



Governors' Annual Report to Parents

Autumn Term 2021

A foreword from the Chair of Governors

I'm afraid, as you will all be aware, that Covid continued to affect school life in the last academic year, even with the lifting of some restrictions towards the end of the Summer Term. Pupils and Teachers had once again to deal with lockdown and remote learning, before being allowed back into the building as the pandemic figures improved. All staff and pupils had to adapt as regulations changed, including wearing face coverings in many of their lessons.

These times have been tough for all concerned and on behalf of Governors I would like to thank everyone, from the catering staff, caretakers, administration workers, teachers and learning support staff, for their magnificent efforts to continue to teach and learn under what were certainly not ideal circumstances.

The summer examination result period presented a whole new set of challenges for pupils and staff, differing from the arrangements made in summer 2020. We were pleased with our results at both A Level and in the GCSEs, with some pupils achieving exceptionally good sets of grades. The majority of our Senior School pupils left with the grades they needed for their chosen University course, and we are delighted that many of our Year 11 pupils have chosen to remain in school to study for their higher-level qualifications in the Senior School. We wish them all good luck for the next stage of their journey.

We are delighted with the opportunities the new school structure provides, under normal circumstances, for co-operative working across the year groups, with some sixth formers offering extracurricular activity both at lunch time and after school, and mentoring established across other year groups, enabling our pupils to support, encourage and help each other. This work has obviously been restricted somewhat by the pandemic but is definitely a pattern we are now working to re-establish.

The Governing Body has continued to meet and conduct its business online and I thank my fellow governors for their dedication and professionalism. Sub committees too have continued to meet, and interviews have been carried out through this new approach. We are determined to work with school leaders and staff to provide the best possible opportunities to all our pupils over the coming years.

Julie Barton
Chair of Governors

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Governing Body of Ysgol Garth Olwg

This report is a summary of the steps taken by the Governing Body in the discharge of its functions since the last report was published.

Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Anneli Hunt Governor Support,
Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Chairperson of the Governing Body

The Chairperson of the Governing Body is Ms Julie Barton c/o Ysgol Garth Olwg, St Illtyd's Road,
Church Village, CF38 1DX.

Members of the Governing Body

The following people are currently members of the Governing Body.

| Name | Category of Governor | Appointed By | Retirement Date |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Julie Barton Alex Harden Ray Butler Graham Stacy Sara Thomas | LEA | Council Members | 31.8.23 for all |
| Lynsey Edwards Rhys Llewelyn Richard Martin Sam Rosie Rebecca Willis | Community Governors | Governing Body | 10.10.23 for all |
| Sioned Geraint Ann Griffiths Kathryn Gwyn Rhuanedd Richards Anna Spicer New Member TBC | Parent | Parents | 30.9.23 for all |
| Carys Amos Lowri Stagg | Teacher | Teaching Staff | 12.9.23 25.9.23 |
| Alyson Samuel | Staff | Non Teaching Staff | 3.10.23 |
| Trystan Edwards | Headteacher | | 31.8.23 |

When fully constituted this governing body is made up as follows

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| LEA Representatives | 5 |
| Parent Governors | 6 |
| Staff Representative | 1 |
| Headteacher | 1 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Community Governors | 5 |
| Teacher Governor(s) | 2 |
| Minor Authority (if applicable) | 0 |
| Total | 20 |

Governor Expenses

During the year 2020/2021 no governors were paid expenses for their work for the school, nor travelling costs incurred as a result of their activities on behalf of the school.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions passed at the last meeting.

Election of Parent Governors

The next election of parent governors is due to take place in September 2023. If, however, any Parent Governor(s) resign before this date arrangements will be made for an election to be undertaken at the appropriate time.

School Performance Data

During this academic year we are not required to publish figures due to changes in WG policy.

The school is committed to improving standards across all aspects of school life, so that all our learners reach their full potential.

School Prospectus

The Governing Body is currently working on a brand-new School Prospectus to reflect our 3-19 status. Unfortunately, this work was delayed by the pandemic, but once produced it will be reviewed annually to include any changes required by the Welsh Assembly Government or other related bodies. A copy of the prospectus is generally issued to parents whose children are starting school for the first time or transferring from another school. A copy of this prospectus will be placed on the school website.

Parents are informed if any amendments are made to the existing prospectus.

School Development Plan

The Headteacher and Leadership team in conjunction with the governing body are responsible for drawing up the School Development Plan. The plan identifies the direction the school will take in delivering the curriculum and raising standards across the school. The plan is regularly monitored and revised to take account of progress made and any changes to curriculum requirements. The Annual School Development Plan for the 2021/22 academic year will be considered and approved by Governors and will be implemented by the staff. The priority will be to recover time lost during lockdown and ensure that all pupils catch up with lost progress; and that pupils in crucial years are prepared for exams and/or teacher assessment, whichever is used this year.

Use of the Welsh Language – Communication

This school is a Welsh medium school. Lessons and other school activities are communicated through the medium of Welsh. Communication with parents and the wider community is conducted bilingually.

Term Dates and Holidays 2021/2022 Academic Year

| Term | Begin | Half term | | End |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | | Begin | End | |
| Autumn 2021 | Thursday 2 Sept 2021 | Monday 25 Oct 2021 | Friday 29 Oct 2021 | Friday 17 Dec 2021 |
| Spring 2022 | Tuesday 4 Jan 2022 | Monday 21 Feb 2022 | Friday 25 Feb 2022 | Friday 8 Apr 2022 |
| Summer 2022 | Monday 25 April 2022 | Monday 30 May 2022 | Friday 3 Jun 2022 | Friday 22 July 2022 |

*Thursday 2 Sept 2021 will be a designated INSET day for all LA Maintained Schools. The remaining four INSET days to be taken will be at the discretion of each individual school following appropriate consultation with staff.

All schools will be closed on Monday 2 May 2022 for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Significant dates:

- Christmas - Saturday, 25 December 2021
- Easter - Good Friday, 15 April 2022
- Easter Monday, 18 April 2022
- May Bank Holidays - Monday, 2 May 2022
- Thursday, 2 June 2022
- Friday, 3 June 2022

An additional INSET day will held each year for the next academic years, until 2022. To take place annually during the summer term. These INSET days will be specifically for the purpose of Professional Learning to support the introduction and delivery of the new curriculum.

Professional Learning Days

3.9.21
1.10.21
29.11.21
23.6.22
24.6.22
22.7.22

Community Focused Schools

A community-focused school is one that: 'provides a range of services and activities', often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community. Across Wales many schools already provide some community services including adult education, study support, ICT facilities and community sports programmes. We are lucky to be based on the Garth Olwg Campus, where we work in partnership with the Life Long Learning Centre, which in itself, under normal circumstances, offers a wide range of courses and activities aimed at all age ranges.

The development of community-focused schools is not just a short-term project or initiative, but a real opportunity for schools and communities to work together in new ways for the future benefit of children, young people and adults. Before Ysgol Garth Olwg became a 3-19 school, both the primary and secondary schools which have now come together had a proud track record of activities within and for our local community. When the time is right, we will resume those activities and partnerships with renewed enthusiasm.

Review of School Policies

As a new Governing Body for a new school, we are working through updating all our policies, ensuring that, in the first instance, all important statutory policies are in place. Policies can be found on the school website. We have also amended relevant policies in light of Coronavirus.

Additional Learning Needs

The School's Policy for the Assessment of and Provision for pupils with additional learning needs is summarised as follows:

The School's policy for the identification, assessment and provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs is consistent with the requirements of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in January 2002.

The School's Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCO) works closely with all other members of staff to ensure that individual educational plans are developed and implemented to meet the needs of pupils, appropriate to those who require them.

The ALNCO also liaises with all members of staff, to ensure that the progress of all pupils is regularly monitored and assessed and to ensure that each pupil reaches his or her potential.

During the current academic year:

- 26 pupils were on School Action/Early Years Action.

- 15 pupils were on School Action Plus/Early Action Plus (including those with Notes in Lieu).
- 10 pupils had statements of Additional Educational Needs.

The new ALN bill is driving the way that we work as a school and, while its implementation may have been delayed, we are making good progress in transitioning our working practices to ensure that they are aligned with new expectations. The ALNCo has updated staff and parents regularly of the changes, as well as holding person-centred meetings for each child on the SEN register, and has ensured that every child has a one-page profile document. There is also an ALN section on the school website with information for parents on ALN and the ALN Code of Practice.

Access for Disabled Pupils

The governing body is mindful of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and The Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2005 in its daily actions and activities.

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to participate in the school curriculum and (where they desire) in activities such as after school clubs, leisure/sporting events and educational visits (when they are in place and once pandemic restriction allow them to be reinstated) . All aspects of accessibility, including access to written information are included in the planning process and accessibility plan.

The Authority has in place an Accessibility Strategy and in line with this strategy an audit of the school site has been undertaken, as part of an Authority wide brief, to identify any potential barriers and (ultimately) improve the access to the school.

Fabric of the Building & Provision of Toilet Facilities

Our main building was modified in the summer of 2019 to create provision for the Middle School's years 5 and 6. This is now a well-equipped, completely self-contained area, which connects with the rest of the Middle, Upper and Senior Schools when desired. This has also freed up much needed space in the Lower School, which now contains pupils up to Year 4.

We have continued to have issues with the rooves of all our buildings and remedial work has been going on for more than a year. The work has now been concluded, and we thank RCT Council and its partners for conducting the work as quickly and efficiently as possible. The Local Authority also worked very hard in the Summer of 2019 to improve the drainage on both our sports fields, which without the work, would be largely unplayable on after any kind of heavy rain.

Within all our buildings we have adequate toilet provision. The toilets are cleaned at least twice every day during a normal school day and there is a team of caretakers available throughout the day if further cleaning is required. During the pandemic the toilets (and other high use areas) were being cleaned on a continuous basis throughout the school day through additional support from the LA.

Target Setting

The implementation and review of the school's strategies and targets are documented in detail in the School Development Plan. A change in policy due pandemic does not requires us to publish these. We are still focused on our pupils achieving in line with their potential.

Attendance Information

We are absolutely clear that pupils learn best when they are in school, although we are very aware that if a pupil is unable to come to school because they have to self-isolate, then we have to make provision for them to continue their learning. A change in policy due to the pandemic does not require us to publish attendance data, but we are pleased overall with the attitude of our learners and parents since school reopened to all pupils in September. It's clear that the majority of our learners want to be in school, appreciating the structure and social framework it provides, especially after months of lockdown. We will continue to work to keep our attendance as high as it can be in the current circumstances.

Admission/Transition Arrangements

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council is the Admissions Authority for all schools (other than Church schools where the schools governing body is the admissions authority) within the Authority's boundary. The schools admission arrangements are, therefore, operated in line with the Authority's policy on school admissions which is contained in the publication Starting School book. The book is made available to parents at the point of their application for their child's admission to school. The contents of this book can also be accessed online on the Authority's website www.rctcbc.gov.uk.

Destination Data

The table below outlines the destination data for post-18 learners.

| Destination | Students (%) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| University | 81 |
| Employment | 9 |
| Gap Year / Part-time employment | 9 |
| Other | >1 |

Enrichment Activities

There are a range of extra curricular activities provided including educational visits, in-house competitions, and school trips which went ahead as normal in the Summer term. We had a fantastic week in June where the school was visited by Aled of Animal Encounters, he brought a range of animals including armadillos, meerkats and a binturong. All pupils from ages 2-19 were able to hold or interact with the animals and it was a pleasure to see their reactions.

The school has successfully participated in numerous virtual events including Brilliant Club and Hwb Seren. Other examples of enrichment activities are:

- During our two week Enrichment Programme a variety of workshops were arranged - Year 10 took part in a mock court case, year 9 had Japanese lessons and the Lower School pupils had dance workshops.
- Art Workshops were held with the artist Catrin Williams and in a collaboration with Cardiff MET on Welsh Landscapes
- Garth Olwg School's partnership attended a virtual workshop with Anni Llŷn, Bardd Plant Cymru and took part in a year 6 Quiz.
- Year 12 attended events run by Cardiff University – “Science in Health Live!” And “Meet the Pathologists” and virtual lectures run by Bath University and Cardiff MET.
- A group of students competed in the Davidson Inventors Challenge run by Cambridge University and others in a Geography quiz called Welshwise. Many pupils also took part in The Young Writers Competition
- A year 9 class attended a Technocamps virtual workshop.
- Various Virtual Hay Festival events.

Sporting Achievements

The school has taken part in a range of sporting events including netball, football, rugby, athletics, dance and gymnastics, but the pandemic has prevented us from participating in a full range of fixtures with other schools. This is changing in the current academic year as restrictions have been lifted. There is also a range of extracurricular activities available including rugby, football, netball, dance, badminton, basketball, cross country, athletics, tennis, rounders.

There were a number of sporting achievements this year. These included pupils representing Wales in the following sports:

- Under 14 and 16 Girls Football,
- Rugby Union Wales Under 20s in 6 Nations tournament
- Under 15 boys Rugby League
- Wales Basketball representatives at Under 16 and Under 14
- Welsh Gymnastics under 16 and 14 representatives
- Numerous regional representatives across Rugby, Football, Netball and other sports
- U14/15 Football Academy players for Cardiff City and Swansea city
- Numerous Cardiff City Ladies FC players
- Rugby Scholarships to Millfield and Christ College Brecon
- Girls winner of Newport junior 2km race and 2nd at Cardiff

Healthy Eating

At Ysgol Garth Olwg we promote healthy eating by encouraging children to eat healthy snacks during morning break time, and healthy lunches at dinnertime.

We teach children about the importance of a balanced diet through PSE, science, and design and technology lessons, as well as through themed events throughout the year.

How is the School Funded?

The LA provides the school with a budget for each financial year based upon a number of factors, including the number of children on the ALN register, floor space within school etc, but the main factor is the school's pupil numbers. The funding received from the LA is called the Delegated School Budget.

On receiving the delegated school budget the governors then decide how this money should be allocated and agree a budget that is followed for the year. This account is monitored continually by the Headteacher, Finance Manager, LA and the Subcommittee of the Governing Body at their regular meetings, along with termly updates to the GB.

Financial Statement for the 2020-21 Financial Year

| | Description | £ |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Salary | Teachers / APT / Manual Workers | £ 4,589,533.50 |
| | | |
| Premises | Utility / Maintenance / Water | £ 458,901.39 |
| Rates | | £ 161,516.50 |
| Supplies and Services | | £ 661,519.50 |
| Other | School Meals / Uniform / Transport | £ 24,442.22 |
| | | £ 5,895,913.15 |
| | | |
| Basic & Grant Income | Basic & Grant Information | £ 990,775.78 |
| | | |
| | Total Expenditure minus the Income = Total Expenditure | £ 4,905,137.37 |
| | Total Funds Available minus Expenditure (Carry Forward Figure to 2021-22) | £ 423,127.05 |
| Formula Allocation | Pupil Allocation & Post 16 | £ 5,283,379.23 |
| Formula Enhancement | Rates / Retrospective | £ 6,171 |
| Carry Forward 2019-20 | | £ 38,714.69 |
| | | £ 5,328,264.42 |
| | | |