



Ysgol Maesydderwen

Annual Report to Parents 2020-21

Welcome by the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers

It is my great pleasure and privilege as Chair of Governors to present, on behalf of the Governing Body this Annual Report to Parents. The school year 2020-21 was a very challenging year for everyone connected with Ysgol Maesydderwen.

When learners returned to school in September 2020 it was a very different place to the building they had left prior to the start of the first lockdown (March 2020). The staff and Governors of the school worked hard over the summer holidays to implement a range of measures to ensure that all were safe when they attended school. These measures were continually reviewed throughout the year and amended where it was appropriate to do so. The learners of the school adapted to these new measures and through their continued support we were able to minimise the disruption to learning.

A consequence of the regulations of the last year meant that the school was unable to take part in any sporting fixtures, organise any trips and our successful community events had to be held via a virtual means. I am pleased to report that from September 2021 the school has started to re-introduce a number of events where it is safe to do so. I look forward to reporting on the success of these events in our report next year.

Despite these difficult challenges we never lost sight of the need to continue to improve and grow the school. Staff continued to work hard to develop new skills and improve the quality of teaching in lessons ensuring our learners could continue to make progress. The school continued to make good progress with the recommendations from the last Estyn inspection. This was recognised during the Spring Term 2021 when Estyn removed Ysgol Maesydderwen from the list of schools who require monitoring. This is a fantastic achievement for the school and our thanks and congratulations goes out to everyone connected with Ysgol Maesydderwen for all your hard work and support.

For the second year in running, it was also a difficult year for our learners who were sitting GCSEs and A Levels. Examinations were cancelled and replaced by Centre Determined Grades (CDG). Due to the Spring Term lockdown the CDG process was amended and learners were required to sit a number of assessments during the summer term. The learners responded to this challenge and they were rewarded with their efforts with a good set of results.

Wellbeing remains at the heart of everything we do and this continued and evolved throughout the year. The school has responded to the needs of our learners and provided both individual and group support whenever it is needed. The school will strengthen our Wellbeing provision in September 2021 with the opening of the Enfys Centre.

On behalf of myself and the governing body we would like to thank both parent/carers for continuing to support the school and our learners for the positive manner you have continued with your education. Finally, we would like to thank the staff of Ysgol Maesydderwen for all your continued hard work.



Hugh Patrick (Chair of Governing Body)

Parent Governor Meetings

No parent meeting was held under Section 94 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. Should parents wish to request such a meeting please contact the Clerk to the Governors (see below) where further information can be provided.

Members of Governing Body (as at 1 September 2021)

Name of Governor	Category	Term of Office Ends	Appointed by
Mr Hugh Pattrick (Chair)	Local Authority	20/11/2021	Local Authority
Cllr Susan McNicholas	Local Authority	31/08/2024	
Cllr Huw Williams	Local Authority	31/08/2024	
Cllr David Thomas	Local Authority	31/08/2024	
Mr Richard Walters (Vice-Chair)	Local Authority	30/9/2024	
Mrs Helen Howe	Community	8/12/2024	Governing Body
Mrs Susan Pyart	Community	21/03/2022	
Mrs Elaine Reynolds	Community	21/03/2022	
Mrs Nicola Griffiths	Community	12/12/2022	
Vacancy	Community		
Mr Craig Jones (2)	Parent	12/02/2022	Parent Governors
Mr Edward King	Parent	8/12/2024	
Mr Nigel Hickey	Parent	02/07/2022	
Mrs Kiera Lee	Parent	8/12/2024	
Mrs Betsy Morgan	Parent	8/12/2024	
Mr Craig Jones (1)	Parent	02/07/2022	
Mrs Linda Daniel	Staff	8/12/2024	Support Staff
Mr David Johnston	Teacher	31/8/2022	Teachers
Mrs Hayley Lougher	Teacher	31/8/2022	
Mr Phil Grimes	Headteacher	-	-
Mr Paul Hibben	Clerk to the Governors		

The Chair of the Governors and the Clerk to the Governors may be contacted through the school address and/or through Clerk's email address clerk@maesydderwen-hs.powys.sch.uk.

Election of Parent Governors

When a vacancy arises on the governing body for a parent representative, the school will inform all parents of the vacancy and will make the necessary arrangements for the subsequent election. Every parent of a registered pupil at the school will be entitled to stand as a candidate and to vote at the election, and will be given the opportunity to do so.

Financial Statement

The LA provide the school with a budget for each financial year based upon a number of factors, including the number of children on the additional learning needs register, the school's floor space etc, but the main factor is the number of pupils on the school roll.

The money received from the LA is called the **Delegated School Budget**.

On receiving the delegated school budget, the Governors of the school decide how this money should be allocated and agree a budget which must then be approved by the local authority. This budget is continually monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body at their regular meetings. At these meetings any surplus or overspends are identified against a range of cost codes. This information is used to adjust the budget during the year to ensure spending follows the agreed plan.

The Headteacher, Administrative Officers & Chair of Governors also provide monthly financial reports to the LA who monitor and support the school with the use of the delegated budget.

- No claims were made for travel or subsistence by members of the Governing Body in 2020-21.
- No gifts were made to the school or to governors in 2020-21.

<u>Budget Statement</u>		
<u>2019-20</u> <u>Amount (£)</u>	<u>Description</u> <u>Income</u>	<u>2020-21</u> <u>Amount (£)</u>
2,369,646	Delegated Funding	2,526,939
31,975	ALN core funding	56,000
398,584	Other income	304,906
2,800,205	Total Income	2,887,845
	Expenditure	
2,306,313	Staffing Costs	2,314,918
112,688	Curriculum	112,243
354,030	Premises	307,049
107,688	Other	43,539
2,880,719	Total Expenditure	2,777,749
	Overall	
<u>Amount (£)</u>	<u>Description</u>	
80,514 deficit	This year	110,096 surplus
229,207 deficit	Last year	309,721 deficit
309,721 deficit	Carried forward	209,623 deficit

Destination of Leavers

Year 11 (2020-21)

Destination	Number	%
Returned to Year 12 at Ysgol Maesydderwen	39	39
Studying a course in a 6 Form College	31	31
Apprenticeship	7	7
Other	3	3
Unknown	20	20
Total number of statutory 2019 school leavers	100	100

Year 13 (2020-21)

Destination	Number	%
Studying a course in Higher Education	13	54.2
Deferred a Higher Education course for 12 months	4	16.7
Employment	3	12.5
Other	3	12.5
Unknown	1	4.2
Total number of 2019 year 13 school leavers	23	100

Community Links

Much of the strong community work undertaken by the school in 2020-21 was hampered by COVID. In particular our annual services, such as Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas were pre-recorded and were used with the learners during registration time. The recordings were also shared the wider Maesydderwen community via our social media channels.

Ysgol Maesydderwen pupils are encouraged to become global citizens as well as local citizens. This has continued in lessons through a wide variety of activities, collected food for the harvest for the local community and held a fundraising event for one of our former learners which raised over £6,000 – a phenomenal achievement.

We continue to have very good working relationships with the local social services, the Youth Service and Police to help us provide care, support and guidance for all pupils including the most vulnerable.

The school continued to work closely with the cluster primary schools. There was the usual excellent support for learners in year 6 with their transition into year 7. During the summer term the cluster formed a curriculum group looking to develop a collaborative approach to the new curriculum. This exciting project is set to continue into 2021-22.

Ysgol Maesydderwen Targets 2021-22

Key Stage 3

Level 5 Targets

Subject	Year 9 (Final)	Year 8 (Reviewed)	Year 7 (Provisional)
English	86%	87%	87%
Mathematics	87%	88%	88%
Science	87%	88%	88%

Level 6 & 7 Targets

Subject	Year 9 (Final)		Year 8 (Reviewed)	
	Level 6	Level 7	Level 6	Level 7
English	63%	22%	63%	22%
Mathematics	65%	28%	65%	28%
Science	65%	28%	65%	28%

2021-22 Year 9 (Final); 2022-23: Year 8 (Reviewed); 2023-24: Year 7 (Provisional)

Local Targets for 2021-22

1	Review, develop an implement a new literacy and numeracy intervention programme
2	Implement a KS3 MAT programme to improve the outcomes of MAT pupils in lessons
3	Improve attendance of KS3 FSM pupils by 2%

Key Stage 4

Year 11 (Final) : 2021-22

1	The Capped Points Score to be above modelled outcomes (364.6 points in 2018-19)
2	The Literacy Indicator to be above with modelled outcomes (40.3 points in 2018-19)
3	The Numeracy Indicator to be above modelled outcomes (38.1 points in 2018-19)
4	The Skills Challenge Indicator to be above modelled outcomes (37.6 points in 2018-19)
5	The 5A*/A % result to be above modelled outcomes (15.7% for 2018-19)
6	Ensure all learners achieve at least 9 GCSE (or equivalent) qualifications

Year 10 (Reviewed): 2022-23

1	To increase the Capped Points score from 2021-22 and ensure it is above modelled outcomes
2	To increase the Literacy Indicator score from 2021-22 and ensure it is above modelled outcomes
3	To increase the Numeracy Indicator score from 2021-22 and ensure it is above modelled outcomes
4	To increase the Skills Challenge Indicator score from 2021-22 and ensure it is above modelled outcomes
5	To increase the 5A*/A % result from 2021-22 and ensure it is above modelled outcomes
6	To develop a curriculum that increases the range of subjects for learners to choose to study and achieve qualifications

Attendance Targets

2021-22 (Final)	2022-23 (Reviewed)	2023-24 (Provisional)
95.0%	95.1%	95.2%

Music and Performing Arts

At the start of the year the school celebrated the excellent GCSE Music results that were achieved by learners during the previous year. Results showed excellent attainment with 58% of learners achieving an A* or A grade and 83% achieving an A*-C grade.

For 2020-21 the planned wide variety of performances and contributions to our services had to be modified. The school was not able to hold 'live' events and this were replaced by virtual events that were shared online. The Music department made a significant contribution to both the annual Remembrance Service and the Christmas concert.

The school continued to provide peripatetic lessons for our learners. This has ensured we are able to support the development of musical skills throughout the year.

Sport

Not only can students participate in sporting activities during PE lessons, we also offer a wide range of extra-curricular sporting activities. The clubs run during lunchtimes as well as after school allowing many more learners to participate. Examples of lunchtime clubs include, gymnastics, dance, girls football and basketball.

The Physical Education curriculum aims to enable students to become independent, capable and ambitious learners who enjoy physical activity and make significant progress towards achieving their full potential. Through a diverse program of activities, students have the opportunity to discover their personal aptitudes while developing their communication and leadership skills along with concepts of fairness and social responsibility.

Our aim is to equip our students with the skills, knowledge and confidence required to enable them to participate fully in a healthy and active lifestyle.

The GCSE PE results were very pleasing in 2021, with 43% of learners achieving an A* or A grade and 86% of learners achieving an A*-C grade.

During 2020-21, through careful management and appropriate risk assessments the school managed to offer a reduced extra-curricular programme for each year group. Participation was good and ensured our learners were able to continue to develop the skills and fitness.

Throughout the last year all competitive fixtures and competitions with other schools were not held. The school is looking forward to returning to our competition against other schools in 2021-22.

School Policies

As part of its routine work, the governing body regularly reviews school policies/strategies and monitors their implementation and effectiveness. The following policies have been reviewed by the Governing Body in 2020-21.

- Administration of Medicines
- Anti-bullying policy
- Assessment, Recording and Reporting
- Attendance Policy & Attendance Pathway Policy
- Bereavement in schools Policy
- Business Continuity Plan
- Careers Education
- Children Looked After Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Collective Worship
- Continuous Professional Learning
- Curriculum
- Disciplinary Policy for Teachers
- Disposal of Assets Policy
- Domestic Abuse, Violence against Women and Sexual Violence
- Freedom of Information Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy/Statement
- Equal Opportunities
- E-Safety Policy
- Examination Policy
- Fire Evacuation plan
- Governors Allowance
- Healthcare needs
- Home School Agreement
- Inclement weather
- Information Management
- Internal Appeals Procedure
- Internal Assessments Policy
- Literacy Policy
- Numeracy Policy
- Privacy Notice
- Restraint Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- School toilets
- School Uniform
- SEN Policy
- Shared Parental Leave Policy
- Smoke-free Workplace Policy
- Teaching and Learning
- Teachers Pay Policy
- Volunteering Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Word Processor Policy

Copies of school policies are available to parents from the school website or from the school upon request.

The Curriculum

Key Stage 3

During the first three years at Ysgol Maesydderwen the school offers a curriculum based on the National Curriculum. Our Year 7 & 8 curriculum is based on Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs), a pilot as we prepare for the new curriculum for Wales.

The number of lessons each fortnight for each subject is as follows:

Years 7 & 8

AoLE	Year 7	Year 8
Languages, Literacy & Communication	14	13
Maths & Numeracy	6	7
Science & Technology	11	11
Health & Wellbeing	7	7
Humanities	6	6
Expressive Arts	6	6

Year 9

Subject	Year 9
English	7
Mathematics	7
Science	6
Art	2
Design Technology	4
French	3
Geography	3
History	3
Information Technology	3
Music	2
Physical Education	4
Religious Studies	2
Welsh	4

In Years 7, 8 and 9 most subjects are usually taught in ability groups based around English and Mathematics sets, with support provided for those with additional learning needs.

In all years where the numbers are too high, for health and safety reasons, Design Technology and Physical Education the form group may be split into smaller classes.

Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11 all pupils follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, Religious Education, Welsh BaccaLaureate Skills Challenge, Careers / PSE, Physical Education and Games. The first six subjects listed are taken to examination level. All pupils in accordance with the 14-19 Learning Pathway chose 3 other subjects from a comprehensive range of subjects.

Key Stage 5

Students in Year 12 and 13 are offered a wide range of Advanced Supplementary within the Welsh BaccaLaureate qualification and Advanced A2+ subjects. This offer is via a mixture of face to face learning at the school and on-line lessons in collaboration with other Powys secondary schools.

Students are expected to follow a minimum of 3 AS subjects including the Welsh BaccaLaureate.

Students are expected to pursue 3 subjects to Advanced level.

Full details of the courses available are to be found on the Powys Learning Pathways Website.

Changes to School Prospectus

The prospectus is updated annually to provide accurate information on a range of school data. This includes, amongst others, changes in staff, up to date pupil assessment information, destination of pupils and attendance. There is a copy of the prospectus on our website.

School Term Dates 2021-22

Term	Term starts	Half-term Dates	Term ends
Autumn Term 2021	Thursday 2 September 2021	Monday 25 October 2021 to Friday 29 October 2021	Wednesday 22 December 2021
Spring Term 2022	Wednesday 5 January 2022	Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022	Thursday 7 April 2022
Summer Term 2022	Tuesday 26 April 2022	Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022	Thursday 14 July 2022

Non-pupil days

- Wednesday 1 September 2021
- Tuesday 4 January 2022
- Friday 8 April 2022
- Monday 25 April 2022
- Friday 15 July 2022

Timings of the school day

Time	Description
8.45	Warning bell
8.50 – 9.10	Registration
9.10 – 10.10	Lesson 1
10.10 – 11.10	Lesson 2
11.10 – 11.35	Break – warning bell at 11.32
11.35 – 12.35	Lesson 3
12.35 – 1.35	Lesson 4
1.35 – 2.15	Lunch – warning bell at 2.10
2.15 – 3.15	Lesson 5

Healthy Eating and Drinking

At Ysgol Maesydderwen we encourage pupils to make healthy choices and be active members of our school community.

Awareness of the need to adopt healthy eating and drinking is delivered through the PSE curriculum including assemblies and other areas such as food technology and science.

A strong emphasis is placed on the importance of a healthy diet for life and how such a lifestyle will benefit their emotional wellbeing as well as physical health. The school canteen works within the statutory nutrition requirements for schools.

The school has a number of water fountains and pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day including during lessons.

Welsh Language – Welsh Language Category 4

The primary language of work and instruction throughout the school is English. However, we are proud of our Welsh culture and seek to recognise this in as many ways as possible, including during assemblies and the St. David's Day Concert. We promote the use of conversational Welsh in all lessons and the daily life of the school.

To further develop the use of Welsh it is used across the curriculum for dates, headings and praise. Welsh is also used to welcome pupils to classes and assemblies and as pupils enter the school at the start of the day. In lessons incidental Welsh may be used by teachers and learners as part of daily routines. The school is currently working towards the Bronze Siarter Iaith Award.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

ALN provision at Ysgol Maesydderwen is successful and effective, ensuring that all pupils with learning difficulties have access to the National Curriculum.

All pupils placed on the Code of Practice have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), which is regularly reviewed and discussed by subject staff.

Annual reviews are attended by ALN staff, parents, students and representatives of other agencies. Between September 2020 and July 2021 there were 139 learners on the ALN register.

There were:

- 5 learners with a statement
- 73 learners on School Action+
- 61 learners on School Action

Students with specific learning difficulties follow a general multi-sensory programme as appropriate, either in one to one or small group withdrawal situations. There are four Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) who support ALN students in departments and in main stream classes. They ensure that all students are fully motivated and encouraged to make progress in all areas of the curriculum. Our Specialist Learning Centre is now well established, and caters for pupils with a greater level of need. These pupils have both a full-time teacher and six LSAs who cater further for their individual needs. These pupils are taught in the centres and in main-stream classes where appropriate.

Disabled students are welcome at Ysgol Maesydderwen. They are fully included in all aspects of school life and all efforts are made to ensure that they have access to the National Curriculum.

The school's Disability Accessibility Plan and Strategic Equality Plan aim to promote inclusion and equality of opportunity. Copies of this are available on the school's website.

School Premises

We have an ongoing programme of maintenance to ensure the school continues to provide an attractive and safe learning environment.

We have continued a very good working relationship with staff at Ystradgynlais Leisure Centre. This ensures that we maximise use of the excellent facilities whilst ensuring we continue to safeguard our learners.

Toilet Facilities

Toilets are available for students on the ground floor and first floor. The school's toilets are organised into separate boys' and girls' toilets with separate disabled toilets for pupils to use. The school's toilet facilities are excellent and are cleaned throughout the day. In addition students are encouraged to report any matters as required.

School Improvement Plan

Each year the staff and governors work on a School Improvement Plan (SIP), which leads school improvement for the coming year. The areas addressed over the past twelve months have been:

- SIP A – Sustainable improvement of standards
- SIP B – Teaching and Learning
- SIP C – Curriculum
- SIP D – Learner Engagement
- SIP E – Stakeholders (inc. Governors)
- SIP F – Resources and budget

Progress has been made in all the areas and further work is planned for 2021-22. As a result the above 6 areas have continued to be a focus for the 2021-22 SIP.