

YSGOL RHIWABON



School Prospectus

2009 - 2010

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Diolch am ddangos diddordeb yn Ysgol Rhiwabon.

Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn mwynhau darllen am ein hysgol.

Thank you for your interest in Ysgol Rhiwabon.

Choosing the right secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. This prospectus is designed to help you make the right choice by giving you the opportunity to see what we offer at our popular, thriving school. We are experiencing continuing growth in numbers and improved success in achievement for our students.

As the Headteacher at Ysgol Rhiwabon, I am privileged to work with a team of enthusiastic and hardworking colleagues who are committed to ensuring all our students achieve their very best, according to their individual abilities and needs. We are very proud of the achievements of our students across the ability range from Year 7 to Year 13. Every student is regarded as an individual who plays an important part in the life of Ysgol Rhiwabon. The personal progress of all our students is extremely important, whatever their talents and interests. We celebrate success in every field including academic, cultural and sporting achievements.

Our school is committed to continuous improvement and we aim to achieve excellence in all that we do. We are truly a self-evaluative school and we are not afraid to analyse our practices and performance and to identify areas which need further development.

At Ysgol Rhiwabon, we take seriously our responsibility to our local community. We are proud to be involved in Communities First, we hold neighbourhood coffee mornings, we produce a Talking Newspaper weekly and we hold an annual party for the blind and partially sighted people living in the locality and beyond. The school has gained a number of prestigious awards for its excellent community links including:

- Rotary Young Citizens' Award
- Welsh Secondary Schools Association Award for Pastoral Care through Community Partnership
- Schools' ETC Award
- ActivMark Cymru

We work hard to create a warm, welcoming, caring and disciplined school. Our core belief is that students have the right to learn, the right to be respected and the right to be safe. Our recent inspection report noted: 'A calm and orderly atmosphere contributes to pupils learning'. At Ysgol Rhiwabon, we believe that learning and respect are closely intertwined. We also believe strongly that all members of the school community have the right to enjoy an atmosphere which is free from intimidation and bullying. Our expectations with regard to behaviour are very high and students fully understand the consequences of failing to meet these standards.

Ysgol Rhiwabon is a vibrant learning community for all. Colleagues have embraced a number of new initiatives and this bodes well for the future development of our learning culture. A reflection of this is the opportunity we provide our Sixth Form students to gain the Welsh Bacallaureate Qualification.

Your child has the opportunity to join us at a truly exciting time. This year has seen a record number of students returning to the sixth form. We are justifiably proud of our learning environment and we are continually looking at ways to further improve our facilities. A recent improvement is the installation of interactive whiteboards with internet access in every classroom. We are a growing, successful, forward-looking school and we intend to remain so!

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into the community of Ysgol Rhiwabon. I am confident that you will be pleased with what we have to offer. We recognise that every student's success is best achieved through close partnership between home and school and, to this end, we look forward to working closely with you.

I hope that you find this prospectus interesting and informative. It only offers a snapshot of our school. If you like what you read, please come and visit us. All of our students and staff will make you most welcome and you will see for yourself why we are so proud of Ysgol Rhiwabon.

I look forward to meeting you.

Angela Williams
Headteacher
September 2009

YSGOL RHIWABON

Ble daw dysgu'n gyntaf
Where learning comes first

OUR SCHOOL AIMS

In Ysgol Rhiwabon we aim to help all our students and staff achieve their full potential. We want people to believe in themselves, develop and sustain an enquiring mind and be willing to learn. We strongly believe that responsible, courteous behaviour will help us all to respect the views and values of others.

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

At Ysgol Rhiwabon everyone has:

- the right to learn
- the right to be respected
- the right to be safe

OUR CURRICULUM

The role of parents in encouraging and supporting their child's education is a vital one. We rely on strong support and interest from home to maintain a high level of achievement for every student in the school. We believe that children thrive on success, so we are continually looking for further ways of recognising and praising students' success in as wide a range of activities as we can, both in the classroom and beyond it.

Our working week consists of twenty-five one hour lessons. These are organised within a ten-day, two-week timetable to enable us to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum and to ensure that the students have the appropriate number of hours for each subject.

We have very strong links with our feeder Primary schools and this means that when students come to us in Year 7, they settle in quickly and their work progresses naturally from the work they have been doing in Year 6.

When students enter the school, they are taught mainly in mixed ability groups. This allows students to settle in and to prove themselves before they are organised into sets according to their needs and abilities.

Continuous assessment and testing of each student's progress is built into all subjects. All students are provided with annual targets for improvement and have opportunities during the year to discuss their progress with subject staff and form tutors. Students have responsibility for recording and reviewing their targets through their student planners. Each student's work is continuously monitored and we provide a mid-year progress report to parents indicating progress made against targets and also an annual written report. Year 7 parents are also invited to attend a 'settling in' meeting with tutors. Parents also have the opportunity to come to school to discuss progress at a parents' evening. Dates are to be found in the school calendar. Before meetings students are encouraged to make appointments for their parents with subject teachers and form tutors. These meetings are important contact points for parents and teachers, and students are reminded of the importance of home-school communication. Parents are also welcome to make an appointment at any time to discuss any matter of concern. This can usually be arranged by contact with the Lead Learner.

Lead Learners

Year 7	Mr P Bingham
Year 8	Ms A Navarro
Year 9	Mrs S Cooper
Year 10	Mr D Nuttall
Year 11	Mrs L Steen
Year 12/13	Mrs P Gooding

Our school curriculum can conveniently be considered in three linked stages as follows:

Key Stage 3	Years 7 - 9	11 – 14 years old
Key Stage 4	Years 10 - 11	14 – 16 years old
Sixth Form	Years 12 - 13	16 – 19 years old

Years Seven, Eight and Nine (Key Stage Three)

Students study a broad range of National Curriculum courses at Key Stage Three. The aim during this Key Stage is to prepare students thoroughly to take up the challenge of examination courses at Key Stage Four. Students are assessed at the end of the Key Stage in all subjects and parents receive a report giving all levels.

The Key Stage Three curriculum for all students consists of the following subjects:

English	Information Technology
Mathematics	Music
Science	Physical Education
Art	PSHE
Drama	Religious Studies
French	Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL)
Geography	Technology
History	Welsh

We believe that all students should have a thorough grounding in the use of Information Technology, for which we have excellent and expanding facilities. Apart from five specialised computer rooms, all classrooms have IT facilities, with Internet access and an Interactive Whiteboard. These classroom improvements have greatly enhanced the learning experiences for all students.

Years Ten and Eleven (Key Stage Four)

In Year Ten, students are now able to exercise a significant degree of choice over the courses which they can opt to study at GCSE level. However, we believe that it is very important that they continue to keep a balanced curriculum within their choices. All students must study English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Personal, Social and Health Education, Welsh and Religious Education. Students are then asked to choose their options from the following list of GCSE subjects:

Art
Catering
Child Development
Design Technology
Drama
Engineering
French
Geography
Health and Social Care
History

Information Technology
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education
Religious Studies & Citizenship
Sociology
Spanish
Sports Studies
Welsh

We also provide an Alternative Curriculum for those students who may find the demands of GCSE difficult. This new curriculum provides a wide range of appropriate learning experiences alongside the compulsory core, including vocational courses, college and community placements and Outdoor Education.

A range of vocational courses is also available at Level 1 (D - G) and Level 2 (A* - C) standard through the Wrexham 14-19 Network. Students choosing these courses spend half a day a week studying at another institution within the Wrexham area.

We also collaborate with Yale College and the 14-19 Network to deliver a number of courses:

BTEC

Construction
Hair and Beauty
Horticulture
Hospitality and Catering
Performing Arts
Retail
Travel and Tourism

NVQ

Customer Service
Horsecare

CITY & GUILDS

Construction
Engineering
Salon Services

GCSE

Law
Psychology

This allows students the flexibility to study both GCSE and more vocational-based qualifications. Some students are also offered the opportunities to experience community and outdoor education courses alongside the compulsory core subjects. Before embarking on any courses we offer extensive advice and support on the suitability of option choices.

Equal Opportunities

Equal opportunities for all students are embodied in the main aims of the school, in particular, the intention to:-

- ❖ Help students achieve their potential.
- ❖ Gain self-reliance and self-respect.
- ❖ Acquire a range of skills appropriate to the world in which we live so that they are prepared for the demands of life beyond school.

The full policy covers areas of gender, multi-cultural education and special needs and is available upon request.

Additional Learning Needs Provision

The school has an Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator who liaises with the various curriculum areas and outside agencies. Additional Learning Needs provision embraces a wide range of short and long-term programmes and aims to help and support those students who experience difficulty with aspects of learning. While there may be some withdrawal for individuals, or small groups, the main form of support is in mainstream classes and is provided by both Additional Needs staff and subject specialists. Pastoral Support Programmes are used with students who are causing particular concern.

Basic Skills

In 2004 our school achieved the Quality Mark Award for our commitment to the improvement of the basic skills of our students. In May 2008 we achieved a renewal of the award in recognition of our continued hard work and plans for the future. Without good literacy and numeracy skills students find it hard to take advantage of the wider curriculum in school. At Ysgol Rhiwabon we acknowledge our responsibility to help improve students' basic skills in all subject areas. In Year 7 we have well established support programmes in place to help those students who may need a boost with their numeracy and/or literacy skills.

If you have concerns regarding your child's basic skills, you should not hesitate to contact the school to discuss your child's individual needs with us. We are also happy to offer advice to parents on how to help their children improve their basic skills at home.

Work Related Education and Guidance

The school provides a comprehensive programme of careers guidance for all students. There is a well equipped careers information area in the school library and students are encouraged to make full use of it. An introduction to careers starts in Year 8 and structured careers guidance begins in Year 9 as part of the preparation for Key Stage 4 courses. Years 10 and 11 experience Careers Education and Guidance across the curriculum as part of the PSHE programme. At the end of the Autumn term in Year 11, a week of work experience is arranged for all students. Mock interviews with the local Rotary Club will be available for all Year 11 and some Sixth Form students. In addition, careers guidance is an important and structured part of the Sixth Form provision.

Homework

All good schools approach homework with high expectations and Ysgol Rhiwabon is no exception.

Successful homework policies are based on a three-way partnership: school, students, parents.

Here in our school we set regular homework for all of our students from Years 7 to 11. Our parents sign a home-school agreement with an undertaking to support children at home with all aspects of homework and coursework. Our students also sign this agreement which highlights the importance of independent study. We have outstanding facilities on this site which allow students to work independently and we offer every assistance, so that progress can be consolidated away from the classroom. All of our students are issued with a student planner to record homework details and this can be looked at regularly both by form tutors and parents to help our young people continue to improve and develop. A student who completes homework is a successful student and Ysgol Rhiwabon is a place for such students.

Collective Worship – Respect, Reflect and Reason

Collective worship takes place in regular assemblies for each year, as well as in tutor groups. School aims are promoted and students are encouraged to reflect upon moral issues, spiritual values, Christian faith and community responsibility.

Information on procedures to be followed if parents wish to request that their child be wholly or partly excused from collective worship or religious education is available from the Headteacher.

Use of Welsh Language Across the School

In accordance with the LEA and National Policy, we aim as a school to promote the bilingual development of each student and to safeguard the cultural standing of the Welsh language. All students have Welsh lessons throughout their five years of compulsory education and the curriculum has been planned to allow students to learn about Welsh history and culture. The school Eisteddfod, which takes place every other year, is a major event and provides students with the opportunity to participate in both off-stage competitions and to perform on-stage during Eisteddfod day.

The use of incidental Welsh in other subject areas and around school is encouraged.

Sex and Relationship Education

The Governing Body has approved a policy for Sex Education taking note of government and LEA guidelines. It is part of the process of preparation for adult life which should permeate the whole education process. If parents are concerned in any way they are welcome to contact the Headteacher.

The Sixth Form

We have a large, expanding and highly successful Sixth Form, with a large proportion of our own students staying on in the Sixth Form. Students also join us from other local 11 – 16 schools.

Our examination pass rates at 'A' Level have been very pleasing in recent years and as a result most of our Year 13 students are successful in taking up their chosen places at University or College. The library facilities and purpose built sixth form study area further enhance student prospects in the future.

We are delighted to be offering the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification. All our Sixth Form students study for the Welsh Baccalaureate and we are confident that it puts them one step ahead in their future careers. In 2009, 93% of our students gained the Baccalaureate qualification giving them an additional 'A' grade at A level.

Through the Welsh Baccalaureate, students have opportunities to further develop their Key Skills, to participate in a Community activity, to run a business and to undertake work experience.

Our Sixth Form students play a full part in the life of the school, contributing to community activities such as coaching sports teams and supporting younger students with reading schemes. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities.

Sixth formers do not wear school uniform but we do expect them to dress appropriately and to set an example to younger students through their conduct. On formal occasions sixth formers will be expected to dress accordingly.

We offer a full range of 'AS', 'A' Level and vocational courses and all students will study for the Welsh Baccalaureate. Further details of courses can be found in our Sixth Form prospectus which is available from school on request.

'AS' and 'A' Levels Available

Art and Design
Biology
Chemistry
Design Technology
Economics
Electronics (video-conference)
English Literature
French
Geography
History
Information Technology

Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education
Physics (Penley)
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
Theatre Studies
Welsh

BTEC **Engineering**
Health and Social Care

GCSE **Sports Studies**

Available through Yale College Link

A/AS **Geology**
Law
Politics

BTEC **Hospitality and Catering**
Travel & Tourism
Dance
Computing

Some students also have the opportunity to follow a Sports Leadership qualification.

STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Form Tutors and Lead Learners form the backbone of a strong structure which provides care for students throughout the school. Form Tutors are the link between the academic, social and pastoral sides of school life, whilst Lead Learners co-ordinate the work of their year teams and are the first contact between home and school.

Students in Years 7 to 11 have time together each day as a class group with their Form Tutor. During these sessions, tutors have the opportunity to discuss and monitor students' progress. Parents are encouraged to contact the Lead Learner or Form Tutor at an early stage to discuss progress, or share concerns. Children are most successful when they know that teachers and parents work together. Lead Learners have significant teaching timetables. They may not be immediately available on the telephone but details of any issues may be given to members of our administrative team to pass on to Lead Learners.

We are fortunate to be able to access a range of support services. Lead Learners have the overview of students' needs and so are usually the conduit through which services are accessed.

The Educational Social Officer works with the teaching staff to help students and families. She liaises closely with the Lead Learners and Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator and links with other agencies which may provide support for our students and their families. The Educational Social Officer, together with the Attendance Support Officer, will pursue any cases of unexplained absence.

Youth Workers in school form an effective link between the school and community for many of our students. They support young people both individually and in small groups. They also provide opportunities for students to gain a recognised qualification through informal provision.

We are fortunate to have the services of an NSPCC Counsellor on one day per week. Students may make appointments with her via the school office. Counselling sessions are confidential and have proved very useful to many students over recent years.

Plas Madoc Communities First provides a wide base of support programmes for students resident on the estate. It is sometimes possible for students living outside Plas Madoc to access this support.

We believe that orderly conduct which shows consideration for others is very important. Without it, students cannot achieve their potential and teachers cannot get on with their teaching. To help us to work together to achieve our aims, we have a school behaviour policy which has been approved by staff, governors, and students via the school council. At an early stage in their career here, students are made aware of the high standards of behaviour which are expected of them.

The school has implemented a rigorous anti-bullying policy, available to parents and distributed to students, which includes:

- the use of student questionnaires to gauge the situation periodically
- the availability of staff to listen to students who have incidents to report
- clear guidelines and strategies for dealing with bullying.

We place a lot of importance on praise for good work, good behaviour and attendance. Students are rewarded for good behaviour, attendance, and a positive contribution to school life with points which contribute to an overall school house championship. Each student also qualifies for entry in a prize draw held twice per year. The more points a student has accumulated, the more entries he or she will have in the draw. Students must be present on the day of the draw to qualify for prizes.

There is also a system of sanctions for students whose conduct or work is not of a satisfactory standard. In many instances, a few words of reprimand to a student are sufficient. However, if further action needs to be taken, it may include extra work, referral to Form Tutors, Curriculum Leader or Lead Learner, detention at lunchtime or after school, and putting a student on report. Students exhibiting poor behaviour may be placed in our Succeed Unit, for one or more days. Students in the unit follow school work as well as other programmes designed to help them manage their behaviour successfully. In extreme cases, students may be excluded from school for a fixed number of days, or permanently. We always involve parents at an early stage if their child is having serious or persistent difficulties, and hope to discuss the situation with them.

The school has a policy for the control or restraint of students by staff in circumstances when a student's behaviour appears liable to be a hazard to others or to him or herself. The policy may be viewed by request to the school office. In the rare occasions that restraint has to be used, appropriate details must be recorded and the Headteacher informed.

For students to gain most from school they must attend regularly and punctually.

Our main aim is to ensure that our students are able to benefit fully from all that the school has to offer. We believe that if they are happy, they will be busy and will be able to make the most of their potential, gaining the qualifications and the social skills that they need to follow their chosen course and careers when they leave school.

The School Day

The school day is organised as follows:

Tutor Time	8.55 am – 9.10 am
Period 1	9.10 am – 10.10 am
Break	10.10 am – 10.25 am
Period 2	10.25 am – 11.25 am
Period 3	11.25 am – 12.25 pm
Lunch	12.25 pm – 1.05 pm
Period 4	1.05 pm – 2.05 pm
Period 5	2.05 pm – 3.05 pm

Parents should note that students will be supervised from 8.40 a.m. until 3.20 p.m. only, unless they are participating in extra-curricular activities organised by the school.

Lunchtime Arrangements

Students in Years 7 to 10 remain on the school site during the lunchtime break unless parents have made a written request for the student to have lunch at home. In such cases parents are responsible for students' behaviour and safety outside school. If Year 11 students have signed a contract and have a student leader badge they are allowed to go into Ruabon village during the lunchtime break.

Attendance

Total Attendance

Total attendance for the Year 2007/08: 90.5%

Number on Roll Presently

Number of students on roll = 818

Good attendance is vital for success; students need to be present in lessons in order to learn. It is difficult to catch up with missed work at any stage of school. Students, more than ever, find that the pressures of examinations and coursework increase if time is lost through absence.

Whilst **it is the parents' legal responsibility to ensure regular and punctual attendance**, it is important that there is effective liaison between home and school. We ask parents to make a telephone call on the first day of absence followed by a letter confirming the dates of absence when their child returns to school. If parents want their child to leave the school premises, we ask that they similarly explain the absence by letter or telephone. In the case of a medical appointment, the appointment card is sufficient. Students who leave the school premises during the day are expected to sign out at the school office.

Parents who wish to take their child on holiday with them during term time are within their rights to request a holiday form. Parents should note that it can be difficult for children to catch up with work that has been missed and we strongly recommend that no holidays whatsoever are taken in term time if at all possible.

Where students are genuinely absent for an extended period, we arrange for work to be sent home.

Uniform

We are proud of our school and proud of our students and we like to feel that they carry their identity with them into the community. The school's current uniform requirements are listed below. We expect parents to support the school throughout the five statutory years by ensuring that uniform is worn as a matter of course.

Our green school sweatshirt is a compulsory item of uniform and each student must have one with them in school.

Plain white polo shirt **(no logos)**

School sweatshirt (round-necked, bottle green **with school logo**) available from
RAM Leisure & Workwear Limited,
Trinity House,
Whitegate Industrial Complex,
Wrexham, LL13 8UG
Telephone Number: 01978 360360.

Black tailored trousers (no denim or combats.) Optional black knee-length skirt (girls)

Matching plain socks.

Plain black or dark sensible shoes.

No trainers with logos or sports stripes.

High heels (ie. heels higher than 2 inches), flip flops or shoes without backs are not suitable for school for health and safety reasons.

Uniform cont'd

PE KIT

Students are expected to possess the necessary and appropriate kit for Physical Education and Games.

Boys

Games Kit

Plain red football shirt
Black or white shorts
Red football socks
Football boots
Black tracksuit for winter
Trainers

Gym Kit

Plain white T-shirt
Black or white shorts
White socks
Black tracksuit bottoms for winter
Trainers

Girls

Games Kit

Plain white T-shirt
Black shorts
White socks
Trainers
Black tracksuit

Gym Kit

Plain white T-shirt
Black shorts
White socks
Trainers
Black tracksuit

ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED

It is essential that all clothing and footwear worn for PE are different from those worn during the rest of the day.

Appearance

Like any reasonable organisation we allow no extremes of appearance at Ysgol Rhiwabon. Jewellery is limited to a watch, **one** plain ring and **one** pair of plain gold or silver studs in pierced ears. **No other facial piercings are allowed.**

Similarly we do not permit extreme hairstyles (no unnatural colours, shaved heads, shaved patterns in the hair e.g. tramlines or long Mohicans) or excessive make-up. Eye shadow and eye liner are not acceptable.

Personal Property and Valuables

iPod/MP3 players etc

There is no reason for having these in school. Students and parents will understand that we cannot have students with earphones in class. These expensive items tend to get lost or damaged in school to the distress of the owner and parents, resulting in much time wasted by staff. Students must not bring such items into school. Failure to comply will result in them being confiscated.

Mobile Telephones

Whilst it is accepted that phones are part of modern life and can be a useful safety item for children, there are three main worries.

- Many phones can download off the internet and be used as video cameras or cameras and images can be transferred to other phones. Not allowing phones to be used in school is a way of preventing unwanted calls, texts or images being reviewed.
- New phones will play music, and students are keen to show off their new technology by playing music as they walk through school.
- Students do not need to make calls during school time. Parents wishing to contact their child in an emergency should phone the school office (**01978 822392.**)

Therefore we ask:

Students

Phones should be kept out of sight at all times. Keep your phone switched off in school so that calls cannot be received and files cannot be transferred.

Parents

We advise that parents should check the contents of their children's mobile telephones, particularly the images and video files or folders where downloaded material will be stored. Children should be encouraged to keep electronic equipment at home to avoid its loss or damage.

Students who do not comply with these rules will have equipment confiscated from them. In the first instance, the item may be collected by the student from the school office at the end of the school day. If students repeatedly offend, the equipment will be kept for parents to collect. Any serious misuse of the phone as outlined above will lead to the school taking action against the student, with a possibility of exclusion. Hopefully, these measures will serve to protect students and their property, will help to avoid confrontation between students and staff, and ensure that the pleasant atmosphere in school continues.

Medical Information

The school aims to make life as pleasant, productive and comfortable as possible for all students. To help us achieve this, parents of new students are asked to supply written details of any medical problems to the Lead Learner. This will enable us to maintain records of medication used and actions necessary in the event of an emergency. The Community Health Physician is in regular contact with the school and can assist in producing a Health Care Plan in appropriate cases. Parents are, of course, expected to inform the school of any new or changed medical condition which may arise after a student is admitted to the school.

School Meals

Ysgol Rhiwabon provides students with a wide variety of hot food and snacks at lunchtime and morning break.

The school operates a cashless dining system. The system is controlled by the latest technology and avoids the need to have cash through providing each student with a plastic card, including students on free meal entitlement.

When presented in the school dining room the card allows the student to purchase food without using cash. The card is vital and we expect our students to **bring it in every day**. It is just as important as any other item of school equipment.

Each student has an individual account which needs to be kept in credit by the parent/guardian. At no time is the card worth any money, so if a card is lost or stolen, any value is put onto a replacement card. **Lost cards need to be replaced at a cost of £2.**

Free meal cards can also have money added. If your child exceeds the free meal value the extra amount is deducted from the money credited to the card.

EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

Please find below the figures for our academic performance over the last year. They give an accurate picture of a school where students benefit from high quality teaching. Should you wish to discuss these statistics in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact us.

EXAMINATION RESULTS - SUMMARY

Statutory Assessment Tests Key Stage 3 - 2009 **(Percentages achieving levels)**

	LEVELS						TOTAL ACHIEVING LEVEL 5 or Higher
	2	3	4	5	6	7	
<u>English</u> Teacher Assessment	0.0%	8.1%	28.8%	47.8%	15.0%	0.0%	62.5%
<u>Mathematics</u> Teacher Assessment	0.0%	5.0%	23.8%	31.9%	35.6%	3.1%	70.6%
<u>Science</u> Teacher Assessment	0.0%	1.9%	25.6%	40.6%	26.9%	4.4%	71.9%

ALL WALES EXAMINATION RESULTS - 2009

KEY STAGE 4

Percentage of students achieving 5 or more A*-C Grades – 43%

Percentage of students achieving 5 or more A*-G Grades – 86%

Average GCSE Points Score - 333

Percentage of students achieving the Core Subject Indicator - 35 (C in English, Maths, Science)

KEY STAGE 3

Percentage of students achieving Level 5 or above

English	62.5%
Mathematics	70.6%
Science	71.9%

SUMMARY REPORT OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF PUPILS AGED 15 2007/08 (RE2)

GCSE, ELQ(1) and Equivalent Achievements

Number of students aged 15 who were on roll in January 2008: 122

Percentage of students aged 15 who:

	achieved GCSE and vocational qualifications equivalent to 5 or more GCSE grades:	
	A* to C	A* to G
School 2007/08	43	86
LEA Area 2007/08	52	87
Wales 2007/08	56	86
School 06/07/08	42	86
School 05/06/07	41	83

Number of students aged 15 who were on roll in January 2008: 122

Percentage of students aged 15 who:

	Entered at least one qualification	Achieved the Level 1 threshold	Achieved the Level 2 threshold	Achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language and Mathematics	Core Subject Indicator (2)	Average wider points score per student
School 2007/08	100	86	43	35	35	333
LEA Area 2007/08	100	88	54	42	40	366
Wales 2007/08	98	87	58	46	44	356
School 06/07/08	"	"	"	"	33	317
School 05/06/07	"	"	"	"	30	302

Percentage of students aged 15 who:

	Achieved one or more ELQ (2) only	Left full time education without a qualification (3)
School 2007/08	2.5	0.8
LEA Area 2007/08	5.9	0.1
Wales 2007/08	2.6	1.5
School 06/07/08	2.8	"
School 05/06/07	3.6	"

- (1) For details on qualifications, point scores and contribution to thresholds, please see guidance at [SSSP guidance](#).
- (2) For information about which syllabuses are included in each subject area see Notes for Guidance. For the provisional SSSP this will be the traditional GCSE definition. In the final SSSP, this definition will include a wider range of qualifications.
- (3) " = Data not available.

GCSE results in selected subjects

Percentage of students aged 15 who:

	achieved a GCSE grade		achieved a GCSE grade	
	A* to C in	A* to G in	A* to C in	A* to G in
	English (2)		Welsh (2)	
School 2007/08	57	87	34	41
LEA Area 2007/08	59	91	38	68
Wales 2007/08	61	90	41	66
School 06/07/08	55	87	36	65
School 05/06/07	54	84	37	77

	achieved a GCSE grade		achieved a GCSE grade	
	A* to C in	A* to G in	A* to C in	A* to G in
	Mathematics (2)		Science (2)	
School 2007/08	43	89	47	93
LEA Area 2007/08	49	91	52	91
Wales 2007/08	51	89	59	89
School 06/07/08	39	88	41	90
School 05/06/07	35	85	38	85

Figures include students on Youth Access courses and similar schemes

- (1) Entry Level Qualification
- (2) For information about which syllabuses are included in each subject area see Notes for Guidance
- (3) Average wider points score includes all external qualifications approved for pre-16 use in Wales.

Notable Results at GCSE - 2008

Short Courses

SUBJECT	ENTRIES	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Religious Studies	81	2.5	3.7	9.9	16.0	23.5	22.2	16.0	6.2	0.0
Welsh (Second Language)	21	0.0	0.0	4.8	66.7	9.5	14.3	4.8	0.0	0.0

A/AS Summary 2008

GCE A level/AVCE or AS level/ASVCE equivalent achievements (1)(2)

Number of students who were entered for 2 or more GCE A level examinations/AVCE or AS/ASVCE equivalent: 19

	Percentage of students aged 17 entered for 2 or more A level examinations/AVCE or AS/ASVCE equivalent who achieved 2 or more A level examinations or equivalent at grades: A - C
School 2007/08	53
LEA Area 2007/08	62
Wales 2007/08	69
School 06/07/08	54

	Number of students aged 17 who were on roll in January 2008: 30	
	Percentage of 17 year old students entering a volume equivalent to 2 A Levels who achieved the Level 3 threshold	Average wider points score for students aged 17
School 2007/08	90	640
LEA Area 2007/08	96	629
Wales 2007/08	94	631
School 06/07/08	"	"
School 05/06/07	"	"

Year 13 S (1) Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education (AVCE) and Advanced Subsidiary Vocational Certificate of Education (ASVCE)

(2) Figures do not include BTEC National Certificates and Diplomas

A Level Results 2009

At 'A' Level there was a 94% pass rate, with 63% of the grades being A, B or C (including Welsh Bac).

Excellent 'A' level results has meant another bumper year for university entrance. Again most of our students gained their first choice of university.

Year 13 Students University Choices 2009

These are all degree courses.

Student	Institution	Course
Daniel Davies	Computer Science	Bangor University
Joe Evans	Sports Science	Bangor University
Carwyn Griffiths	Fine Art	Chester University
Stephanie Harrison	English & History	Bangor University
Tim Hughes	Design & Technology with QTS	Bangor University
Daniel Jarvis	Business Studies	Bangor University
Gareth Jones	Chemistry	Cardiff University
Hannah Jones	Childhood Studies	Glyndwr University
Zac Morris	Childhood Studies	Glyndwr University
Natalie Mary Jones	Criminal Justice	Glyndwr University
Emily Phillips	Drama & Theatre Studies	Aberystwyth University
Sarah-Jayne Pritchard	Psychology & Economics	Loughborough University
Jamie Pugh	Sports Science	Loughborough University
Amy Rowlands	Primary Teaching	Glyndwr University
Carly Williams	Art	Cardiff

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2009 – 2010

AUTUMN TERM 2009

Term begins	Wednesday	2nd	September	2009
Close for half term	Friday	23rd	October	2009
Open after half term	Monday	2nd	November	2009
End of term	Friday	18th	December	2009

SPRING TERM 2010

Term begins	Tuesday	5th	January	2010
Close for half term	Friday	12th	February	2010
Open after half term	Monday	22nd	February	2010
End of term	Thursday	25th	March	2010

SUMMER TERM 2010

Term begins	Tuesday	13th	April	2010
May Day	Monday	3rd	May	2010
Close for half term	Friday	28th	May	2010
Open after half term	Monday	7th	June	2010
End of term	Friday	16th	July	2010

AUTUMN TERM 2010

Term begins	Thursday	2nd	September	2010
Close for half term	Friday	22nd	October	2010
Open after half term	Monday	1st	November	2010
End of term	Friday	17th	December	2010

SPRING TERM 2011

Term begins	Wednesday	5th	January	2011
Close for half term	Friday	18th	February	2011
Open after half term	Monday	28th	February	2011
End of term	Thursday	14th	April	2011

SUMMER TERM 2011

Term begins	Wednesday	4th	May	2011
May Day	Monday	2nd	May	2011
Close for half term	Friday	27th	May	2011
Open after half term	Monday	6th	June	2011
End of term	Friday	22nd	July	2011

Staff Training Days
2009 - 2010

Tuesday 1st September 2009
Friday 20th November 2009
Monday 4th January 2010
Friday 26th March 2010
Monday 12th April 2010
Friday 25th June 2010
Monday 19th July 2010

Staff Training Days
2010 - 2011

Wednesday 1st September 2010
Friday 19th November 2010
Tuesday 4th January 2011
Friday 15th April 2011
Tuesday 3rd May 2011
Friday 24th June 2011
Friday 22 July 2011

ADMISSIONS

The school serves the areas of Ruabon, Acrefair, Rhosymedre, Newbridge, Cefn Mawr, Trevor, Chirk and Froncysyllte. It is therefore the school's policy to admit any student who is resident in this area, unless he or she has defined special needs for which it is beyond the scope of the school to provide.

Parents of students who reside outside this area may choose to send their child to the school. Such students will be admitted at the beginning of Year Seven up to the school's standard number providing the choice has been made in the appropriate way.

The school's Sixth Form is open to any student from the school's normal catchment area and Grango School, or beyond. It is the school's policy actively to recruit students from the Wrexham 11 - 16 schools, with the support of those schools.

Charging Policy – Out of School Visits

The school offers a wide variety of extra curricular activities including clubs, teams, visits, activities and residential courses.

Where possible, activities are free to all students. It is, however, sometimes necessary to ask parents to make contributions to enable activities to take place.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

The school endeavours to take every reasonable precaution to ensure the security of students, employees and premises. These are kept under review by the Business Manager, Headteacher and Governors' Premises Committee. The school also receives advice from the local authority and complies with the current policies.

In addition, the school buildings, general site and certain areas of the interior of the building are covered by a CCTV system.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school has a child protection policy based on child protection procedures advised by Wrexham County Borough Council, which in turn comply with the All Wales Guidelines. The school therefore has an appointed child protection officer and has a duty to refer any concerns about the well being of students to the Social Services Department for further advice.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

At Ysgol Rhiwabon, we recognise that parents/guardians have a crucial role to play in supporting their children succeed at school and we encourage a good partnership between the home and school. Visits by parents/guardians to school, reports, newsletters and open evenings further strengthen this partnership.

There may be occasions when problems occur and in most cases these are usually sorted out quickly at the informal stage. However, if you have a concern about the school, you may wish to complain formally. We aim to make our complaints procedure easy to follow.

You should contact the school in the first instance and discuss your concerns with a member of staff. This could be your child's form tutor, lead learner, key stage co-ordinator or headteacher. Most problems can be dealt with successfully and promptly at this stage.

STAFF LIST 2009 – 2010

CB	Bailey	Mr C	Science Technician (p/t); Website
CB	Ballamy	Mrs C	PSE/WRE Curriculum Co-ordinator; PE; BTEC
PB	Bingham	Mr P	PE; PESS; Lead Learner Y7
SB	Bourhill	Miss S	English
AC	Cahill	Ms A	Geography (p/t)
ACT	Carter	Mr A	ICT Network Manager and AVA Technician
JC	Coulson	Miss J	Science Technician
SC	Cooper	Mrs S	Sociology; English; Media Studies; Lead Learner Y9
WC	Cox	Mrs W	PA to the Headteacher
RC	Crawford	Mrs R	RS
GD	Davies	Mr G	Geog (p/t) (temp – covering maternity leave)
LD	Davies	Mrs L	Admin Support Services
ND	Davies	Miss N	Curriculum Leader Drama
RD	Dean	Mrs R	Learning Support Assistant; Talking Newspaper
CD	Dodd	Mrs C	Secretarial Support Service
JCD	Downes	Mrs C	Learning Support Assistant
AD	Duncan-Wild	Mrs A	English
JD	Dunsmuir	Mrs J	Education Social Worker
AE	Edwards	Mrs A	Admin & Data Support
KE	Ellis	Mrs K	Curriculum Leader History
GE	Erlandson	Mr G	Curriculum Leader Music; Mathematics
GTE	Evans	Mr G	Business Manager
MFE	Ferron-Evans	Mrs M	Assistant Headteacher Teaching and Learning; Media Studies;
KF	Forrester	Miss S	KS3 Co-ordinator Mathematics
LF	Forrester	Miss L	Admin Support Services
JG	Gordon	Mr J	KS3 Co-ordinator Science
EG	Griffiths	Miss E	Food Technology; Child Development
PG	Gooding	Mrs P	14 – 19 Director of Studies; Curriculum Leader Spanish; Welsh Bac Co-ordinator
KH	Hatfield	Mrs K	Curriculum Leader English
DH	Hellen	Mrs D	Pastoral Support Manager
JH	Hotchkiss	Mr J	Assistant Headteacher KS3 Co-ordinator; Mathematics
CH	Hughes	Mrs C	Learning Support Assistant; Learning Coach
GH	Hughes	Mrs G	Child Development Y10; Work Experience administration (p/t)
MH	Hughes	Mr M	Technology Technician
RH	Hughes	Mr R	Science
SH	Hughes	Mrs S	Behaviour Co-ordinator; English; Special Needs
JHC	Hurford	Mrs J	Cook in Charge
AJ	Jones	Miss A	PE
AJR	Jones	Miss A	Reprographics Technician
CJ	Jones	Miss C	Mathematics
DJ	Jones	Mr D	Curriculum Leader ICT/e-learning; Technology; IT
DEJ	Jones	Mr D	Learning Support Assistant (p/t)
FJ	Jones	Miss F	Curriculum Leader French
LJ	Jones	Mrs L	Teaching Assistant Behaviour Support; Learning Coach
WJ	Jones	Mrs W	Office Manager

STAFF LIST 2009 – 2010 (Continued)

ML	Leather	Mr M	Assistant Headteacher KS4 Co-ordinator; Chemistry; Science
JL	Loynes	Mr J	Science
SM	Mackreth	Mr S	ICT
GM	Mann	Mrs G	Curriculum Leader Science
EM	McElroy	Mrs E	Geography (p/t)
SMc	McGarry	Mrs S	Attendance Support Officer
TM	Meincken	Mrs T	Learning Support Assistant; Key Skills Administration Post 16
DM	Money Penny	Mrs D	Exams/Cover Administration; EMA Co-ordination
LM	Moore	Mrs L	Curriculum Leader Art; Head of House
SNS	Nash	Miss S	Science
AN	Navarro	Mrs A	History/Geography; Lead Learner Y8
SN	Naylor	Miss S	French
DN	Nuttall	Mr D	Technology; Lead Learner Y10; Head of House
HO	Owain	Miss H	Curriculum Leader Welsh
RO	Owain	Mr R	Welsh (temp – covering maternity leave)
EP	Partridge	Mr E	Curriculum Leader PE
HP	Phillips	Mr H	Assistant Headteacher Teaching and Learning; Curriculum Leader Geography
SP	Phillips	Mrs S	Pastoral Support
HPR	Piccou	Miss H	Curriculum Leader RS
NR	Richards	Mrs N	Library Assistant
ER	Roberts	Mr E	Art; Technology; Art Development Officer
FR	Roberts	Mrs F	Drama; Psychology
JR	Roberts	Mrs J	Curriculum Leader Mathematics
WR	Roberts	Mr W	LSA; Assistant to Alternative Curriculum; IT Support
SS	Scourfield	Mr S	Site Leader
RS	Skillicorn	Mrs R	Supervisor of Cleaners
LS	Steen	Mrs L	Welsh; Lead Learner Y11
ST	Tarver	Mrs S	Music; History (p/t)
JT	Thomas	Mrs J	Learning Support Assistant
KT	Thomas	Miss K	Learning Support Assistant
DT	Thompson	Mr D	Economics (p/t)
YW	Westhead	Mrs Y	Learning Support Assistant
AW	Williams	Mrs A	Headteacher; Welsh
CW	Williams	Mrs C	Learning Support Assistant
HW	Williams	Mr H	Curriculum Leader Technology
JW	Williams	Mrs J	ALN Co-ordinator; PE; Sports Leadership
LW	Williams	Mr L	Mathematics
PW	Williams	Mrs P	KS3 Co-ordinator English; Library; Head of House
TW	Williams	Mr T	Assistant Site Leader
JPW	Wilson	Mrs J	Deputy Headteacher; English; Media

YSGOL RHIWABON GOVERNING BODY

2009 - 2010

	Mrs A Williams	Headteacher
LEA	Mr J Penri Williams Councillor J Lowe Mrs J Bottomley Mr M Dean Mr J Davies	
PARENTS	Mrs A Swarbrick Mr G Jones Mrs P Billington Mrs L Hughes Mrs T Hughes Mr N Layhe	
TEACHERS	Mrs S Cooper Mrs P Williams	
STAFF	Mrs R Dean	
COMMUNITY	Dr P L Wyke Mrs L Davies Rev. Harrison Mr R B Thomas	
CLERK	Mrs W Cox	

CONTENTS

PAGE

From the Headteacher	1
Our School Aims	3
Our School Values	3
Our Curriculum	4
Equal Opportunities	7
Additional Learning Needs Provision	7
Basic Skills	7
Work Related Education and Guidance	8
Homework	8
Collective Worship – Respect, Reflect & Reason	8
Use of Welsh Language Across the School	9
Sex & Relationship Education	9
The Sixth Form	9
Student Support and Guidance	11
The School Day	13
Lunchtime Arrangements	13
Attendance	13
Uniform	14
Appearance	15
Personal Property and Valuables	16
Medical Information	17
School Meals	17
Examination Performance	18
Year 13 Students University Choices 2009	23
Term and Holiday Dates 2009 – 2010	24
Staff Training Days	25
Admissions	25
Out of School Visits	25
Security Arrangements	26
Child Protection	26
Complaints Procedure	26
Staff List 2009/2010	27
Governing Body	29