

Information for Parents 2023-24



Dysgu Gorau - Dysgu Byw

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

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Assistant Head(KS2-KS3 transition):

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WELCOME TO YSGOL GYMRAEG YSTALYFERA. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU OVER THE FOLLOWING YEARS





SUPPORT FOR YEAR 7

- When your child joins Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera, care and support will be provided in a number of ways:
- A Form Tutor who will offer help in settling in to the new school and its routines and expectations. The Form Tutor will remain with the Tutor Group until Year 11, providing continuity and support in all matters.
- A Year-Group Co-ordinator (Head of Year) and Senior Staff who will always be available for discussions with parents.
- A 'Buddy' in Year 12 who will be a constant guide, offering advice and help in any matters to do with school. All Year 7 pupils meet their 'buddies' at least weekly.
- Homework Clubs and Revision Clubs. Handwriting Club.
- Subject-specific Clubs – e.g. Mathematics.
- 'Mentoring for Success' sessions.
- Focused support in Literacy and/or Numeracy.
- A Year 7 Parents' Evening early during the first term to discuss issues such as settling in, Friendships and any specific support or attention which is needed.
- Teachers aim to teach using the pupils' preferred learning styles.
- SMART targets are set and progress towards those targets are discussed every half-term with the Form Tutor.
- A Year 7 Induction Course held during the first days of the school year. Encouragement to join extra-curricular activities which are specific to Year 7 – e.g. the Year 7 Choir, Year 7 rugby and netball tournaments, as well as whole school activities.
- Merit and Prize schemes in order to provide incentives, increase motivation and raise attainment.



YEAR 7 CURRICULUM

2023-24

Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur has been a Welsh Government curriculum pioneer school and we have lead the way with our innovative and exciting curriculum. It gives me great pleasure to share the Year 7 curriculum for September 2023 and as a school, we are very proud of what we are offering our young people. Our 'curriculum' includes learning experiences and enrichment activities designed to achieve the Four Purposes of the curriculum, which are to develop our children and young people to be:

- Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives
- Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work
- Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world
- Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

We are determined to provide a learning continuum that ensures our young people build on the strengths and foundations set by our excellent partners in primary schools. By borrowing and developing the pedagogical skills and strategies of the foundation phase and KS2, and implementing teachers' subject expertise at KS3 and above, together we will secure the foundations and structure for the development of effective lifelong learners and prepare our young people for their future.



YEAR 7 CURRICULUM PLAN

COURSE	SUMMARY
Dysgu Gorau, Dysgu Byw: DGDB	A core course to introduce pupils to the school, focusing on developing the basic skills of the four purposes in small registration classes to develop emotional capacity, resilience, speaking and listening skills, independent work, risk taking and progress evaluation. The course will also aim to support and reward pupils on their progress/journey and contribution in Year 7 by "graduating" at the end of the year.
Welsh	A core course which develops the Welsh language in a local, national and European contemporary context. The aim is to develop a strong personal identity and encourage their language development which will inspire our pupils as learners within the four purposes.
STEM	An exciting course which is a combination of science, ICT, Maths and Technology lessons developing a new cross-departmental course within the school. There will be a focus on inquiry based research learning, thus developing the principles of the four purposes and subject disciplines within a local, Welsh, real-life context.
Health & Wellbeing	A course developing health and well-being in a more holistic way, taking into account wider aspects of health and physical development and healthy living, including an emphasis on mental health and relationships. The focus here is firmly on developing healthy and confident individuals but responding to the principles of each of the four purposes.
Humanities	This area covers geography; history; religion and ethics; business studies and social studies. Humanities lessons will be combined to develop a new way of delivering experiences and areas of expertise which will inspire our learners to become inquisitive and excited learners.
Performing Arts	An excellent course which places emphasis on cross-departmental co-operation on a common theme/output. The focus will be on performance / product at the end of the year. Parents will be invited to come into the school to celebrate the pupils' creativity during the summer term.
Mathematics	The focus will be on developing mathematical activities which will teach learners and challenge the young people not to be afraid of unfamiliar or complex problems. By developing a local, contemporary, real-life link to inspire pupils, learners will develop resilience, as well as experience a sense of achievement and enjoyment, as they further develop their mathematical skills.
English	A contemporary and exciting course that develops identity through an understanding of local, real-world and Welsh links to inspire pupils as learners of the four purposes.
D&T	This course will deliver the new curriculum and develop the skills and disciplines of design and technology, by developing a local, contemporary, real life and Welsh link.
MFL	The course is designed to enthuse learners' curiosity and enthusiasm and provide them with a firm foundation on which to develop lifelong interest in languages





EQUIPMENT

Basic equipment for Year 7 pupils will comprise a geometry set (compass, two set squares, 300 mm ruler and protractor), pencil, ink pen or ball-point, coloured pencils.

Pupils are advised not to bring expensive items to school.

The use of Tippex (or similar solvent), felt pens, mobile phones, music players/digital devices are not allowed.

CLASSCHARTS APP

The software will record your child's achievements, dedication and approach to learning. On the App will be their timetable, homework, contact with the personal tutor and day to day information in real time.





SCHOOL HOURS

The school week is organised into 60 x 50 minute lessons; six lessons a day. The day also incorporates registration and assembly time, break time and a lunch hour.

THE SCHOOL DAY

8.40am :	Registration
9.00am :	Lesson 1
9.50am :	Lesson 2
10.40am :	Break
11.00am :	Lesson 3
11.50am :	Lesson 4
12.40pm :	Lunch
1.30pm :	Lesson 5
2.20pm :	Lesson 6
3.10pm :	End of school day



5 Munud yn hwyr bob dydd, pob diwrnod o'r wythnos yn cyfateb i 3 diwrnod y flwyddyn

Prydlondeb



* yn hwyr bob dydd.

Presenoldeb

Presenoldeb	Diwrnodau Absennol	Wythnosau Absennol	Nifer o wersi
98%	4	1 wythnos	24 gwers
95%	10	2 wythnos	60 gwers
90%	19	4 wythnos	114 gwers
85%	29	6 wythnos	174 gwers
80%	39	8 wythnos	234 gwers
75%	48	10 wythnos	288 gwers
70%	58	12 wythnos	248 gwers
65%	68	14 wythnos	408 gwers

Ysgol Gymraeg
Ystalyfera



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ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE

An explanation for all absences must be given, whatever the duration. It is essential that the school be informed of any absence, either by letter, telephone or e-mail, at once. No explanation will result in an unauthorised absence being recorded.

Pupils must make every effort to be punctual for registration (8.45 a.m.). Late arrivals are recorded. Pupils arriving after registration has closed must sign in at the School Office.

Parents are strongly urged not to take pupils out of school for term- time holidays.



Local Education Authority Transport Section
Neath Port Talbot
(01639 763333).



SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Pupils are conveyed to school by contracted vehicles and all transport arrangements are made by the Local Education Authority Transport Section (01639 763333) who will inform all parents of the route and times of arrival at the various pickup points. It is suggested that pupils should be at these points five minutes before the scheduled times.

- Should a pupil miss the bus at the end of the day, he or she must report to the School Office.
- All pupils must carry their bus passes daily.
- The Unitary Authority's School Transport guidelines state clearly that any pupil who misbehaves on a school contract vehicle may lose his or her right to free travel.
- A copy of the Authority's booklet A Guide to Transport on School Buses is available from the School Office.



SCHOOL LUNCHES

A mid-day meal is provided at the school and all pupils are urged to partake. Meals are served on a Cafeteria System in 'Bwyty'r Giedd' and pupils have a choice of 'healthy eating' menus. Pupils pay daily for their selected choice of menu.

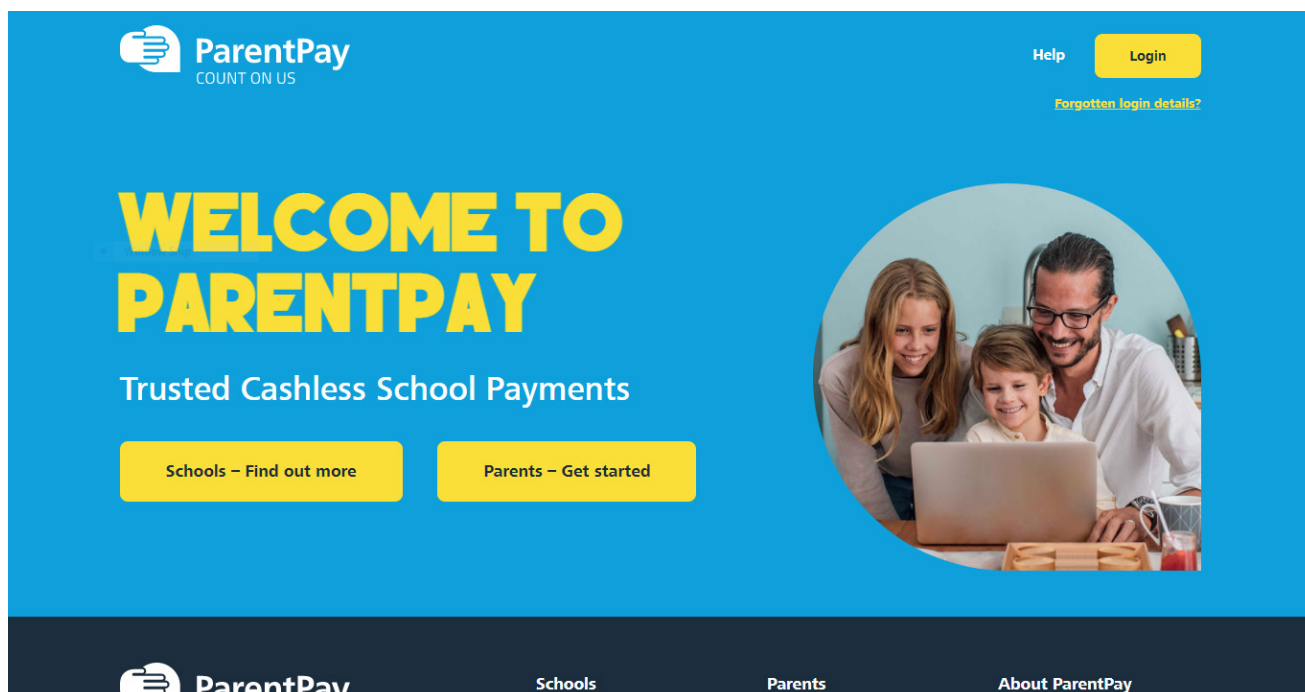
An average sum of £2.90 daily will buy a balanced, nutritious and healthy 'set' meal, although pupils may wish to pay less or more than this sum. Pupils may bring sandwiches with them to school to eat during the mid-day break.

Toast and other small, healthy items are on sale during mid- morning break or from 8.15am in Caffi'r Graig.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Forms are available on the pontio website.





PARENT PAY

This system means that students and staff no longer to pay for school meals with cash. Instead they purchase their meals and snacks simply by presenting their Biometric finger code or individual identity card at the tills! The system also reduce queues at lunch time, and provides anonymous free school meals to pupils.

You will be able to put money on your child's account on line using a debit or credit card.

A Biometric consent form must be completed by parents in order for pupils to use the system.



SCHOOL UNIFORM, RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT

SCHOOL UNIFORM

All pupils are expected to wear full school uniform. All items of clothing should carry the child's name. Parental support is requested in order to ensure that all pupils wear the correct school uniform.

School colours: Royal Blue, Emerald Green, and Black

BOYS

WINTER UNIFORM

Jumper: Official Royal Blue ('Jerzees') 'V' neck with school logo

Trousers: Black

Tie: Green and blue

Shirt: Plain light blue cotton, long sleeved

Socks: Dark grey or black

Shoes: Black. No trainers.

Coat: Plain black coat

SUMMER UNIFORM

Polo Shirt: Official school polo shirt - pale blue with school logo. Option to wear school sport shorts.



MERCHED

WINTER UNIFORM

Jumper: Official Royal Blue ('Jerzees') 'V' neck with school logo;

Trousers: Black, plain, straight leg. Not jersey, no decoration or or flares, no crops. No fashion trousers

Skirt: Black 'school' skirt. Not more than 5cm (2") above the knee. No 'fashion' skirts allowed.

Tie: Blue and green

Blouse: Plain light blue cotton, long sleeved (no 'fashion' blouses)

Tights/Socks: Black

Shoes: Black. Heels no higher than 4cms (1.5"). No trainers.

Coat: Plain black coat

SUMMER UNIFORM

Polo Shirt: Official school polo shirt - pale blue with school logo



SPORTS CLOTHING

GIRLS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS KIT

In the Gymnasium, Athletics, Fitness

- Girls' school sport top
- Navy blue school sports shorts
- Trainers

On the field

- Girls' school sport top
- Navy blue hockey skirt or skort or school sports shorts
- Navy socks with school logo

Blue or black tracksuit (in cold weather)

BOYS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS KIT

- Boys' school sport top
- Navy blue school sports shorts
- Trainers

On the field

- Rugby shirt
- Navy shorts
- Rugby boots
- Navy sock with school logo

Blue or black tracksuit (in cold weather)

* School sports shorts will also form part of the summer uniform.

PLEASE NOTE:

HAIR

Pupils are expected to adopt suitable and acceptable hairstyles at all times. No extreme fashion 'cuts' or colours are allowed. For safety reasons, pupils are advised to tie long hair back off their faces.

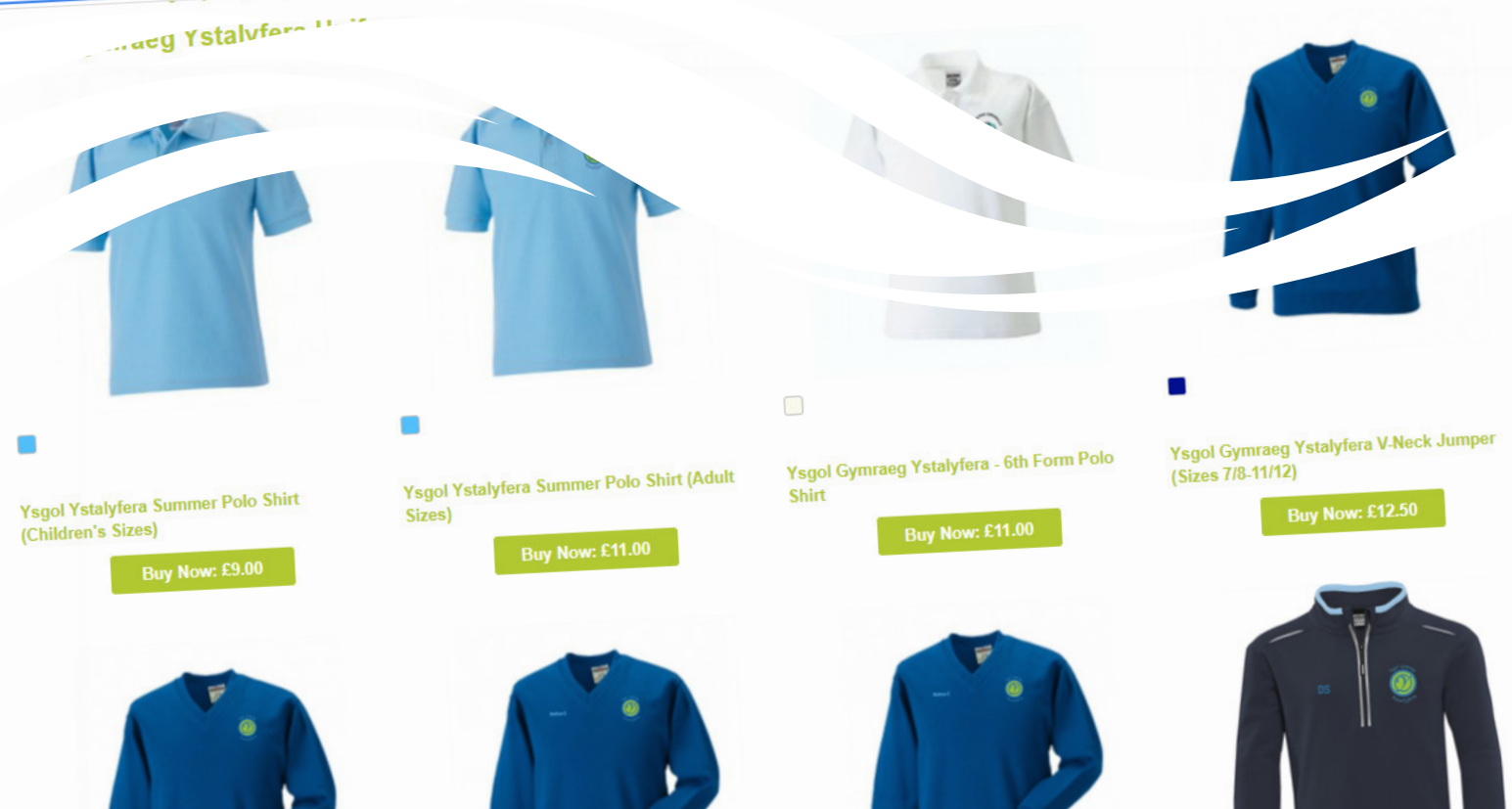
EAR-RINGS AND BODY JEWELLERY

We allow one stud in each ear. No body jewellery is allowed for school. Pupils will be asked to remove such jewellery.

NAME-TAPES

It is recommended that names are sewn on each article of clothing.





PURCHASING UNIFORM

YSGOL GYMRAEG YSTALYFERA SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

www.sportec.co.uk/contact-us

Sportec is a local company based in Neath which stocks all items you require for school uniform and PE kit. You can purchase online or call at their shop at Unit 5 Abbey Road Industrial Estate, Neath, SA10 7DN.

Items can be delivered free of charge directly to the school or to your home address (nominal charge).

Pupils' names can be embroidered on the right hand side of the jumper.

OFFICIAL SCHOOL LOGO



Sportec Website



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school has a full and varied programme of extra-curricular activities, which supports and underpins the formal curriculum.

The following societies meet regularly: Urdd, Science, Mathematics, Geography, History, Drama, Debating, Public Speaking, Orchestra, Choir, Whole School Production, Young Enterprise Schemes, Menter Iaith activities, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Crime Prevention Team, competitions of all kinds.

Homework Clubs and Departmental focus clubs also exist in order to improve pupil understanding and to accelerate progress. These include GCSE revision and coursework help sessions and are normally held at lunchtimes or after school.

Some of the sports organized and coached by the Physical Education Department include rugby, hockey, cricket, netball, cross-country, tennis, athletics, soccer, basketball, gymnastics, baseball, street hockey and badminton. The school has a gymnasium, a large sports hall, multi-gym and expansive playing fields.

Pupils are encouraged to use the facilities provided centrally by the LEA in the arts (residential artists and authors), environmental education and sports.

The school has a support centre in 'Stafell Stwnsh' where pupils are able to access advice and support from both youth workers and inclusion officers during lunch time and break time. The leaders organize various activities and visits, providing students with an opportunity to socialize in an informal atmosphere.





ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

TERM	TERM BEGINS	MID TERM HOLIDAY		TERM ENDS
		BEGINS	ENDS	
Autumn 2023	Friday 1 September (INSET Day)	Monday 30 October	Friday 3 November	Friday 22 December
Spring 2024	Monday 8 January	Monday 12 February	Friday 16 February	Friday 22 March
Summer 2024	Monday 8 April	Monday 27 May	Friday 31 May	Monday 19 July

IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
September 4 th	Term begins for Year 7
October 26 th	Year 7 Parents Evening (Form Tutor)
November 30 th	Christmas Fayre
December 21 th	Interim report
May 2 nd	Parents evening (Subjects)
July 12 th	End of year report

