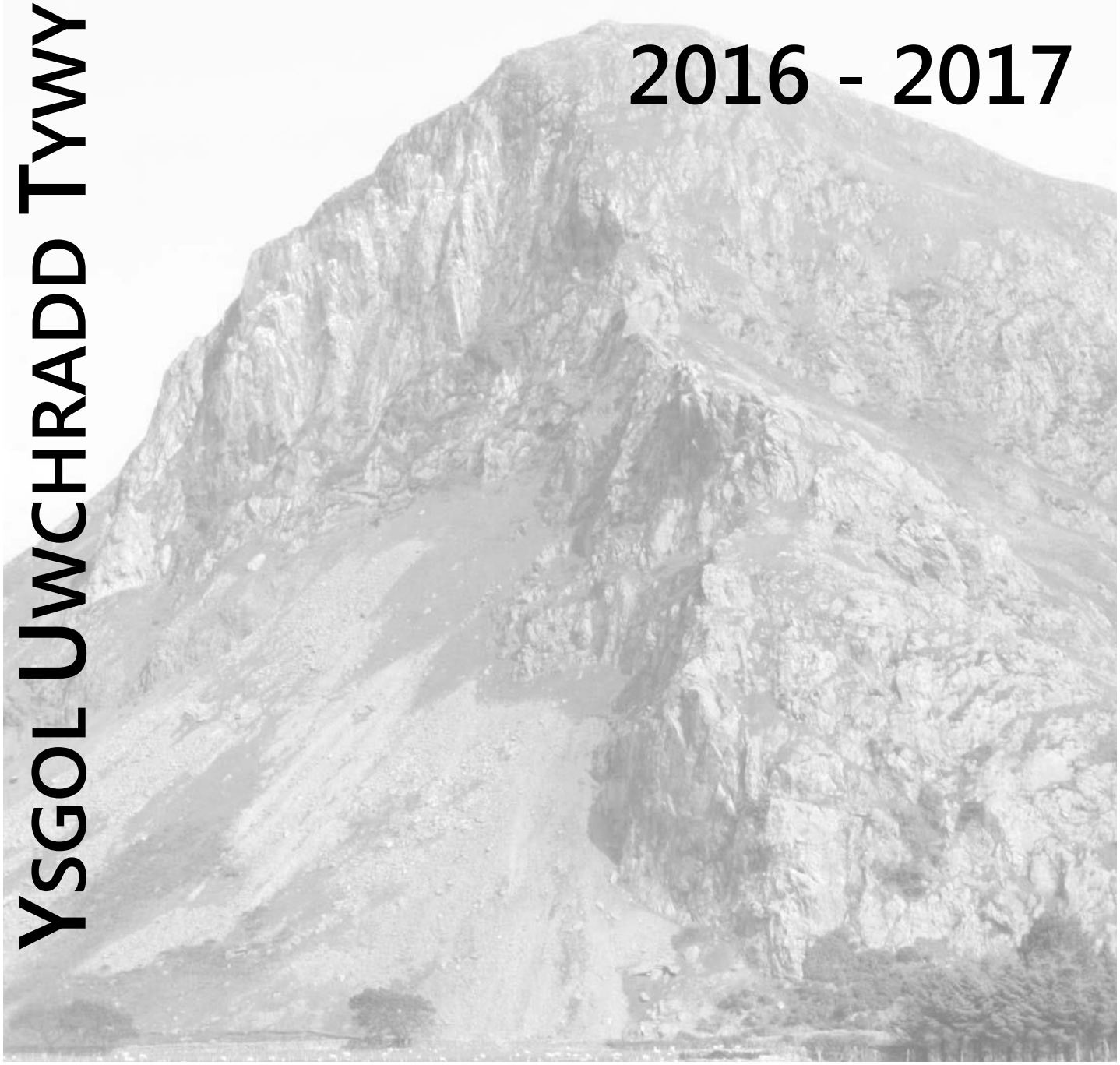
Annual Governors Report to Parents

2016 - 2017

Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn



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YSGOL UWCHRADD TYWYN 2016 - 2017

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LIST OF TEACHERS AND STAFF - 2016-2017

MRS HELEN LEWIS	HEADTEACHER
MRS SUE BOWEN	HEAD OF SCIENCE
MR MARK FREEMAN	HEAD OF DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY AND ICT
MR DOMINIC GILBERT	MUSIC
MR EDWARD HUGHES	MATHEMATICS ASTRONOMY
MISS HANNAH HUGHES	ENGLISH
MRS SIAN JARMAN	HEAD OF WELSH/WELSH LITERACY CO-ORDINATOR
MRS ALISON MILTON	HEAD OF MATHEMATICS NUMERACY CO-ORDINATOR
MISS ELLIW MORRIS	HEAD OF HUMANITIES (TEMPORARY ROLE SHARE) GEOGRAPHY, WELSH
MR SIMON NEWBY	HEAD OF ENGLISH /LITERACY CO-ORDINATOR
MR ISLWYN PHILLIPS	ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS CO-ORDINATOR PUPIL PROGRESS CO-ORDINATOR DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY PRIMARY/SECONDARY LIAISON
MRS G ROBERTS	MATHEMATICS
MISS SIONY RUDD	PHYSICAL EDUCATION, WBQ
MR DAVID THORP	DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER WELSH
MISS ANNE-SOPHIE TRONET	MODERN LANGUAGES FOOD TECHNOLOGY KS3, CATERING KS4
MR HUW WILLIAMS	HEAD OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS PHYSICAL EDUCATION, WELSH DUKE OF EDINBURGH CO-ORDINATOR GENERAL MENTOR WBQ CO-ORDINATOR OPPORTUNTIES WEEK CO-ORDINATOR
MRS NIA WILLIAMS	HEAD OF HUMANITIES (TEMPORARY ROLE SHARE) RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, WELSH, WBQ, PHSE PSHE CO-ORDINATOR/WORK EXPERIENCE CO-ORDINATOR
MR IFAN YWAIN	HISTORY

AUXILLIARY STAFF	
MISS MICHELLE BAIN	LEARNING SUPPORT TUTOR
MR MICHAEL DAVIES	CARETAKER
MRS ELEN PUGH	CLUB 5X60 CO-ORDINATOR BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT ASSISTANT
MISS LYNSEY EVANS	FINANCIAL OFFICER
MISS CASSIE GRIFFITHS	HIGHER LEVEL TEACHING ASSISTANT
MR MARC HULME	LEARNING SUPPORT TUTOR
MR PAUL INGRAM	COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
MRS RACHEL JENKINS	COOK
MRS SANDRA LEWIS	LEARNING SUPPORT TUTOR
MISS HEULWEN LLOYD	LEARNING SUPPORT TUTOR
MR WAYNE OYSTON	LEARNING SUPPORT TUTOR
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MISS SUE SMITH	ATTENDANCE ASSISTANT
MISS BETHAN WILLIAMS	INCLUSION OFFICER
MISS LORNA WILLIAMS	SCIENCE TECHNICIAN
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PC GARETH EDWARDS	COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICER
MRS LOIS PIERCE-JONES	SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST
MISS ELERI WYN JONES	EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER
AGENCY SUPPORT	
MR STUART GRAY	(CAHMS)
PC JOHN PAUL ROWLANDS-RALPH	POLICE SCHOOL LIAISON

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2016- 2017

The last school year was once again a busy one, with great demands being placed upon the governors to maintain sound finances. Our budget showed a deficit which has demonstrated just how tight the budget has become. Due to falling numbers of children in the catchment area and hence in the school, we have a reduced budget.

Pupil Numbers

Pupil numbers have increased this September from last year.

Year	**2015-16**	**2016-17**	**2017-18**
7	54	55	58
8	51	54	60
9	46	51	61
10	54	46	53
11	53	54	44
Total	**258**	**260**	**276**

With 52 pupils leaving last summer and an intake of 58 this September, our school population has increased to 276 at the start of academic year 2017 – 2018. Smaller pupil numbers have led to a reduction in pupil groups in year 7 and 8 this year, from 3 to 2 in every subject by September 2017.

Staffing

In-coming staff:

We welcomed for the Autumn Term 2016:

- Mr David Thorp, Deputy Headteacher
- Miss Siony Rudd, teacher of Physical Education
- Mr Marc Hulme, Learning Support Tutor
- Mrs Sandra Lewis, Learning Support Tutor

And during Spring Term 2017:

- Miss Heulwen Lloyd, Learning Support Tutor

Out-going staff at the end of the school year in July 2017:

- Mr Trefor Jones (Deputy Head Teacher) – taken up post as Headteacher at Ysgol y Creuddyn
- Mrs Menna Diamond (Food Technology) took voluntary redundancy
- Mrs Jane Barraclough (Art) took voluntary redundancy
- Miss Tracey Jones (Physical Education) took a post at a school in Colwyn Bay

During last year we had the pleasure of accommodating 1 trainee teachers from Aberystwyth University, to teach English.

Ysgol Tywyn is a small comprehensive school in a mixed language catchment area. In accordance with the present National Curriculum requirements both the Welsh and English languages are taught up to the age of 16. The school ensures that all pupils who have the necessary ability sit appropriate external examinations in the subject.

The school curriculum is based on 28, fifty minute lessons and 3 forty minute lessons each week on a fortnightly timetable. We provide a broad balance, relevant and varied curriculum that fulfils the requirements of the national Curriculum and the 14-19 Learning Pathways. The school aims to provide equal opportunities for all pupils according to their linguistic abilities. Pupils are placed in mixed ability (at the end of Key Stage 2) bilingual tutor groups according to their achievement in Welsh. Class sizes vary according to the size of the intake. At present the intake is 58 and we have 2 tutor groups.

Provision for PE

At key stage 3, there are 3 lessons of 50 minutes in year 7 and year 8, and 2 lessons in year 9. At key stage 4, there are 2 lessons in year 10 and 2 in year 11.

The school has a number of successful teams and pupils selected for the teams show appropriate levels of commitment. Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn site has a gymnasium and sports fields and also has the use of the sports hall, fitness centre, all-weather pitch and tennis courts, at the Bro Dysynni Leisure Centre.

Pupil Welfare

The school regards the welfare of each pupil as being important. We acknowledge that there are many factors which influence the ability of pupils to learn effectively. The school is committed to unlocking potential in order to ensure that each child can be successful on their own terms.

- This school aims at ensuring equal opportunities both curricular and social for pupils who have specific learning needs.
- This school aims at co-operating effectively with statutory agencies and other pertinent bodies relating to the child and his problems.
- This school aims to work closely with parents to ensure an effective partnership in order to help the pupil.

Analysis of Pupil Performance 2014-2017

General Appraisal:
Current performance: Good
Rolling period performance: Good

KS3 Results:
Core Subject Indicator:

	2014-2015			2015-2016			2016-2017		
	Total	B/G	FSM	Total	B/G	FSM	Total	B/G	FSM
School	92.6 (5)	-5.3	-12.4	93.5 (6)	-13.0	+7.9	94.1 (6)	-11.1	
Family	91.5	-6.3	-7.8	92.2	-3.0	-9.2	93.2	-5.3	
LA	91.3	-3.3	-15.3	92.0	-3.9	-10.9	92.8	-4.4	

- Consistent improvement in CSI over the past 3 years – from 92.6% in 2014-2015 to 94.1% in 2016-2017
- CSI in 2nd quartile over the past 2 years (less than 1 child in quartile 1), and in quartile 1 the previous year
- CSI above the average of its family of schools and LA over the past 3 years. Additional Value: CSI achievement (94.15) is .1% better than expected. Achievement higher than expected over the 3 year rolling period.
- Gap between boys/girls reduced over 2 or 3 years. Present gap is 4.8% higher than family schools and 6.7% higher than LA.
- FSM gap significantly reduced from 2013-2014 (45.7%)

General Appraisal:
Current performance: Good
Rolling period performance: Good

*Core Subject Indicator (percentage of pupils who have achieved Level 5+ in English/ Welsh, Mathematics and Science)

It has been another successful year for the school at Key Stage 3 with the core subject indicator (94.1%) showing that the school is ranked in the top 50% of its family of schools. There has been an increase in the number of students who achieved Level 5+ in Welsh (almost 10%). Standards in English and Mathematics have remained high with 96.1% of pupils achieving Level 5+. Unfortunately, there has been a decrease in the number of pupils who achieved Level 5+ in Science, from 100% to 94.1%, placing the school in the lower quartile.

Key Stage 4 Results 2016-2017

Context
Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn is in the 4th family and in first place. The school is in the 10%-15% group regarding free school meals. There are 53 pupils in the 2016-2017 Year 11, 30 boys and 23 girls, making each pupil worth 1.9%.

Judgement: Standards in the KS4 Main Indicators are good.

KS4 Main Indicators over the rolling period

	2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017	
TL2+	60	4	75	1	62.3	2
TL2	97.8	1	100	1	81.1	1
TL1	100	1	100	1	100	1
DPC	57.8	4	69.2	1	56.6	3
5 A*-A	26.7		15.4		18.9	
Score 8	383.6	1	379.7	1	353.3	1
Score 9					385.2	1

- There is a positive pattern in the indicators over the rolling period. There have been two indicators in the top quartile over the last three years.
- TL2 + and DPC: These indicators have moved quartiles over the rolling period. The two indicators have been in the lower Quartile in 2014-2015, but then in the highest in 2015-2016. There is a direct relationship in the performance of TL2 + and the DPC with the performance in Mathematics. The absence of this Head of Department has been key in considering the nature of this outcome. The impact of each pupil here must be also considered (1.9%). The DPC is difficult to compare as we have sat the BTEC Science exam since 2016, while other schools have done.
- The school performs above the LA average in three of the indicators in 2014-2015, and then in all indicators in 2015-2016. In 2016-2017 it was above average in all indicators other than the CSI (see above).
- The school performs better than the Family average in three of the indicators in 2014-2015, in each indicator in 2015-2016, and in four indicators in 2016-2017.
- TL2 + DPC performance is lower than the targets set. The effect of the new Mathematics exams must be noted on this, as well as the fact that we are not running a BTEC Science course, whilst other schools are.
- FSM pupils' performance was very similar to those without FSM in terms of a Capped Points Score, TL2+ and CSI in 2016-2017, but significantly less in terms of TL2. It must be remembered that there were five FSM pupils in 2016-2017, which means that every pupil is equivalent to 20%. It must also be acknowledged that there were only four FSM pupils in the year 2015-2016, with all pupils equivalent to 25%.
- The boys / girls gap increased significantly in 2015-2016 in the TL2+ and CSI indicators, and was higher than the family, but by 2016-2017 the gap in both indicators had decreased, and is below Family and LA.
- The school is the standards group 1 over the past three years.
- The school was top in the Family in the Capped Pointed Score indicator including language and maths in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. The school has been above the Family and LA average over the past three years. **This is a strength.**
- In 2015-2016 the school was tenth in the family for 5+ A * -A, below the family and LA average, 12.3% down on 2014-2015. This indicator rose to 18.9% in 2016-2017, which is seventh in the Family, and below the Family and LA average.

- The percentage of pupils who have achieved the Welsh Baccalaureate up to L2 has increased from 93.3% to 96.2% to 98.1% over the past three years. **This is a strength.**

Pupils at Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn once again enjoyed a successful year in their GCSE exams, comparing favourably with similar schools in Gwynedd and Wales. The hard work of pupils, staff paid off once again as the school maintained its high standards in ensuring that 81.1% of pupils achieved A*-C in at least five GCSE subjects. All pupils achieved at least 5 GCSE equivalent qualifications.

With the growing national and international emphasis placed on the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification in the coming years, the school are delighted that 98.1% of pupils achieved the standard this year. This achievement, built on the excellent standards over previous years, is a reflection of the hard work of pupils, the effectiveness of the teaching and the successful integration of these activities into the whole-school curriculum.

The National Tests

Schools have always used tests to check how well children are doing. Having national tests developed especially for use in Wales means that teachers in all schools have the same information on the reading and numeracy skills of their pupils. It also makes it possible to get a picture of national achievement in these subjects. The tests can show where individual children might need more help to improve their skills. Schools can compare achievement in reading and numeracy in their schools with what is happening nationally.

The Reading Tests are made up of short questions based on two or more texts. Some of the questions check how well the text has been understood, others aim to find out if children are able to make judgements about what they are reading. Before the start of the test, children can try out some practice questions, so that they will know what the different types of question are like, and what they may be asked.

There are reading tests in both English and Welsh, and each test takes up to an hour.

There are two kinds of numeracy tests.
1. The procedural test measures skills in number, measuring and data skills.
2. The reasoning test measures how well children can use what they know to solve everyday problems.

English and Welsh translations are available for both tests. Each of the numeracy tests takes up to half an hour.

The tests can provide useful information to add to what your child's teacher knows about their reading and numeracy from their work every day in the classroom. Teachers can use the results to identify strengths and also areas where more help may be needed. They may share this information with you at parent meetings. However, any test can only look at a limited range of skills and abilities. The reading tests cannot provide any information on speaking, listening or writing skills. The numeracy tests cannot test your child's understanding of space and shape. Some children will not perform at their best on the day of the test. As a result, their test results alone may not give a full picture of their ability. Each test is designed to measure achievement across the range expected for each year group. The tests will not always give reliable information for children who are working at the extremes of the range for their age. It is important to discuss your child's progress with their teacher based on all the evidence they have, rather than just focusing on a single test result. It is also important to remember that children do not all make progress at the same rate.

Getting involved in your child's learning while at home and out and about can make a big difference to their progress. Any of the following will be a huge help:
- Reading and talking about any kind of text such as books, magazines, webpages, leaflets, notices.
- Using numbers when shopping, planning trips, looking at football scores, times of TV programmes.
- Sharing activities that involve reading and numeracy such as cooking, playing board games, watching or playing sport, writing emails.
- Talking about words and numbers you come across in everyday life.

Staff Development

INSET for all staff was set aside for many aspects of our work, including local and national priorities:

- Introducing Sex Education
- HWB+
- Defibrillator training
- Digital competence
- Administering WBQ and HwB – Office 365 + One Note
- New GCSE courses
- Innovation project – Donaldson's New Curriculum
- Train the Trainer
- E-Safety

Other training for staff is identified according to school, department and Continued Professional Development priorities.

14 – 19 Developments

We continue to work in partnership with Coleg Llandrillo (Dolgellau site) to provide vocational courses to pupils in years 10 and 11, leading to Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications. These include: Salon Services (Level 1), Construction (Level 1), Engineering (Level 2), Health & Social Care (Level 2). Last year 6 pupils followed the Engineering course, and all were successful. This year in Year 11, 3 pupils are following the Engineering course, and in Year 10, 16 pupils are following these college courses: Engineering, Construction, Health and Social Care and Salon Services.

The school offers an additional 21 qualifications in the current Year 11.

In Year 11 2016-2017, 98.1% of pupils achieved the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification at Intermediate Level (Level 2), an increase of 4% upon the previous year.

GWYNEDD SECONDARY SCHOOLS LANGUAGE STRATEGY

Since the launch of the Welsh Language Charter in Gwynedd, innovative work has been done in our primary schools to impact children's social use of Welsh. So as to ensure a robust progression to the Charter, we are proud to present a Secondary Language Strategy that provides our secondary schools with clear guidance on language practices altering techniques and the various ways of influencing pupils' social language within and outside school.

The Strategy has received valuable input from secondary school learners from various language backgrounds including those for whom Welsh is their first language, fluent learners and beginners and these pupil enthusiasm impressed.

Gwynedd Council is committed to supporting the Welsh Government's strategy to achieve the objective of a million Welsh speakers by 2050, ensuring that at every stage in his/her life, an individual has an opportunity to learn Welsh and learn through the medium of Welsh. As part of the effort to achieve this objective, Gwynedd Council have developed a Secondary School Language Strategy as an effective planning tool, building on the Primary Schools Language Charter's success, for giving a lead towards further progress in pupils' social and curricular use of Welsh.

THE VISION

Gwynedd Council is totally committed to an excellent innovative secondary schools system that promotes Welsh in all aspects of their work.

The objective of the Secondary School Language Strategy is to promote use of Welsh within a social context by children and young people and develop it as an effective medium for all aspects of school life and work. The Strategy will be an effective planning tool, building on the success of the Primary Language Charter, for leading towards further progress in pupils' social and curricular use of Welsh.

It supports the vision of Gwynedd Language Strategy to ensure that the Welsh language prospers. Through placing an emphasis on Welsh, it is ensured that children in Gwynedd are bilingually proficient and confident

and take pride in the additional value they obtain from being bilingual, that they can confidently use both languages socially and professionally after leaving school and that they ultimately transfer both languages to the next generation in Gwynedd.

The language also contributes to implementing a bilingual strategy through promoting Welsh, ensuring that it has equal status and opportunities.

Every school will implement the Secondary School Language Strategy and ensure that all the school's stakeholders are involved in this scheme.

These key details have been taken from the draft document 'Gwynedd Secondary Schools Language Strategy'. The final version will be made available on our website or a hard copy can be requested from the school.

Cynllun 'Calon' Language Scheme

The school follows the Gwynedd Language Policy. It is a bilingual school and is unique in its level of bilingualism, linguistic background of the pupils and language of the staff. While there are specific reasons for this, the school has set out to create a more Welsh ethos in the school. The school seeks to promote pride in the pupils towards the language, culture, history and heritage of Wales.

Our intention is to get the pupils to show pride in the Welsh language inside and outside the classroom (informal), ensure that pupils are fluent in both Welsh and English (spoken and written). To enable them to become full members of the bilingual society in which they are involved, it is essential to create a positive attitude towards bilingualism, that everyone in the whole school shows equality with the English language.

We want to see the Welsh language thrive, and are aiming for:
• Increased use of informal Welsh around the school, extracurricular and community.
• Further opportunities to use the language within the school.
• Increased confidence of staff / pupils and fluency in the language.
• Show greater awareness of the value of Welsh as part of our national identity and heritage.
• Create guidelines to develop a more consistent and robust method to increase the use of Welsh throughout the school.

Situation so far:
As part of the plan to promote Welsh the school:
• Following policy "Use Welsh first''
• Pupils rewarded for their use of Welsh through the Cynllun 'Calon'.
• supporting staff to develop their confidence and skills by providing lessons in Welsh. (The learner is assigned a mentor, one of the Welsh staff to help and support them).

Next Steps:
• A framework which is designed to ensure whole school ownership.
• To strengthen the link between home and school.
• Closer contact with the primary schools in order to share good practice.

A SCHOOL WHICH PROMOTES HEALTH

This school has, for years, been a member of the European Healthy School Scheme to promote health and is in the thirteenth year of activities. At the end of 2014 the school was proud to receive the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes National Quality Award. The main focus this year is to encourage pupils to make healthy choices in the food they eat. In order to do this we have:

- maintained a Food Bar which offers a wide choice of sandwiches and salads, as well as milk shakes.
- encouraged pupils to drink more water during the day - by asking them to bring a sports-top water bottle to school. (Pupils are not allowed to drink in the library or classrooms such as Science and ICT for safety reasons).
- parents are responsible for ensuring that the bottles are washed

In March, following a month of hard work, the schools Healthy Eating Forum produced a Healthy Eating Recipe Book for sale and organised activities to support Healthy Eating Week (12-16 June).

Opportunities week 11 – 14 July 2017

Once again this year we've had a very busy week with a variety of activities occurring within and outside the school grounds:

- Year 7 enjoyed a graffiti workshop, a day trip to Llanberis Electric Mountain, and also went canoeing, and walking and climbing at Cae Du.
- Year 8 enjoyed a robotics workshop, experienced the Dark Chasm at Silver Mountain, Ponterwyd, had the opportunity to go canoeing in the Broadwater, to walk in Aberdyfi and adventurous activities in the Outward Bound centre.
- Year 9 had the opportunity to go skating in Telford, cycling and 'lazertag' at Ynys Maengwyn. On Friday they had a chance to surf, cook and karate and trampoline.
- Year 10 had an expedition at Kings, Dolgellau, were excited to go on the 'zipwire' in Arthog, gorge walking at Maentwrog.

Everyone enjoyed the week - including the teachers! Many thanks to all the staff for their dedication during the week.

Year 7+8 Skills Week/year 9 Enterprise/Year 10 Work Experience

During the week, each year group followed a structured, purposeful programme of activities as follows:

- Year 7 – development of literacy and numeracy skills within science. They visited Ynys Hir nature reserve to observe and complete a number of tasks relating to the natural habitat. The pupils also had a session on safe relationships and also a session on digital coding.
- Year 8 - developing literacy skills and digital literacy skills through independently researching the history of the area and producing an information leaflet and a series of QR codes for visitors to the area.
- Year 9 – numeracy and literacy skills. Barclays Bank visited to run workshops on personal finance. Also, during the week the pupils had to present a series of presentations to year 7 on an aspects of the PSHE curriculum. The school nurse and PC John came in to be interviewed by the pupils.
- Year 10 – Welsh BAC. Pupils worked on aspects of the citizenship.

Support Services

School Nurse	Nurse Ann Hughes
Education Welfare Office	Miss Eleri Wyn Jones
Counsellor	Miss Deneise Jones
Inclusion Officer	Miss Bethan Williams
Careers Advisor	Mr Andrew Jones
Police School Liaison Officer	PC JP Rowlands-Ralph
5 x 60 Officer	Mrs Elen Pugh

In addition to Form Tutors, Year Tutors, Learning Coaches, all of the above have helped us to provide appropriate support at an appropriate level to pupils, according to their needs. We are always pleased to welcome support for our pupils and indeed extra provision.

Financial Performance

In line with the funding allocation formula for Gwynedd secondary schools and based on the current financial scale, a decrease of 243 pupils has resulted in a reduction of around £ 719,000 per annum in the Tywyn School allocation - that is a very significant amount. The number of pupils has now increased to 271 in September 2016 with the prospects of pupil numbers in the school suggesting a reduction to 265 in September 2017 and an increase to 274 by September 2018.

- From the 2014/15 financial year, Gwynedd decided to set up a system of providing financial protection for secondary schools with low numbers of pupils - the process was based on a number of pupils, fewer than 260 at the beginning, which resulted in a minimum funding of 18.2 teachers.
- Tywyn School was not entitled to financial protection in the first year of the new 2014/15 scheme.
- The school received £46,667 of financial protection in 2015/16 and £19,193 during 2016/17. It is anticipated that the school will continue to receive some financial protection over the next three years as follows - £6,300 in 2017/18, £21,800 in 2018/19 with no protection in 2019/20.

This is despite the school numbers increasing from the 260 original needed to start the financial protection.

- That is because the cuts to the county's secondary school budget mean that the pupil allocation is smaller and therefore more pupils are needed to fund 18.2 teachers - this would mean that a secondary school will need to be have fewer than about 274 pupils by 2019/20 to qualify for financial protection. Any further cuts to the secondary schools budget from 2018/19 onwards - that has not yet been discussed – will also impact on the level of protection for smaller schools.
- The task of reviewing, reorganizing and restructuring the curriculum, staffing and budget in response to the significant financial challenge has been very challenging for the school over the past ten years. That has also happened in a period of having to maintain and raise standards, protect the bilingual nature of the school (ensuring that the Welsh language is at the heart of the work and life of the school) and to resist the flow of proportion of pupils in the catchment area to other secondary schools.
- The considerable work that the school has already achieved over recent years in response to the above challenges must be acknowledged when accepting in full that further work is to be done across the challenges and specifically in relation to the ability to set a balanced budget consistently.
- The school reviewed the responsibilities and staffing level of all school support staff - administrative, technical, caretakers, learning assistants, etc. - in recent years, rationalizing and reducing the number of jobs as much as possible - e.g. the post of librarian was removed - now, the number and responsibilities of the school's support staff are appropriate to a school of its current size and it is very difficult to find further savings in this area.
- The number of school learning groups has been significantly reduced over recent years so that the number of school teachers has been able to be reduced from 32.4 in September 2009 to 19.2 in September 2016 - a decrease of 13.2 teachers over a period of seven years which equates to an annual saving of around £ 634,000.
- Despite the cuts to the number of learning groups, the school continues to meet the statutory requirements of the KS3 and KS4 curriculum, with the collaboration with other schools and the local college being very helpful in achieving this at KS4.
- In recent years, the school has reorganized the Senior Management Team with a reduction of four members (Head, Deputy Head and two Assistant Heads) to the current two members (Head and Deputy Head) - this is heavily on both members but relatively appropriate to a school of its current size - this has also contributed annual financial savings of around £ 80,000.
- In addition to the savings in the staffing headings, the school has also reviewed and rationalized the level of funding in other budget headings - e.g. capitation allowance, developmental finance, IT equipment, maintenance of the buildings, etc. - setting an over-tight and rather unrealistic budget - unfortunately, this has led to overspending of the budget over recent years.
- Therefore, further staffing savings are necessary in order to consistently set and implement a balanced budget for the future.

Alongside the financial situation, the school has worked hard to maintain and raise standards and generally ensure good progress:

- Key Stage 3 2016 – CSI 93%, English 95.7% and Mathematics 95.7%, all in quartile 2, and Science 100% in quartile 1.
  Key Stage 4 2016 - TL2+ 75.0%, TL2 100%, TL1 100%, CSI 69.2%, CPS 379.5, English 80.8% and Maths 84.6%, all in quartile 1 and Science 94.2% in quartile 2.
- Welsh - developing the use of the Welsh language is given priority in the curriculum and generally in the life and work of the school, although it is in a fairly English catchment area - 95% of pupils in the school follow a Welsh First Language course at KS3 and KS4 although a significant majority of them speak English in the home - that is a credit to the school but makes it very difficult for the school to succeed as well in the subject in comparison with more natural schools in Welsh - because of that, Welsh results are less positive and are currently in quartile 4 at KS3 and KS4 - the school's new plans are in place to further strengthen the pupils' linguistic skills of Welsh - for example, the school has established a Joint Language Committee (including representation of staff, pupils and governors) to promote the status and use of Welsh at school and are committed to being part of the innovative new Secondary School Charter scheme.
- Attendance - there has been very good progress in the presence of pupils - it was 95.4%, which is quartile 1 in 2016.

- Categorization of Schools 2016 - the school is a Standards Group 1 and the Yellow Schools Category (the second best of four categories) in terms of the need for support.
- The school has now begun to increase the number of its pupils ensuring that all year 6 pupils in the catchment area come to school.
- If the school had acted harder in cutting staff to create financial savings and thus been able to set a balanced budget over the last three years, the good progress in terms of standards above would probably have been hindered.
- The level of financial protection by the County was £ 19,193 in 2016/17.
- The school created further savings by reducing 1.0 teachers at the end of August 2016.
- Following discussions with Eifion Jones about the procedure, the school has adopted a more effective template to try to sharpen and tighten their budget setting and spending monitoring during the year.
- There was an overspend again in 2016/17 of £57,000 - that was higher than the original objective in November 2016 of an overspend of £ 35,000 in 2016/17 - that would mean that the cumulative historical deficit was £16,000 at the end of 2016/17.
- It must be noted that £ 20,000 of this overspend in 2016/17 is one-off costs - £ 10,000 historic back payment of electricity bills and £ 10,000 exam costs - so only £ 37,000 of the overspend in 2016 / 17 were due to permanent costs that will need to be funded in the 2017/18 budget to avoid further overspend.

Changes to the School Handbook

Some amendments were made to the School Handbook regarding: school council membership, uniform, Additional Learning Needs Policy.

Head teacher's Performance Management Update

Objective 1: Improving standards in Welsh - target 55% - 60%
Appraisal: Failure - but many pupils who sit the GCSE Welsh exam is at 90% and 4th of the Family.

Objective 2: To ensure that the Governing Body is more aware of monitoring standards to include scrutiny of books / lesson observations.
Appraisal: in part

Objective 3: Digital Literacy: each subject area develops all aspects of the Digital Framework within schemes of work.
Appraisal: in part

Sport And 5 X 60 News and Successes:

- **Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn**
- **Clwb 5x60**

September 2016

- Meirion Dwyfor netball trials U14 and U16
- Started 6 week block of surfing lessons with Aber Adventures.
- 5x60 lunchtime sessions were held at the Leisure Centre, including badminton, netball, parkour, football and dodgeball

October 2016

- Good attendance of pupils at weekly gym sessions in the leisure centre
- Lunch time sessions of badminton and football
- Free swimming sessions were offered after school to increase participation

November 2016

- ❖ Football game v Bro Hyddgen
- ❖ Hockey tournament U16
- 5x60 schools badminton competition. 4 teams were entered – Yr 7/8 boys, Yr 9/10 boys, Yr 7/8 girls and Yr 9/10 girls. The Yr 7/8 boys and Yr 9/10 girls team won their group competitions.
- Climbing sessions were offered – a group visited the climbing wall at Harlech after school.

January 2017

- Girls' rugby and football sessions started

February 2017

- ❖ Meirion Dwyfor Cross Country Competition - Bro Hyddgen
- ❖ Hockey U14 at Ysgol y Moelwyn - YUT won the tournament
- ❖ Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn's U14 Hockey team were successful yet again after winning the Eryri Hockey Tournament held at Penygroes. The team played well winning three games and drawing with Ysgol Uwchradd Tryfan and went on to represent Eryri in the Welsh Schools Tournament in March in Wrexham.
- ❖ Eryri Cross country Competition: Seven pupils represented the county in the Eryri Championships. Two of these pupils were successful with Oliver Draisey coming in first yet again and Ethan Rolfe placed in the top ten.
- 5x60 schools climbing competition was held at Harlech climbing wall. Year 7/8 girls won their group and went on to represent South Gwynedd in the final.

March 2017

- ❖ U14 netball Ann Smart Hockey U14 tournament at Wrexham – Finals: A team of 16 girls went on to represent Eryri the Welsh schools Hockey finals in Wrexham. Although we played extremely well the competition was tough and we just missed out on qualifying for the semi-final. The experience was great and the team has achieved a lot. Well done Girls!!
- ❖ Urdd Dancing - year 7 team entered
- Winners of the badminton and climbing competitions went onto the finals, the climbers to Anglesey and the badminton to Deeside.

April 2017

- Lunch time indoor football sessions offered at the Leisure Centre.
- A large Group of girls attended a rugby taster day with WRU at Bala Rugby club to promote 'The Rebels'

May 2017

- ❖ Football tournament - Ynys mon years 7, 8 and 9
- Surfing lessons started again in Tywyn with AberAdventures
- A Group of School pupils and staff participated in the Race for Life event in Aberystwyth to raise money for Cancer Research.
- Year 7 and Year 8/9 girls' football teams went to Llangefni, Anglesey to play in a football tournament for Gwynedd and Anglesey schools.

June 2017

- ❖ Girls Rugby taster session year 7, 8 and 9. 32 girls attended the taster session that was held at Dolgellau Rugby Club to promote girls' rugby.
- Year 7 and 8 teams went to Dolgellau cricket club to compete in a tournament against Ysgol y Berwyn and Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.

Sports Day

Congratulations to Dysynni on winning the Sports Day Competition and congratulations to all participants in all sports for the last year and to Mr Huw Williams, Miss Siony Rudd (PE Department), Mrs Elen Evans Pugh (5 x 60 Officer) and to parent volunteers who have given up their time to supervise and transport pupils.

Year 6 Visit (16-17 June)

During the two days 51 year 6 pupils followed a sample timetable and experienced a 'normal' school day as it would be in year 7, from September 2015. There will be 2 form groups, 7T and 7Y, and 27 and 27 pupils respectively in each. The pupils experienced a taste of Science, Art, PE, Welsh, English, Maths, Geography, Food Technology and Music. Each class was accompanied by prefects or prospective prefects throughout the day, and had lunch at the canteen with other pupils.

Achievement levels for the new intake vary from Level 3 to Level 5 and only 10 pupils are from families where Welsh is a language that is spoken. This constitutes 19% of the year group. However, 94% of the pupils have achieved level 3+ or higher in Welsh at the end of Key Stage 2, and will therefore, according to Gwynedd policy follow Welsh First Language. 3 pupils (6%) will follow Welsh Second Language.

14 of the pupils (25.9%) are currently on Individual Education Plans for additional learning needs (7 boys, 7 girls).

Charity Fundraising

During the year, a number of charity fund-raising activities were held, including non-uniform days. We have always supported local, national and international charities and last year the following causes benefited from the efforts of pupils and staff: Children in Need, Macmillan, Comic Relief, Autism Awareness, World Environment Day, and Race for Life. Just over £2,000 was raised and donated to these deserving causes. At a local level, Cae Rhianfa and the Community Hall at school, have been used free of charge, for fundraising, charitable events.

In addition, over £2,800 was raised to purchase 2 defibrillators, situated on school premises, in memory of two very special pupils. The vast majority of this funding was generously donated by the parents of these two pupils. The defibrillators are accessible to anyone in Tywyn, and are considered a very fitting tribute.

Cancer Research 'Race for Life'
On Sunday 14 May a group of pupils and staff completed the Aberystwyth 'Race for Life' raising money for Cancer Research. Pupils: Catrin Markham, Ruby Carney, Amber Broome, Cain Pugh, Shana Lewis, Sara Jones, Alex Owens, Skye Bickell, Ela Pugh, Els Jones staff: Siony Rudd, Gwenan Roberts, Elliw Morris and Elen Pugh
Well done to everyone for taking part in this worthwhile event!

Operation Christmas Child 2016
Once again this year an enthusiastic group of nearly 50 pupils were involved in 'Operation Christmas Child'. A large number of shoe boxes, decorated in colourful Christmas paper were sent, full to the brim with stationery items, toys, small games, caps, scarves and toiletries. Young children in poorer countries were delighted by the kind donations from our pupils – "thank you" to all those pupils for their continued support.

Rotary Club Sponsored Events

Young Chef	22 November 2016	Winner:		Elen Hughes
Young Musician	24 May 2017	Winners:	Novice:	Ruby Parsons
			Foundation:	Molly Aitken
			Higher:	Sam Aitken
Junior Chef:	8 June 2017	Winner:		Archie Davies
Outward Bound Ullswater, Lake District:		July 2017		Abi Hinton, Mia Banks

Community Links

Amaethwyr Dysynni, Co-op, Dolly's Cafe, Chemist, Tywyn Library, Tywyn Bakery, Post Office, Rivington's, Spar, Bwtri Blasus, Aberdyfi Butchers, D. Hughes & Sons, Aberdyfi and Bryncrug Youth Clubs.	Participants in the school's Tocyn Iaith Scheme to encourage our pupils to use their Welsh outside of the school environment. Donations from many of the businesses of raffle prizes for various events
Cambrian News / Dail Dysynni	Community newspapers
School Newsletter	Distributed to the town library, the dentists and health centre for the general public and also to local area primary schools
Tywyn Rotary Club	Sponsors of Young Musician/Young Chef competitions
Town library	Displays of Art work from school pupils
Community Police	Variety of workshops and support to pupils and school
British Legion	Affiliation to local branch
Senior citizens	Monthly lunches at school canteen
Parents, Teachers and Friends Association	Events and fundraising activities

Gifts/Donations

Aberdyfi Players	£100
Llandrillo (STEM) Group	£200
PTFA	£1,002

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

We are very grateful to the PTFA for their enthusiasm in arranging fundraising events to help support extra-curricular activities at the school. During the past 12 months these have included 3 Quiz Nights, a Duck Race and organising refreshments and a raffle at the School Christmas Concert.

They have kindly donated £200 towards setting up an after-school Art Club and £802 towards the school's new laser cutter in the DT department.
Total donations for 2016-2017: £754.14

Premises/Health and Safety

- A team of asbestos contractors spent a week at the school cleaning and removing floor tiles from the Breakfast Room and corridor and also the corridor leading to the Community Hall and two set of steps in the Community Hall.
- Flooring Contractors spent 3 weeks laying new floor covering after the Asbestos team had finished.
- Wooden doors and frames were removed and replaced with new double glazed units in the passage way leading to the Community Hall by Tywyn Glass & Construction at the cost of £1350.00.
- Anderson Tree Specialists completed a full survey on the trees at the front of the school at the cost of £250.00.
- Repairs have been carried out on the main boilers in the Boiler House at the cost of £800.00 and replacement of pressure vessel in the gym at £300.00
- Work was carried out to ensure that all water tanks in Cae Rhianfa met with the Legionella requirements, cleaning of tanks and removing of all dead legs on pipe work.
- PAT testing was completed in April by Falconers Electricals costing £1,056.00.
- Servicing of gas appliances by Gower Gas & Oil.
- Intruder Alarm has been serviced.
- Fire Alarm System has been serviced and repaired. Repairs costing £742.00.
- Servicing by Snowdonia Fire Protection Ltd of Fire Fighting equipment costing £293.00.
- Inspection carried out by Fumex on the extraction units costing £300.00.
- Sports Safe completed a safety check in the gym. Following this survey, costing £100.00, a quote was issued with a list of recommended defects. This quote was for £4000.00. This work will now be carried out by ourselves at the cost of £800.00.
- A new school sign was purchased from Genesis and has now been erected at the front of the school costing £165.00.

Visits and Residential Trips

15 September 2016: Mathematics Workshop Yr 11 'Maths is Your Future', Bangor University
15 October 2016: Alton Towers (Urdd)
10-13 April 2017: Iceland Yr 10 and Yr 11
12 May 2017: Cardiff Yr 7, 8 and 9 (Urdd)

Pupil Destinations at 16+ 2016 – 2017

Number on register: 54 Year 11	Girls	Boys	Total
Coleg Llandrillo, Dolgellau	9	21	30
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth	6	2	8
Coleg Powys, Newtown	2	1	3
Glynlllifon	1	0	1
Ysgol Penglais, Aberystwyth	1	1	2
Coleg Llysfasi	2	2	4
In Employment	1	1	2
Other F/E	3	3	6

Attendance 2016 - 2017

Year	Total Attendance		Percentage Attendance		Absence without Consent		Absence without consent		Absence with consent		Absence with consent	
					Total		Percentage		Total		Percentage	
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
7	9107	7884	96.7%	95.3%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	318	401	3.3%	4.7%
8	9094	7948	96.1%	95.9%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	376	349	3.9%	4.1%
9	7812	6997	96.1%	95.6%	1	2	0.0%	0.0%	329	330	3.9%	4.4%
10	6879	6956	96.7%	92.4%	1	91	0.0%	1.2%	243	504	3.3%	6.4%
11	7483	5953	97.5%	96.2%	2	0	0.0%	0.0%	200	240	2.5%	3.8%
School	40375	35738	96.6%	95.1%	4	93	0.0%	0.2%	1466	1824	3.4%	4.7%
Totals	76113		95.9%		97		0.1%		3290		4.0%	

During recent years we have focussed strongly on attendance. In order to improve attendance rates there are regular truancy sweeps with the support of our Educational Welfare Officer, School Community Police Officer and local police. These have had a substantial effect on the number of pupils arriving late or absent without parental explanation. In addition to the truancy sweeps we have received a grant from P.A.C.T. In order to reward pupils who achieve 100% attendance, together with the Youth Team, we decided to reward pupils, each half term, with vouchers worth £10 for the two lucky pupils (one from KS3 and one from KS4) drawn from all those achieving 100%. At the end of the year the pupils' names, (who had achieved 100% throughout the year), are drawn, and a prize of a £50 Amazon voucher is awarded to the lucky person at Prize Afternoon. All pupils with 100% attendance for the year receive a £10 Amazon voucher.

Reviewing School Policies

The school has revised the following policies during 2016 – 2017:
Extra-curricular visits, Food and Fitness, Sex and Relationships Education, (Radicalisation) Prevention, Solvent Abuse, Homework, Health and Safety, e-Safety, PHSE, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Use of school buildings outside school hours, Contact with Industry, Charging for Educational Activities, Sustainability, Staff mobile phone, Using Volunteers, Code of Practice for supply teachers, College co-operative School-to-school, College Working.

Additional Learning Needs

September 2016	SA	SA+	Assessed	Statement	Total
Number of Pupils on Stages of ALN	40	48	0	6	94

The Learning Support Assistants provide further valuable services to the pupils which include running Breakfast Club, Reading Buddies (Welsh and English), Homework Club and the 'Hafan'.

At every school there is so much more to education than qualifications and results though undoubtedly that is the basis upon which we are judged. Nevertheless, if there is one indicator that I would choose to be used above all others, it would be that every student leaving the school has found a sense of achievement in some way.

Thanks

Teachers, Parents
Administrative staff, technicians and learning support assistants
Mr Michael Davies, Caretaker
Cleaners and canteen staff
All governors – especially outgoing members, and special thanks to Miss Sali Roberts, clerk to the governors, for her regular attendance at meetings (including panels), and for her detailed, thorough minutes.

Mrs Helen Lewis
Headteacher

Mr Arwel Pierce
Chairman

Appendix 1

School Governors: Tywyn

Name	*Address*	*Phone No*	*End Date*	*Category*
HUGHES, Cyng. Louise	20 Maesegryn	01654 711051	31/08/2021	Education Authority
LLOYD-JONES, Cyng. Anne	Hendy	01654 710457	31/08/2021	Education Authority
OWEN, Cyng Robert Dewi	Esgairgyfela	01654767267	31/08/2021	Education Authority
STEVENS, Cyng Michael	Verano	01654 712 225	31/08/2021	Education Authority
PIERCE, Richard Arwel	Llain y Grug	01654 711470	31/08/2020	Community
WILLIAMS, Elizabeth Ann	Trefri	01654 710127	31/08/2020	Community
ARCH, David	Penbryn Bach	07891736093	31/08/2020	Community
ROWLANDS-RALPH, John Paul	Brynllin	07725015888	31/08/2021	Community
FREEMAN, Mark	61 Faenol Isaf	01654 711 182	31/08/2021	Teacher
WILLIAMS, Huw	Maesnewydd	01654 700069	31/08/2019	Teacher
BAIN, Michelle	25 Cambrian Rd	01654 712602	31/08/2020	Staff (Ancillary)
DUNN, Nuala	Rhyd Uchaf	01654 710 521	01/09/2019	Parent
ROS, Manon Steffan	37 Ffordd Dyfrig	07887803067	31/08/2020	Parent
JONES, Anwen	6 Maengwyn St	01654 711380	31/08/2020	Parent
ROWLANDS, Hilary	35 Ffordd Dyfrig	07584305158	31/08/2021	Parent
LEWIS, Helen Marie	10 Maes y Grug		31/08/2020	Head Teacher
MUMFORD, Rachel	6 Dolithel	01654 711380	31/08/2020	Clerk

Appendix 2

Cyfrifon Terfynol 2016/2017	**Final Accounts 2016/2017**		
Ysgol Tywyn			**4032**
		£	£
Balansau 31 Mawrth 2017	Balance 31 March 2017		- 59,375
Dyraniad 2016/2017	Allocation 2016/2017		1,438,697
			1,379,322
Dyraniadau Ychwanegol yn y flwyddyn:	Additional Allocation in the year		
Datganoli Integreiddio	Additional Learning Needs Provision	31,872	
Grant Refeniw Cyrsiau Lefel 1	Revenue Grant for Level 1 Courses	0	
Gwaharddiadau	Exclusions	0	
Eraill	Other	0	
			31,872
Cyfanswm adnoddau ar gael	**Total financial resources available**		**1,411,194**
Cyfanswm Gwariant Net 2016/2017 *(yn cynnwys llôg)*	**Total Net Expenditure 2016/2017**		**1,527,371**
Balansau 31 Mawrth 2017	**Balance 31 March 2017**		**-116,177**
*** Balansau fel % o Ddyraniad 2016/2017**	*** Balances as % of allocation 2016/2017**		**-7.90%**

Appendix 3

The School Day					
Monday - Thursday			**Friday**		
Registration		8.30 – 8.50		Lesson	1A	8.30 – 9.10
Lesson	1	8.50 – 9.40		1B	9.10 – 9.50
	2	9.40 – 10.25		2	9.50 – 10.30
Break		10.30 – 10.45		Break	10.30 – 10.45
	3	10.45 – 11.35		3	10.45 – 11.35
	4	11.35 – 12.25		4	11.35 – 12.25
Lunch		12.25 – 1.05		Lunch	12.25 – 1.05
	5	1.05 – 1.55		5	1.05 – 1.55
	6	1.55 – 2.45		6	1.55 – 2.45

Appendix 4

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2017 - 2018

Term dates / holidays

Autumn Term 2017

- **Starts:** Friday, 1 September
- **Half Term:** Monday, 230 October - Friday, 3 November
- **Ends:** Friday, 22 December

Spring Term 2018

- **Start:** Monday, 8 January
- **Half term:** Monday, 12 February - Friday, 16 February
- **Ends:** Friday 23 March

Summer Term 2018

- **Starts:** Monday, 9 April
- **May Day:** Monday 7 May
- **Half Term:** Monday, 28 May - Friday, 1 June
- **Ends:** Monday, 20 July

Schools will re-open for teachers on Monday 3 September, 2018 and for pupils on Tuesday, 4 September

Appendix 5

National Test Results 2017

Percentage of pupils within each range of scores:

English	< 85	85—115	115 >	**Welsh**	< 85	85—115	115 >
Year 7	14%	75%	12%	Year 7	32%	68%	0%
Year 8	7%	75%	19%	Year 8	34%	53%	14%
Year 9	16%	57%	27%	Year 9	33%	57%	10%

Numeracy Reasoning	< 85	85—115	115 >	**Numeracy Procedural**	< 85	85—115	115 >
Year 7	17%	58%	25%	Year 7	17%	56%	27%
Year 8	8%	73%	19%	Year 8	2%	81%	17%
Year 9	14%	65%	22%	Year 9	14%	67%	20%

Appendix 6

	Pwnc neu Ddangosydd / Subject or Indicator	Lefel / Level	2015	2016	2017
Cyfnod Allweddol 3 / Key Stage 3	DPC / CSI	5+	92.6	93.5	94.1
	Saesneg / English	5+	98.1	95.7	96.1
	Cymraeg / Welsh	5+	89.6	86.7	95.2
	Mathemateg/ Mathematics	5+	92.6	95.7	96.1
	Gwyddoniaeth / Science	5+	100	100	94.1
	Cymraeg Ail Iaith / Welsh Second Language	5+			
	Saesneg / English	6+	53.7	76.1	70.6
	Cymraeg / Welsh	6+	35.4	40	52.4
	Mathemateg/ Mathematics	6+	66.7	73.9	70.6
	Gwyddoniaeth / Science	6+	75.9	78.3	76.5
	Cymraeg Ail Iaith / Welsh Second Language	6+			
	Saesneg / English	7+	22.2	23.9	25.5
	Cymraeg / Welsh	7+	14.6	13.3	16.7
	Mathemateg/ Mathematics	7+	27.8	34.8	31.4
	Gwyddoniaeth / Science	7+	24.1	32.6	39.2

Cyfnod Allweddol 4 / Key Stage 4	Trothwy Lefel 2+ / Level 2+ Threshold	2	60	75	62.3
	Trothwy Lefel 2 / Level 2 Threshold	2	97.8	100	81.1
	Trothwy Lefel 1 / Level 1 Threshold	1	100	100	100
	Bag Cenedlaethol / Bacc National	2	93.3	96.1	98.1
	Bag Sylfaen / Bacc Foundation	1			
	9 Wedi'i gapio / Capped 9	-			385.2
	5A*-A	2	26.7	15.4	18.9
	Saesneg / English	2	73.3	80.8	75.5
	Cymraeg / Welsh	2	63.6	48.9	40.4
	Mathemateg/ Mathematics	2	62.2	84.6	67.9
	Maths Rhifedd / Maths Numeracy	2			71.7
	Mathemateg Gorau / Mathematics Best	2			73.6
	Gwyddoniaeth / Science	2	91.1	94.2	71.7

Presenoldeb / Attendance	94.9	95.4	95.9

Rhai esboniadau / Some explanations

CA3 / KS3:

DPC / CSI:

Dangosydd Pwnc Craidd / Core Subject Indicator. Level 5 or above in English or Welsh (1st Language), Maths & Science.

Level 5 is the expected grade for a pupil to reach at the end of KS3.

CA4 / KS4:

Trothwy Lefel 2+ / Level 2+ Threshold:

5 x A*-C GCSEs (or eqivalent) inc. English or Welsh (1st language) and either Maths or Maths-Numeracy.

Trothwy Lefel 2 / Level 2 Threshold:

5 x A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) in any subject.

Trothwy Lefel 1 / Level 1 Threshold:

5 x A*-G GCSEs (or equivalent) in any subject.

There is a limit of 40% on the contribution of non-GCSEs to the Level 1, Level 2 and Level 2+ threshold

9 Wedi'i Gapio / Capped 9:

5 of the 9 qualifications used to calculate the score will be:

- GCSE English Language or GCSE Welsh Language (whichever is the pupil's best)
- GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy and GCSE Mathematics
- The pupil's best 2 science qualifications (from 2018, this will be their best 2 science GCSEs)

The other 4 qualifications will be the pupil's best (highest grade) other qualifications. These could be GCSEs, vocational qualifications or the Skills Challenge Certificate (the core of the new Welsh Baccalaureate).

Meincnodi / Benchmarking

Benchmarking quartiles measure the performance of one school against others who have **similar levels of pupils with FSMs (Free School Meals).**

FSM is used as a measure of social deprivation in schools. This allows comparisons of the performance of a school against others who are in the same FSM category , and who might therefore have a similar intake of pupils from deprived backgrounds.

Schools are placed in quartiles; 1 = Green, 2 = Yellow, 3 = Amber, 4 = Red for each indicator.

A school in benchmark 1 (green) is in the highest performing 25% of schools with similar levels of FSM.

This is the main performance benchmarking tool.

Another way of comparing performance is through the **Families of schools**, which were created to facilitate the sharing of good practice.

'Families' of schools have been created by initially grouping them based on size and linguistic delivery and then within each high level grouping, schools are ordered in descending order according to the values of an index of 'challenge' (FSM levels, Welsh Deprivation Index, SEN pupils over a 3 year average).

Our family since 2016 is:

1. **Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn**
2. Ysgol Ardudwy
3. Ysgol Glan y Mor
4. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
5. Ysgol David Hughes
6. Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr (Gowerton)
7. Ysgol Brynrefail
8. Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron
9. Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion
10. Ysgol y Berwyn
11. Ysgol Henry Richard (Tregaron)

Within each family, the first member is the most challenged, the last the least challenged.

School performance data published in the Welsh Government Core Data Packs compares performance within families and also by benchmarking quartiles.