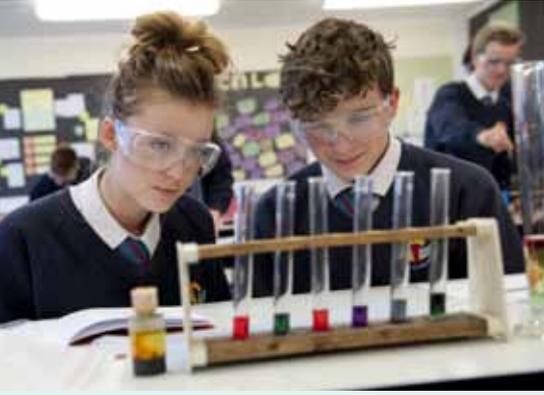




# Ysgol Clywedog

PROSPECTUS





Our staff and pupils work together

to achieve academic excellence

# WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

## DEAR PARENTS,

Thank you for taking an interest in our school. I am delighted to share with you an insight into our lives here. Ysgol Clywedog has served the children of the Wrexham area for over a decade and is rightly proud of its history and heritage. Thousands of young people have passed through our doors and have been cherished and supported through their education. Every child matters and every child achieves at Ysgol Clywedog. We place a huge emphasis on working with the community and building good relationships with parents and local residents. In short, every person associated with our school matters.

We are very proud of both the staff and

students at Ysgol Clywedog, who all work together as a team to ensure success. There is a welcoming atmosphere in the school where respect underpins everything we do. We recognise that all young people are different and play to their strengths and support areas for development. Expectations are high and we encourage everyone associated with the school to "be the best they can be." Individual learning pathways ensure that all students are able to succeed and we place a great emphasis on developing basic skills in literacy and numeracy.

Ysgol Clywedog is a vibrant learning community with a unique focus on each child. If you would like to learn more, we would welcome the opportunity to show you around.

*Martin Hulland*  
**Martin Hulland, Headteacher**



*Pupils excel through our learning environment*

# CARING ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

Your son or daughter's time at school is such an important time of their lives. It's where they form the bedrock of their future and build the foundations of adulthood.

At Ysgol Clywedog we believe in looking after and encouraging our young people so they achieve the very best they can. We want every young person to appreciate and understand the value of education in a caring, inclusive environment and develop the skills needed for life.

Our school promotes a culture of achievement and respect. Individuals are recognised for their strengths and are supported at every stage of their education. We expect great things from every single person who spends time with us here and we celebrate success in every area of school life.

Your children are what makes our school great. We look forward to welcoming your child to Ysgol Clywedog soon.



## Our mission statement

"To stimulate, support and nurture academic excellence through a caring, challenging environment." At Ysgol Clywedog we aim to provide our young people with the spiritual, moral and social development needed to educate the whole person. Our focus is on the intellectual, emotional and physical needs of every pupil.

We strive to give all individuals every opportunity to gain success, experience achievement, understand responsibility and develop a sense of self-worth, confidence and discipline.



At Ysgol Clywedog we aim to...

**Improve** Standards

**Encourage** Respect

**Recognise** Achievement

**Sponsor** Trust

"Music gives wings to the mind,  
flight to the imagination and life  
to everything."  
Plato





# INSPIRE & achieve

Starting at high school is an exciting, enjoyable voyage where young people make the transition into adulthood. They learn the life skills needed to succeed, grow and achieve their goals.

When pupils join us at Ysgol Clywedog, we give them a wide, stimulating curriculum that encourages young people to explore the academic world, fires their imagination and sparks a lifelong love of learning.

The classroom environment is one of inclusivity, listening and independent thinking and pupils are challenged to improve their knowledge by passionate teachers through debate, discussion and dedication.

At Ysgol Clywedog minds are stretched, talents are nurtured, creativity is allowed to blossom and results are achieved. Every young person is special and their life here is geared towards success; academic success, sporting success, artistic success and success in life.

Every child at Ysgol Clywedog is equipped with

everything needed to lead a full and happy life.

Our school boasts modern, well-equipped buildings and acres of sports and recreation facilities that create a comfortable place to learn. Sitting close to the banks of the River Clywedog, who we take our name from, and with uninterrupted views of the spectacular Clwydian Range, our pupils have the ideal natural palette to feed their imaginations.

Ysgol Clywedog is situated on the outskirts of Wrexham, away from the distractions of the busy town, so our young people benefit from a stunning, peaceful location in which to study. They enjoy the quiet, focused environment that helps inspire young minds to achieve their goals.

The wonderful surroundings at Ysgol Clywedog are what make our school unique. Generations of young people have found it a special, inspiring environment for learning.

Ysgol Clywedog is the ideal platform for young people to feel motivated to learn and achieve.



*minds are stretched, talents are nurtured*



# THINKING minds

## SCIENCES

At Ysgol Clywedog, we believe science is an integral part of modern culture that challenges the imagination and creativity of young people. The teaching of science engages pupils to find out about the world around them, and how things work. They learn through experimentation and modelling to develop ideas, evaluate explanations and encourage critical thought.

We show our students how science relates to the contemporary world and its influence on technology as well as the natural world. We use modern methods alongside traditional techniques. Every aspect of science is covered, from energy and forces to chemical behaviours and organisms, and their place within the universe. Pupils understand the characteristics of different elements, how things work and the impact of forces on objects.

Science is a central part of our young people's education at our school and it is taught by dedicated teachers with a love of science in all its forms. They encourage students to use scientific equipment to measure results accurately, think in scientific terms and draw conclusions from evidence presented.

Pupils leave Ysgol Clywedog with the building blocks for scientific knowledge firmly in place.



# A PASSION to learn

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

At Ysgol Clywedog, we pass on our passion for books to every young person. With a curriculum covering the classics, poetry and dramatic prose and a focus on the basic skills, our pupils study novels by the world's most respected authors, learn all about Shakespeare's greatest plays and explore the ideas behind contemporary poems.

Our young people will learn what makes truly great literature, offer their opinions on set texts and develop a love of reading and writing. We instil a sense of wonder and amazement at the written word through group reading, imaginative practical exercises and develop a sense of enjoyment in English.

We teach English Literature in a challenging and motivating environment where young people are encouraged to express their creativity and think for themselves. They will learn about setting, plot characterisation, themes and the importance of representational language in English.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Here is where we teach the theory behind the English Language and develop greater communication skills. We show our young people how to structure their sentences correctly, examine different writing styles and help them prepare their work perfectly.

With an emphasis on getting the basics right first, our pupils learn how to develop their writing skills through studying the techniques behind different genres and how to recreate them. We also help them appreciate spoken language and how it can affect people's perception of us.

English is a rich and wonderful language and helps form an individual's identity. It reflects our culture. Our pupils learn to understand how language works by looking at the patterns, origins and conventions used. They will be able to choose and adapt what they say and write in different situations and appreciate and interpret the choices made in other's language.

“Literature adds to reality. It does not simply describe it, but enriches daily life.” C.S. Lewis



# MATHEMATICAL thinking

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is a fundamental skill everyone needs in a modern society. It is used in every aspect of life from the workplace to the home, and is behind every scientific, engineering, technological and economic discovery.

At Ysgol Clywedog, we challenge our young people to think independently and apply reason to solve problems. We develop their competence, creativity and application of mathematics. We help them recognise the discipline of their

subject and understand the learning processes involved.

We don't just limit our maths teaching to the classroom; we

relate it to the outside world, and its part in managing money, assessing risk, problem-solving and decision making.

At the heart of our teaching is a focus on the basics of arithmetic, algebra, geometry and statistics. Our pupils take these basic starting points and explore what's possible when these expand.

Mathematics is at its best when it stimulates moments of pleasure and wonder. At Ysgol Clywedog, we help create those moments. At Ysgol Clywedog, our pupils receive a thorough, all-round mathematical education.

Among the key skills they will learn during their time here are an increased confidence in all mathematical methods and techniques. They will be able to use similar mathematical techniques on a series of increasingly demanding tasks, and use appropriate resources including ICT, to assist in their mathematical work.

We will also teach pupils how to think for themselves and work on tasks in a variety of real and abstract situations where they have to choose the most appropriate mathematical method to solve them. Working as part of a team is very important to us at Ysgol Clywedog. Through group participation, our students will learn the value of evaluating and discussing both their own and others' mathematical work and how to present mathematical ideas as a group to others in the class.



“Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.” Albert Einstein.



# DRAMA & dance

GCSE Drama performance

## DRAMA AND PRODUCTION

At Ysgol Clywedog, we have some of the best drama facilities in Wrexham. As well as following the curriculum in these subjects, we also run after-school groups and societies, where students can develop their talents and improve their skills.

Our school loves getting involved in amateur dramatics and pupils can tread the boards in wonderful productions like "Godspell" and "The Dracula Spectacula". Performing arts plays a huge part in our school here at Ysgol Clywedog. As well as having the opportunity to take part in plays and musicals, our students have attended musical workshops with male voice choir, "Only Men Aloud". Our GCSE Drama students always achieve high examination marks and put on fantastic shows for pupils, teachers and parents to enjoy.

Creativity in all its forms is an integral part of life at Ysgol Clywedog.

### HOW WE WORK WITH EISTEDDFODS

We worked closely with the National Eisteddfod of Wales when it was held in Wrexham in 2011. The field next to our school was chosen as the festival's main site, and many of the events were held here, including local music acts, poetry and literature readings and family-friendly acts that all celebrated the creative and artistic heritage and culture of Wales. The International Eisteddfod is Europe's largest cultural festival and attracts visitors and performers from all over the world. Being a part of it was a huge honour for us and helped raise the profile of our school.

Every year at Ysgol Clywedog, we hold our own annual Eisteddfod where pupils can show off their singing, dancing, musical and poetry skills.

Expressing our students artistic abilities is our aim

# EXPRESSING creativity

## ART

At Ysgol Clywedog, our budding young artists explore the visual, develop their creativity and shape their imagination. Using a mixture of new and traditional media, they will gain an insight into the mind of an artist and learn the skills and techniques to bring their concepts to life.

We watch our pupils' confidence grow as they learn how to express themselves through art in all its forms from painting

and drawing to textiles and animation. Our well-equipped art studios have everything the modern artist needs to create stunning masterpieces in every medium.

The history and culture of art is important too, so we teach our young people about how the great masters worked and show them artefacts from the global world of art and tell them the stories behind them.

Creativity in all its forms is an integral part of life at Ysgol Clywedog.



GCSE Art Projects

“Music gives soul to the universe” Plato

# LET THERE be music

## MUSIC

We love music at Ysgol Clywedog. Interacting with music is a positive experience that can change behaviour, alter moods and bring a feeling of well-being to everyone involved.

Music encourages communal enjoyment and increases confidence in even the shyest of pupils. It improves self-discipline, creativity and forges an appreciation of a wide variety of musical styles. The social side is really central to our ethos here and music is a great way for everyone to get involved.

Keen musicians can hone their skills, take up new instruments and join our wonderful orchestra.

There is a fantastic choir for gifted singers. Together, our most-talented musicians and singers provide the musical-accompaniment to our school performances, and compete regularly outside of school.

As well as these traditional music forms, our young people learn how to combine music with other art forms to create film soundtracks and music videos, adding atmosphere to drama and live performance



# LEARNING

## for the future

### IT MAC AND WINDOWS

Ysgol Clywedog prides itself on being at the forefront of technology in teaching. We have five specialist information technology rooms on site at the school and achieve excellent results in this area.

During the past school year, we have purchased sixty brand new laptops and constantly invest in new technology so our young people understand every aspect of the world of computers. We use this understanding to show them how computing fits into the real world once they leave school. Most jobs use PCs or Macs at least some of the time. We translate knowledge from the classroom to the workplace so that our pupils can make the transition easily.

Our pupils are taught about the more creative side of information technology too, learning how to build websites, make online videos and make engaging presentations. The passion and creativity of the teaching staff is clear for all to see and our young people thrive on it.

The IT Department  
has the latest  
technology equipment

First-class sporting facilities to develop team awareness and individual skills.



# SPORTING

excellence

# NURTURING champions

## SPORTS

We are extremely proud of our sporting facilities and the achievements of our students. The school has its own playing fields where a variety of sports can be played. We also have our own all-weather outdoor football pitch, two tennis courts and indoor swimming pool.

The school enjoys regular success in football, netball, swimming and athletics and many of our pupils have been selected to represent their county at national sporting events. Students are encouraged to pursue sporting activities outside of

school and a number of them were involved with the Olympic Torch relay when it passed through Wrexham.

We also follow the 5x60 Sports Programme, in conjunction with the local authority. This programme enables all pupils to take part in a sporting activity for sixty-minutes at least five times a week. We have our own onsite 5x60 Officer who helps run a wide-range of activities ranging from street dance to Ju-Jitsu, either after school or at lunchtimes.

At Ysgol Clywedog we have an exceptional swimming pool and facilities



Expert coaching



We have a top-of-the range gym and fitness suite with motivational screens and music systems



# YALE journey

We have strong links with Yale College in Wrexham and encourage pupils to continue their education there. Every year, many of our successful GCSE students sit their A-Levels, take extra GCSEs or start vocational courses at Yale College.

Ysgol Clywedog has a proud record of ex-pupils achieving great things at Yale. We have had students gaining places at Oxbridge, and others studying medicine at the UK's most respected Universities. Yale College also sponsor our brand new ICT suite and helped us purchase laptops and PCs to furnish it. The walls of the suite are filled

with inspirational pictures of high-achievers from both Ysgol Clywedog and Yale College, complete with biographies to spur our current pupils on to greater things.

Like us, Yale College promotes the cultural and educational wellbeing of students. Last year, thirty five students from Thailand spent time visiting our school and the college. Our pupils found learning about a different culture an enlightening experience and made lifelong friendships with the Thai students.



*We have had students gaining places at Oxbridge*

*and others studying medicine at top UK Universities*





Being the best we can be.



# Ysgol Clywedog

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