

As your Governing body at Ysgol Y Grango. We would like to provide you with a summary of what has been happening in the school between 2022-2023. This is a brief overview for you our parents/stake holders and pupils. A full report is available on our Web page and a paper copy can requested via the school office.

**Grango Governor Gazette**

**Chair of Governors – Mrs Sandra Jones Clerk - TBC**

**Governors 2022-2023**

Clerk – J Williams

Chair – B Jones

Vicechair – M Roberts

LEA – Z Price

Community – S Evans

Community – M Hazell

Parent – R Evans-Trott

Parent – D Jones

Parent – A Jones

Parent – A Walters

Teacher – K Hanlon

Teacher – K Taunt

Non-Teacher – M Harvey-Thomas

Headteacher – V Brown

Should you wish to contact our Chair of Governors, please telephone school - 01978 833010

**Provision for Students with Additional Learning Needs**

Our key priorities for 2022 – 2023 were continuing the transformation from Special Educational Needs to Additional Learning Needs.Ysgol Y Grango have diligently dedicated their resources and time into providing an inclusive approach to meet the needs of each individual learner, through a range of learner focused curriculum pathways embedded onto the existing school timetable providing accountable, measurable, transparent, and highly effective planned curriculum focusing on each pupil’s ‘Stage not Age’.

***Student Quotes – “Nurture is a nice and quiet place …”, “the teachers are very supportive…I have made friends that are very thoughtful.”***

**Letter from Vice Chair of Governors**

Hello everyone,

It’s been a year of change within the Governors’ team and I am honoured to be able to address all of our pupils and parents in my role as Vice-Chair of your Governing body.

As my first duty, I would like to pass on the heartfelt thanks of everyone to Mr Jones and Mrs Evans who have, after many, many years of serving as Chair and Vice-Chair, have taken a well-earned and thoroughly deserved rest. They are large shoes to fill, but I am confident we can make both Mr Jones and Mrs Evans, along with all of you, proud.

Our Headteacher, Miss Brown, has implemented a number of initiatives across the school for both staff and pupils. These initiatives have had, and continue to have, a positive impact on the school. Please do take the time to read this report for further information.

Our teaching and administrative staff continue to work tirelessly in order to provide an environment for our pupils to learn in confidence and prosper. To all of you, I offer my deepest thanks on behalf of the Board of Governors.

Lastly, but by no means least, to our pupils, as we continue our journey away from the pandemic, you continue to turn up with enthusiasm each and every day, you work extremely hard and you provide the school with everything that makes a school day unique. To our Year 11’s, good luck and enjoy your future journeys away from Ysgol Y Grango and continue to do yourselves proud.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M. Roberts.- Vice-Chair of the Governing Body.

**Curriculum September 2022 – 2023 and new Curriculum for Wales**

All pupils follow a broad, balanced curriculum throughout their education at Ysgol Y Grango which aims to provide enjoyment, raise aspiration and boost self-esteem. We offer a wide range of subjects and activities at Ygol Y Grango and a big part of our role is to encourage our pupils to fulfil their potential, discover their talents and prepare them for the future.

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| **Core Subjects** | **Non -Core Subjects** | | |
| English | Art | History | Physical Education |
| Mathematics | Design & Technology | Information and Communication Technology | PSE |
| Science | Humanities (Year 7 only) | Modern Foreign Language (French) | Religious Education |
| Welsh | Geography | Performing Arts |  |

**Transition Process**

A successful Open Evening was held in September 2022. Year 5 and 6 parents and pupils were invited to tour Ysgol y Grango as a possible school for their child in September 2023/24. Over 300 visitors attended from a variety of different primary schools within the area and wider areas of Wrexham. Feedback collected on the evening was positive. Pupil ambassadors were used as tour guides and as helpers in faculty areas. The enthusiasm and commitment of these pupils were highlighted in feedback from parents.

In September 2022, the Language faculty held a transition morning with the theme of ‘European Day of Languages’. Year 6 pupils took part in a range of activities based on languages including STEM activities, ICT research tasks and creative tasks.

The Humanities faculty led a transition morning in February 2023 for all Year 6 pupils. The theme of this morning was ‘The Local Area’, with a focus on the new curriculum for Wales and Cynefin.

In May 2023, Head of Year 7, ALNCO and Well-being Coordinator visited all of our cluster schools to discuss all of the pupils that had been accepted into Ysgol y Grango in September 2023. The meetings had a focus on the academic achievement of each of the pupils and information about the pupils that could lead to early interventions in September.

Enhanced transition was offered to pupils who needed extra support with the transition to Year 7. 32 pupils attended sessions over a 6-week period. They completed activities to make new friends, team building and activities on well-being.

Our 3-day transition package was in June 2023. All the pupils that had been accepted were invited to Ysgol y Grango for 3 continuous days to experience life as a ‘Ysgol y Grango’ pupil, make new friends, meet staff and develop skills. 126 pupils attended these transition days.

Parents and pupils were invited into school on 29th June 2023 for an induction presentation by Ms Brown, Mrs Povey and Mr Cathrall. Parents and pupils then had the opportunity to meet their form tutor and ask questions regarding them starting in September.

The Youth Workers (Deb Kennedy and Mary Argent) organised a ‘Fun Day’ on August 30th 2023, for parents and pupils to attend the school during the school holidays to see what support is available to families. There were representatives from Ysgol y Grango and a range of services across Wrexham. 40 parents and pupils attended the day.

***Student Quotation – “It was a good experience ...you get to know the teachers and your classes" Ruby***

**PSE & Wellbeing**

Throughout 2022-2023 we have continued to be supported by a range of external agencies including PC Hulley (our Police Liaison Officer) delivering the Schoolbeat program, RSE support from Info Shop, Drug and Alcohol support from In2Change, Health Education from Wrexham Healthy School Team.

**Curriculum For Wales**

Areas of Learning Experiences planned and trialled their Year 7 & 8 curriculum in readiness for September throughout 2022-2023. Staff have been developing whole school CfW templates for their Learning Journeys, Learning Pathways and SoL. We have created and written our visions for each AOLE, which will be uploaded to the website, along with the Learning Journeys that give an overview of the topics and skills being covered in Years 7 and 8.

Ms C Hughes has shared a Pupil Voice template with staff during CPD Friday, and they will incorporate it into their planning, and do with learners in class once a term. This will support teacher planning and allow adaptations or updates to be made in the curriculum. It also gives learners an opportunity to be included in the planning and evaluation process. Ms C Hughes has met with Faculty Leaders and CfW Leads in May for a progress update, and cross curricular skills audits are taking place with staff to support the planning of skills in lessons. Research into a variety of assessment approaches has taken place within faculty areas. Humanities are focusing on assessing integral skills in Year 8, and how to feedback to learners the skills they have been developing. Other assessment trials have been taking place, using formative assessments and data trackers to monitor and track attainment within the CfW.

DT are in the process of making links with Airbus and JCB to strengthen links within the community, and hopefully plan workshops for pupils to attend. Mr Ian Thomas and Ms C Hughes are involved in the Darland Alliance with support from GWE, focusing on sharing good practice within the CfW. We prioritised cross-curricular skills to support planning of the CfW in faculty areas through a Twilight session in July, and planning time for Literacy, Numeracy DCF co-ordinators, as well as the ALNCO. This is to ensure there is consistency along the continuum of learning from primary school through to Year 11.

Mr Thomas and Ms C Hughes visited Venue Cymru in Llandudno on Thursdays 22nd June and 29th June for the GWE CfW Market Place event where AOLE’s presented and shared good practice. On June 29th, Ms C Hughes attended Mark Burns’ “Challenge for All” workshop, which focused on how to design and deliver effective lessons that engage and inspire pupils. The workshop focused explicitly on the careful sequencing of the curriculum to ensure progression in learning.

***Student Quote – “In Humanities our topics 'Promoting Welsh Culture in Wrexham' and 'My Community' is great for Curriculum for Wales".***

**Curriculum September 2022 – 2023 and new Curriculum for Wales Continued**

At Key Stage 4, the subjects delivered were:

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| **Compulsory** | | | |
| English Literature | Art | Skills Challenge certificate | French |
| English Language | 3D Design | PSE/Careers | Performing Arts |
| Mathematics (including Numeracy) | Product Design | Physical Education | Business Studies |
| Science (double award) | Digital Photography | Food & Nutrition | Sweet |
| Welsh 2nd Language | History | Geography | Religious Education |

**Provisional Destination of School Leavers 2023**

From the provisional data from Careers Wales on our summer 2023 Year 11 leavers, nearly 90% pupils have continued in full time education at college or sixth form.

The date at this stage is provisional and will be confirmed in April 2024.

**PSE & Wellbeing Continued**

Wellbeing continues to be a key priority within the school. In light of this, Amanda Davies was appointed ‘Lead whole school approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing’ and Louise Worrall was appointed ‘Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator’. To ensure the wellbeing provision at Ysgol y Grango was promoted, was purposeful and had impact, the school implemented the Public Health Wales ‘Whole school approach to Emotional health and Mental wellbeing’. This created a strategic plan to support students and all stakeholders with their emotional health and wellbeing.

Throughout the year we have continued to provide and develop a wealth of wellbeing support including: Nurture provision, counselling via local authority, Lego therapy, drawing therapy, ELSA, wellbeing assemblies, national wellbeing awareness days, random acts of kindness day, wellbeing residential trips, weekly parent wellbeing updates, weekly staff wellbeing updates, SAP, Mental Health First Aid introduction to identified staff, and PSE curriculum.

As a school we continuously implement, review, and develop our wellbeing provision to ensure all stakeholders within our community feel supported with their emotional health and wellbeing.

***Student Quote – “Badminton Club, I really like going to Badminton club and trying to get better each week. We even went to a Badminton tournament at Wrexham University. I enjoyed playing against people from other schools and meeting new people”***

**Careers**

At Ysgol Y Grango we are committed to preparing our learners to manage their future education and career path throughout adult life, through a programme of Careers and World of Work-related experiences, developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that will assist our pupils to make informed decisions about their life/study/work options.

Throughout 2022–2023 we have continued to be supported by a range of external agencies including Careers Wales supporting with Year 11 and Year 9 MAT/SEREN Mock Interviews, Apprentice talks and a Careers Fayre. We have also been supported by JCB, Principality Building Society and LITEGREEN, our local Business partnerships.

**Student Council - Ysgol Y Grango Sub Committees**

* Pastoral Group (Student Leadership Team)
* Faculty
* Sports Council
* Teaching & Learning/Cfw
* Community
* Eco
* Associate Governors
* PRIDE
* ‘Young Minds’ Wellbeing Group
* Senedd yr Ifanc – Wrexham Youth Parliament

The Senedd is made up of young people aged 11-25 who are elected to represent a group, project or area. The Senedd works on gathering views and opinions of young people on specific issues that affect the young people of Wrexham. The Senedd meets every final Monday of the month in the Guildhall Wrexham. Our sub-group have the chance to have their say and ensure they have a voice on what matters to them outside of the school.

***Student Quote – “"Being involved in the Senedd means a lot to me and this is something I would like to continue when I leave school"***

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**Contact details**

Further information about Ysgol y Grango can be obtained from the following sources:

1. School Website [www.grango.co.uk](http://www.grango.co.uk)

2. School Newsletters

3. Twitter @Ysgolygrango

4. Governors meeting minutes – available upon request

5. www.mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk

**Extra Curricular**

Some activities included within our extra-curricular programme are Netball, Football, Badminton, KS3 Dodgeball, Multi-skills breakfast club, Rounders, Basketball, Trampolining, Athletics, and Table Tennis.

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| Weekly Netball/Football fixtures in place which run through September, October, and March. The Netball weekly fixture is concluded with a Wrexham Schools’ Netball tournament held in March. |
| Year 11 Ann Smart Tournament - Netball |
| Wrexham Schools’ Cross Country- Year 7, Year 8/9, Year 10/11 |
| Year 9/10 Wrexham Schools’ Netball Tournament |
| Year 7/8 Wrexham Schools’ Netball Tournament |
| Year 7 Wrexham Schools’ Football Tournament |
| Year 8 Wrexham Schools’ Football Tournament |
| U13/U15 Athletics Shield |
| Year 9/10 Rounders |
| Year 7/8 Rounders |
| Year 7/8 Athletics Championships |
| U14/U16 Athletics Area Championships |
| Football Welsh Cup - selected age groups |
| Indoor Athletics competition- Year 7, Year 8/9, Year 10/11 |
| Girls’ Football Tournament- Year 7/8, Year 9/10 |

Throughout the year we have had several successes within different sports. Our weekly Netball and Football fixtures have seen our students win several different games. In football we have several boys and girls who play for Wrexham schools across the age range. We have also seen an increase in the number of girls attending local netball clubs.

Our girls’ football teams have been very successful this year experiencing several successful wins during weekly matches. In addition, our Year 7/8 girls team and Year 9/10 girls’ team both finished Champions of the Wrexham Schools Girls football tournament during March and we look forward to trying to retain the tiles next academic year.

We are also very proud of one of our Year 11 male students who secured a two-year scholarship contract at Everton football club starting in August 2023. He is also part of the Wales U17 international squad. This highlights the dedication and talent this student demonstrates within his sport.

**Community Links**

* Parent Voice
* Parents’ Bulletin
* Football Trip
* Mural Competition
* Remembrance Service
* Harvest Food Bank
* MacMillan Coffee Morning
* Fundraising

From January 2022 we were fundraising for the family of a student who is going through cancer treatment. We held a sponsored run, cake sales, ‘wear a football shirt’ day, and many more events and activities. Over the course of the year students were able to raise over £11,000 for this amazing cause.

**Autumn Term**

Friday 1st September 2023 – Friday 27th October 2023

Training Day – Friday 1st September 2023 – School will be closed to pupils

Training Day – Monday 4th September 2023– School will be closed to pupils

Monday 6th November 2023 – Friday 22nd December 2023

Training Day – Monday 6th November 2023 - School will be closed to pupils

Training Day – Friday 22nd December 2023 - School will be closed to pupils

**Spring Term**

Monday 8th January 2024 – Friday 9th February 2024

Training Day – Monday 8th January 2024 - School will be closed to pupils

Monday 19th February 2024 – Friday 22nd March 2024

**Summer Term**

Monday 8th April 2024 – Friday 24th May 2024

Training Day – Monday 8th April 2024 - School will be closed to pupils

Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024 – Friday 19th July 2024

 

Academic Calender 2023-2024