## STAFF SUCCESSES

Miss Bethan Jones, a teacher in the Mathematics Department, continued her sporting success by competing in several duathlon and triathlon events again in 2024–5, including a world competition in Pontevedra, Spain. This is a global competition attracting the best athletes, so Miss Jones's achievement is one to be celebrated. Despite falling off her bike, she finished the race in one hour, 11 minutes and eight seconds, taking third place in the 25–29 age group. We greatly admire her resilience!



Congratulations also to a number of other staff members who ran half marathons, Iron Man events or other challenges during the year, many raising considerable sums for charity. What a great advertisement for the resilience our teachers possess in all areas of their lives!

Building on her success as a 'Pencerdd' pupil in 2024, Mrs Non Lewis continues to impress judges across south Wales with her poetic skills. She won the chair at the 2024 Carmarthen Poetry School with the poem 'Cragen' (Shell), which was broadcast on the 'Dros Ginio' programme in October 2025 as Radio Cymru celebrated Non as their 'Poet of the Month'. She was also victorious in the Chair Competition at the Pembrey and Burry Port Eisteddfod in September 2025. Many congratulations to her! Her work has recently been published in the Barddas anthologies 'O Ffrwyth y Gangen Hon' and 'Trysorau'r Nadolig'.

Huge congratulations to Mr Lloyd Henry for reaching the shortlist for "Superhero Food Educator of the Year" in July. He is already a superhero to us at Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr, but it is wonderful to see him receiving more recognition beyond the classroom. Well done!