



# YSGOL Y GRANGO

PROSPECTUS FURTHER INFORMATION  
SEPTEMBER 2024-25



INSPIRING ACTIONS, FULFILLING LIVES

## **TEACHING STAFF 2023/2024**

### **Senior Leadership Team**

Headteacher	Miss V Brown
Acting Deputy Headteacher	Miss C Hughes
Assistant Headteacher	Mr I M Thomas
Assistant Headteacher	Mr C Cathrall
School Business Manager	Mrs M Harvey

### **Teaching Staff and key roles**

Art & Design Technology	Mrs S Hogg Mrs H Francis Mr T Sorsby Miss A Samuels	Head of Year 7	Mrs Z Povey
English	Mr P Sidwells Mr K Hanlon Mrs H Macdonald Mrs L Broughton Miss A Molyneux	Head of Year 8	Mr N Thomas
Maths	Mr J Flavell Mrs R Simon Mr J Morris Mrs K Taunt	Head of Year 9	Mrs K Taunt
Performance	Mrs A Davies Miss B Edwards Miss M Moore	Head of Year 10	Mr C Cathrall
IT	Mr N Thomas	Head of Year 11	Miss B Edwards
Science	Mrs L Lindsay Mrs K Holmes Miss B Hill Mrs N Wilkinson Mr T Douglas	Acting KS3 Lead	Mr N Thomas
Welsh/French	Mrs Z Povey Mrs D McIntyre	Child Protection and Safeguarding – Designated Safeguarding Lead	Miss C Hughes
Humanities	Miss M Jones Mr P Brooks Miss A Price Mrs C Hughes	Child Protection and Safeguarding – Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs V Brown

Utility	Mr G Morris	Student Wellbeing – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs N Whyman/Mrs L Worrall
ALNCO	Mrs K Sharpe		
HLTA	Mrs E Tudor Mrs J Chalk Miss S Davies		
TA	Mr D Jones Miss S Jones Miss G Roberts Miss S Boulton Miss A Evans Miss L Morris Mrs S Griffiths Miss L Jones		

#### **NON-TEACHING STAFF 2023/2024**

School Business Manager/Site Manager	Mrs M Harvey
Caretaking Staff	Mr C James Mr I Simon Mr A Valentine
Safeguarding Officer/Student wellbeing Coordinator	Mrs L Worrall / Mrs N Whyman
Data Manager	Miss A Hughes
Cover/ Exams / Finance Officer	Mrs D Jones
Front Office Reception	Miss E Ronan
Librarian	Mrs V Abraham
Behaviour Support/On Call	Mr A Swanwick Mrs M Hughes
Youth Workers	Mrs D Kennedy / Mrs Karen Walker
ICT Support Technicians	Mr S Evans
Science Support Technician	Mr C Williams
Design and Technology Technician	Mr P Watson
School Support	Mrs K Sinnott

## **THE CURRICULUM**

From September 2024, students in the Lower School (Years 7,8 and 9) will continue experience the new Curriculum For Wales. The new curriculum is at the forefront of education in Wales and has been developed and designed by Ysgol y Grango to be bespoke to the needs of our students. This will support them in meeting the four Core Purposes of being:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The Curriculum for Wales has six Areas of Learning and Experience:

1. In Expressive Arts learners will explore art, drama, music, film and digital media to develop their creative skills
2. In Humanities learners will learn about the world, society and events past and present. Explore challenges and opportunities that face us and what ethical action can be taken to safeguard the world, its people in the future.
3. In Mathematics and Numeracy learners will develop their understanding of numbers and symbols in Maths as well as shapes, measurement, statistics, probability and much more.
4. Health and Wellbeing learners will learn about looking after their physical and mental health including emotional wellbeing. They will also learn about healthy eating, how to make good decisions, deal with influences and develop good relationships.
5. In Languages, Literacy and Communication learners will understand and use English, Welsh and French. They will study and create literature and communicate in spoken, written or visual ways, including poetry, drama and film.
6. In Science and Technology learners will learn about Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Design and Technology and Digital Computer Science.

The curriculum will also include:

- Human rights
- Diversity and respecting differences
- Experience and skills for careers and the workplace
- Learning about local, national and international contexts • Developmentally appropriate relationships and sex education.

### **Curriculum Year 10 and 11 for September 2024**

The new Curriculum For Wales does not apply to students in these year groups. At Ysgol y Grango and across Wales, students in year groups 10 and 11 will continue to study the national curriculum they began at the time they entered secondary education.

At Ysgol y Grango we offer a curriculum which:

- Is broad and balanced

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All students should have the opportunity to follow all subjects of the national curriculum at KS3, including PSHE. They should be able to develop intellectually, creatively, socially and physically.

- Provides enjoyment, boosts self-esteem and raises aspirations  
The curriculum should motivate all students to want to learn
- Promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development  
All students should develop as rounded citizens through the totality of their educational experience.
- Encompasses the acquisition of personal, learning and thinking skills  
All subjects will emphasise the teaching, learning, assessment and progression in cross curricular skills.
- Emphasises the importance of Literacy and Numeracy  
All students are able to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in Literacy and Numeracy through discrete lessons and across the curriculum.
- Enables students to understand the connections between different subjects  
All students should increasingly experience a curriculum which includes the study of some themes that cross traditional subject boundaries.
- Prepares young people for the future  
All students should be equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve as highly as possible at Key Stage 4 and beyond.

### Curriculum for the Upper School

All students in Years 10 and 11 follow courses in the compulsory core subjects of:

English	Mathematics
Personal and Social Education	Physical Education
Science	Skills Challenge
Welsh	

Through the Option process, completed in Year 9, students can select the courses they wish to study and be assessed for their GCSE Examinations or equivalent courses. These are tailored to provide them with the building blocks to progress to further study at A-level, training, apprenticeship or direct employment.

The programme of GCSE subjects includes:

Art and Design	Business Studies
Digital Photography	Film and Media Studies
French	Food and Nutrition
Geography	History
Performing Arts BTEC	Physical Education
Product Design	Religious Education
3D Design	

Some students participate in vocational qualifications and courses in collaboration with other providers across the Wrexham area.

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## **RVE / DACW**

What is RVE Curriculum for Wales?

Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) is a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. RVE forms part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE). Humanities AoLE includes Geography, History, Religion, Values and Ethics, and Business Studies.

RVE incorporates a range of disciplinary approaches that can be used by learners to engage critically with a broad range of religious and non-religious concepts. For example, disciplinary approaches relevant to RVE may include religious studies, philosophy, theology, sociology, psychology, and anthropology. There are also strong relationships between RVE and the other disciplines within Humanities as well as with other Areas.

Concepts are important in RVE because they are central ideas that help learners to make sense of and interpret human experience, the natural world and their own place within it. Learners will have opportunities to explore RVE concepts through a variety of sub lenses which make up the RVE disciplinary lens.

In the Curriculum for Wales, RVE is objective, critical and pluralistic, both in content and pedagogy; it is not about making learners 'religious' or 'non-religious'. The expression 'objective, critical and pluralistic' comes from European Convention on Human Rights case law. The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 ensures that all learners must be offered opportunities through RVE to engage with different religions and non-religious philosophical convictions in their own locality and in Wales, as well as in the wider world.

Daily Acts of Collective Worship (DACW) is also a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales. Collective worship is defined as 'the opportunity to reflect upon something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should concern with reverence or veneration to a divine being or power.

The aim of DACW is to provide pupils with the opportunity to worship God, consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs. It gives the chance to encourage participation and response through active involvement in presentation, listening, watching, or joining in the worship on offer. This allows pupils to develop a community spirit, have a common ethos and share values that reinforce a positive attitude.

This ties in excellently with the values and ethos we have at Ysgol Y Grango, that is known as 'The Grango Way'. Within this we have a core group of values that unite us as a community and allow us all to support each other to develop as human beings. The opportunities to engage in DACW are delivered across the curriculum with a focus being on the Humanities AOLE, a tailored tutor time programme, assemblies, and other relevant opportunities across the school curriculum.

As a parent you can request for your child to be excused from collective worship. Please contact the school if you would like your child to be excused so alternative arrangements can be made for your child.

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## **PERSONAL, ACADEMIC, CULTURAL AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRESS**

### **Personal and Social Education**

Personal and Social Education is taught across all year groups. These lessons develop the knowledge, understanding and skills young people need to manage their lives, now and in the future. The programme consists of lessons and workshops taught by teachers and outside practitioners.

Sex Education is taught in the context of a total personal relationship developing through friendship, courtship and marriage. This forms an integral part of the Religious Education, Personal and Social Education and Science courses throughout the school.

### **Welsh Bacalaureate Qualification**

All students at Ysgol y Grango complete the Welsh Bacalaureate Qualification. This highly regarded course combines experiences and projects that help students to develop as individuals and equips them for their next steps - work, university and for life. The Welsh Bacalaureate has a strong focus on building the strengths of students and encourages independent thinking and study.

### **Religious Studies and Collective Worship**

Religious Studies is taught as a separate subject in the Lower School and as a GCSE Option choice in Years 10 and 11. The course of study enables students to understand a variety of religions and how these are celebrated.

Collective Worship is delivered daily to students in accordance with the legal requirement that all students in school participate in an act of collective worship. Parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from Religious Studies and Collective Worship. To exercise this right, written communication to the Headteacher by the parents is required.

### **Homework**

The teaching programme includes a firm commitment to homework. The approximate time allocation is around one hour per evening for years 7, 8 and 9 and one to two hours for years 10 and 11. All students are set and required to complete homework in every subject area on the timetable. Some subjects may set project work which can take place over a longer period of time. Work can be set on Google Classroom and some subjects, such as Maths, use specialist online programs such as Mathswatch. Pupils can access Google Classroom through their HWB log in. All students in Year 7 are issued with a planner, whilst students in other year groups can purchase a planner if they would like to.

### **Assessment, Reports and Parents' Evenings**

Every student is continuously assessed in every subject. In addition to Parents' Evenings, appointments may be made to see individual staff at other times. Similarly, teachers will contact parents if they have a concern about a child's progress. Parents also receive a minimum of one detailed and personalised report as well as 'Progress Check' reports during the academic year. These are communicated through Go4schools and parents will be issued with log in details for this during the first week of term.

### **Careers Education**

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Students at Ysgol y Grango, receive Careers Education and work related advice, through a bespoke range of workshop activities in the Lower School.

In the Upper School, students have the opportunity to visit local Sixth Forms and Colleges and attend Higher Education establishments. A Careers Officer is based in the school for two days a week to assist students in making choices about their futures. We nurture the talents of all our students and prepare each one for the next step on their successful journey.

### **Achievements/Rewards**

We have an extensive rewards system that is linked directly to the students Attitude to Learning (ATL) scores for effort and engagement with lessons. These allows for regular rewards to be given to those students who are working on or above the expected level. On top of this we ask all faculties for nominations for academic and in class achievement and finally link this all to the new Curriculum and our school vision.

Half termly rewards assemblies are an opportunity for those students who have continued to work hard throughout the given time frame to be rewarded for their efforts. We hold three prize giving events at Christmas and Easter in school and one in the summer term where parents/carers and stakeholders are invited.

Achievements at Ysgol y Grango are linked to the new Curriculum and school values to re-enforce expectations and highlight the excellent conduct of our students. The core values that tie in to the ACT (Aspirational, Community and Transformational) principles from the new vision for Curriculum for Wales ensures that students are rewarded not only for their academic success and effort but also for their more holistic personal qualities.

Rewards for actions of resilience, kindness and courage are some of the many awards that have become part of the Grango rewards system.

We also have a strong focus on attendance and ensuring that students see the value in attending school. For those students who meet or exceed the attendance expectations we regularly reward to acknowledge this effort.

Prizes range from certificates to trips to vouchers and many more. These allow us to continually acknowledge the high levels of behaviour and engagement throughout our student's time at Ysgol Y Grango.

### **ATL**

At Ysgol y Grango we run an Attitude to Learning system that allows us to constantly review and support our students to work towards their potential.

The system works on a number and code rating system for the student's engagement and attitude throughout a lesson. The number system is as follows:

1 – Ambitious

2 – Active

3 – Passive

4 – Resistant

\$ - Unacceptable

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The basic expectation for all students is that they engage and behave at a 2 rating. This means they are active engaged in their learning and behaving to a suitable level for this to take place.

If a student falls below this level, sanctions will be given as deemed appropriate. Alternatively, if a student goes above and beyond the expected standard during a lesson and achieves a 1 rating, it will feed directly into the schools reward system to ensure they are recognised for their efforts.

Parents will receive regular updates on their child's ATL scores throughout reporting system which will allow you to actively engage in your child's engagement and attitude to learning.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The school is committed to meeting the requirements of the 2010 Equalities Act. We believe that no one should receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of: disability, age, income, religion/belief, race including colour, ethnicity or nationality, marital or civil partnership status, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, or trade union membership. The equal opportunities policy applies to all stakeholders.

### **Pastoral Care, Inclusion and Wellbeing**

At Ysgol y Grango we recognise that our students flourish in an inclusive, caring and safe environment. We have an excellent pastoral care system where all individuals are known, valued and respected.

As part of our school's ACTIVE values, we have an ethos as a Pastoral team of Ready, Respectful and Safe. The aim of this is to ensure that all of our pupils are ready and prepared to learn, treat and are treated with respect from all members of our school community and feel safe and valued within the school environment.

Each year group has a Head of Year who oversees the students in their year group. Students are organised into tutor groups and the Form Tutor plays a pivotal role in supporting students. The tutor will see your child every day and will be their support during their time at Ysgol y Grango and your contact for any pastoral concerns. If you have any questions regarding an academic matter then these should be directed to your child's teacher for the particular subject of concern.

The school liaises with a range of external partners to support students with their mental health and wellbeing, including: School Nurse, School Counsellor, Youth Worker, Educational Social Worker, Police Liaison Officer.

The pastoral system has its own educative purpose and prepares students to be capable, confident, ambitious and responsible citizens, allowing students to develop the skills, knowledge and experiences they need to equip them for the challenges of the 21st century.

### **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)**

Ysgol Y Grango prides itself on its inclusivity for all additional needs pupils and other pupils who need extra support with their learning and wellbeing. We adhere to all ALN pupils accessing the full range of the National Curriculum, appropriately differentiated within our Resource Provision for Moderate Learning Difficulties and our Nurture Provision for pupils' wellbeing.

For pupils that have an Individual Development Plan/Statement that indicates a pupil has additional learning needs, we concentrate on the following areas: - - Cognitive and Learning

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- Communication and Interaction
- Behavioural, Emotional and Social Development
- Sensory, Physical and Medical

Ysgol y Grango provides inclusivity for all children promoting personal, social & health education. Pupils are supported within the Nurture class/ALN provision to improve their emotional well-being, self-esteem and to give them a sense of belonging to the school community. We provide a structured routine with clear boundaries, so the pupils feel safe and secure.

Ysgol y Grango have a consistent and supportive approach with the consideration to ensure pupils' needs are being met through a modified and differentiated curriculum with specific and measurable targets incorporated into their one-page profile, Targeted Universal Provision and a wide range of interventions. All additional needs pupils developing a sense of mastery and success in their learning.

The ALN faculty has regular contact between school and home, ensuring parents are made aware of their child's progress. In cases where parents may think their child needs to be considered for additional needs or may need further support within school, please contact Kim Sharpe, Additional Needs Coordinator, for further information and advice.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff are fully trained in safeguarding practices and there are clear channels for reporting any incidents of concern which will in turn be fully investigated. School governors monitor closely any safeguarding issues to ensure that all practices are fully compliant and adhere to the Keeping Learners Safe guidelines.

### **Attendance**

We expect all students to aspire to achieve attendance of at least 97% or above. Excellent attendance at school is an important factor in the overall achievement of pupils. If your child is unwell and unable to attend then parents are expected to telephone the school office by 9:15am on the first day of their absence and any subsequent days thereafter so that we can ensure the safety and whereabouts of each student. Attendance is closely monitored by the school and when students do not attend, and we have not been informed why this is the case, then the school operates a Truancy Call system which will automatically attempt to contact parents.

Holidays during term time will only be authorised for exceptional circumstances and are actively discouraged.

The Local Authority has the power to issue fixed penalty notices of £60 for unauthorised absence from school, which may be issued to address any unauthorised absences in excess of five school days in one term.

### **Punctuality**

Being late to school impacts upon a student's progress in school, therefore we monitor closely when students are late to school and will apply sanctions should the need arise.

## **Uniform standards**

All students are expected to wear full school uniform at all times. A comprehensive policy is available on the school website.

## **Equipment**

The following equipment is required in school:

- A school bag is required to carry A4 size exercise books and folders.
- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Eraser
- Coloured pencils
- PE Kit (only on the required days)
- Packed lunch or school dinners
- A water bottle

## **School Meals**

A wide range of foods can be purchased in the cafeteria. Hot drinks and snacks are also available at the 'toast bar' during morning break, between 11:10am – 11:30am. If you think you may be eligible for free school meals you should apply to the LEA using the free school meal application form.

## **Facilities**

Students at Ysgol y Grango enjoy excellent facilities, with well-designed classrooms, first class learning resources and study areas, all with the highest level of ICT support. We have a superb 3G floodlit sports pitch and a suite of music rooms adjacent to the school drama studio, which provide excellent performing arts facilities. We have specialist art and graphics rooms as well as our own design workshop.

We utilise state-of-the-art information and communication technology facilities, including 3 dedicated ICT suites, mobile suites of laptops across the different subject areas, interactive whiteboards and digital projectors. We are constantly seeking to improve the learning opportunities of our students both in school and through their access to technology at home and all students have access to the Hwb, our virtual learning environment.

## **SCHOOL TERM DATES**

### **Autumn Term 2024**

Monday 2 September – Friday 25 October 2024

Monday 4 November – Friday 20 December 2024

### **Spring Term 2025**

Monday 6 January – Friday 21 February 2025

Monday 3 March – Friday 11 April 2025

### **Summer Term 2024**

Monday 28 April – Friday 23 May 2025

Monday 2 June – Monday 21 July 2025

**Training Days** - on these days the school is closed to students.

Monday 2 September 2024

Tuesday 3 September 2024

Monday 4 November 2024

Monday 6 January 2025

Friday 21 February 2025

Monday 21 July 2025

## **TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY**

There are five 1 hour lessons every day. The school operates a two week timetable.

08:50am - 09:10am                      Registration and Form Time

09:10am – 10:10am                      Lesson 1

10:10am – 11:10am                      Lesson 2

**11:10am – 11:30am                      BREAK**

11:30am – 12:30pm                      Lesson 3

12:30pm – 13:30pm                      Lesson 4

**13:30pm – 14:10pm                      LUNCH**

14:10pm – 15:10pm                      Lesson 5

15:10pm                                      End of School Day

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## **FURTHER SCHOOL INFORMATION**

### **Health and Safety/School Site Security**

All staff wear identification lanyards. All visitors are required to sign in via the main office where they will be issued with identification badges for the duration of their stay. Site security is maintained via CCTV cameras positioned inside the buildings and externally in the school grounds.

### **GDPR**

The school complies fully with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. Further information regarding this is available on request. We politely request that parents ensure the school is provided with up to date contact details for their child/children, especially when changes occur such as after moving house.

### **Publicity and Social Media**

Parental consent for the use of students' images will be requested at the date of admission to the school roll. Photographs taken whilst undertaking school related activities may be used on the school website or other promotional materials.

### **Charging Policy**

The Governing Body follows the Wrexham County Borough Policy for charges relating to school led activities.

### **Governance**

Ysgol y Grango is fortunate to have a very active and supportive governing body.

## **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Ysgol y Grango's admissions are co-ordinated centrally by the Wrexham Council School Admissions Team. For further details please see: [www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/education/admissions\\_secondary.htm](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/education/admissions_secondary.htm)

For students starting in Year 7 in September 2025, the Local Authority asks that all parents intending to request place for their child at a Wrexham High School should make submissions by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Applications can be made on-line or by using a paper form. Parents will be notified of the place allocated to their child by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

For all mid-year transfers, for any year group within the school, parents are required to firstly contact the Wrexham County Borough Council School Admissions Team on 01978 298991.



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## CONTACT INFORMATION



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