

YSGOL Y STRADE



Governors' Annual Report to Parents

2016- 2017

Gareth Beynon Thomas, Chairman of the Governing Body

Dear Parent / Guardian,

It is my great pleasure to present to you the Governors' Annual Report for the school year 2016 -17. This has been another successful year for this school. The school's reputation and success has led to us becoming a Pioneering and Lead Creative School; these are exciting national developments that once again confirms the school's status.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to Mrs Heather Lewis who, after eight years as Headteacher, has decided to retire and move on to new challenges. I would like to thank the teachers and staff for their dedication as well as to the children for their academic and extra-curricular successes during the year that has gone by. I would also like to thank you, the parents, for supporting your children and making sure that they are in the right place at the right time to take part in the various opportunities afforded by school. This school certainly gives our children roots to grow and wings to fly.

I would also like to give my sincere thanks to the Parent Teacher Association for providing opportunities to socialise and raising money for our children. The PTA contributes annually towards the cost of additional resources for school.

The Governors would like to assure you that they take their responsibilities seriously, and do so by attending the various committees that meet regularly to discuss school policy and activities.

If you wish to discuss any matter included in this report you are welcome to contact the Head or the Chairman of Governors.

Yours sincerely,
Gareth Beynon-Thomas
Chairman of the Governing Body

Mr Geoff Evans, Head

I am pleased to record strong examination results once again this year. The progress made can be seen in the data that is appended at the end of this report. The teachers and students have continued to work hard to maintain the high standards set by Strade over recent years. Many other successes have been recorded on the school website, in our local papers and on Twitter.

We take pride in our partnerships with other schools and organisations in Wales, partnerships that help us develop our teaching and learning, and our pupils' wider experiences. Ysgol Y Strade is acknowledged to be a leading school in many fields, and we are now members of the Erasmus international scheme, an initiative that will develop our Global Learning Programme. We are also working with Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli and the Urdd in order to widen pupils' opportunities to socialise through the medium of Welsh outside of school hours, both on site and in the community. Increasing numbers of pupils are taking advantage of the Homework and after-school clubs held during the lunch hour and after school on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Considerable building work has taken place on site during the past three years. As a school we appreciate the modern resources and all the renovated rooms in the main building, and will be working hard to maintain and further improve the school environment.

It is important that we continue to discuss all aspects of the agenda for improving school in an open and honest manner, and the opinion of pupils and parents is an integral part of that agenda. Comments and suggestions made by pupils and parents have been incorporated in the school development plan. The School Council, the year councils and the Sports and Modern Language Ambassadors are encouraged to speak up on behalf of pupils and their discussions are mature and productive ones.

We want to be sure that we are aware of the opinions of all those who are connected with school. Therefore please remember to complete the questionnaires that are distributed at the end of the academic year and on parents' evenings so that we can have your opinion of our performance and, if appropriate, any ideas that we can adopt for the good of the school.

Thank you very much for your support and co-operation.

Geoff Evans
Headteacher

GOVERNING BODY - 2017-2018

Chairman of Governors: Mr Gareth Beynon-Thomas

Vice-Chairman of Governors: Mr Peter Dutton

Headteacher: Mr Geoff Evans

Clerk to the Governors:

Mrs Iris Williams, School Business Manager iris@strade.sirgar.sch.uk

Clerk to the Governing Body's Sub-Committees:

Mrs Beryl Bowen, Governor Support Officer bbowen@strade.sirgar.sch.uk

The Governing Body comprises **20** members:

The Head

6 Parent Governors

5 Local Authority (LA) Representatives

2 Teacher Representatives

1 Staff Representative

5 Co-opted Representatives who serve as COMMUNITY members

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	REPRESENTING	DYDDIAD GORFFEN
BEYNON-THOMAS	Gareth	AALL/LA	31/08/2020
DUTTON	Peter	AALL/LA	02/09/2020
DAVIES	Martin	AALL/LA	18/07/2020
HOPKINS(Cyng)	Gwyn	AALL/LA	04/09/2019
BROOM (Cyng)	Kim	AALL/LA	31/09/2021
HUGHES	Meilyr	CYMUNEDOL	16/05/2017
DAVIES	Sarah-Jane	CYMUNEDOL	19/10/2020
LLOYD	Vincent	CYMUNEDOL	04/11/2020
BURTON	Nerys	CYMUNEDOL	21/11/2020
SULLY	Robert	CYMUNEDOL	08/03/2021
EDWARDS	Eleanor	RHIANT	31/08/2020
HOPPING	Sara	RHIANT	12/06/2020
JONES	Alyson	RHIANT	06/11/2020
REES (Dr)	Ian	RHIANT	21/04/2020
WILLIS	Helen	RHIANT	06/11/2020
POWELL	Adam	STAFF DYSGU	01/10/2018
POOLMAN	Eleri	STAFF DYSGU	05/11/2018
ROLLAND	Bethan	STAFF ATODOL	30/10/2019
EVANS	Geoff	PENNAETH	

Aims of Ysgol Y Strade

School provides, within a happy, safe, Welsh-language community, the widest possible range of educational experiences in order to prepare our young people for the future. This enables every young person to achieve his or her true potential academically, practically and socially and to show respect and courtesy to fellow pupils and adults. Ysgol y Strade is a Welsh language school, and pupils are expected to use the Welsh language on every possible occasion both within and outside of the classroom.

Daily pattern

The timetable is organised to a pattern of 5 lessons a day over a cycle of ten days. Session times are shown below:

8.30 - 8.40		Registration
8.40 - 9.00		Service, pastoral period (8.40 – 9.15 on a Wednesday morning)
9.00 - 10.00		Lesson1
10.00 - 11.00		Lesson 2
11.00 -11.15		Break
11.15 -12.15		Lesson 3
12.15 -1.15		Lesson 4
1.15 - 2.10		Lunch time
2.10 - 2.15		Registration
2.15 – 3.15		Lesson 5

Dates of School Holidays 2017-18

Term	Starts	Half Term		Ends	Days
		Starts	Ends		
Autumn 2017	September 5	October 30	November 3	December 22	74
Spring 2018	January 8	February 19	February 23	March 29	54
Summer 2018	April 17	May 28	June 1	July 23	65
Fixed Inset days: Monday September 4, Monday April 16 Inset days (at school's discretion): Monday, January 8 th , Friday November 17 th ; Tuesday July 24 th .					2

Consultation Evenings for Parents

School provides opportunities for parents to discuss matters with teachers on the following evenings, between 4.00 and 6.30 p.m.

November 9th, 2017	Year 13 Parents
November 30 th , 2017	Year 7 Parents
December 14 th , 2017	Year 11 Parents
January 25 th , 2018	Year 10 Parents
February 1st, 2018	Year 12 choices evening for Year 11 parents
February 8 th , 2018	Year 8 Parents
March 8th, 2018	Year 10 choices evening for Year 9 parents
April 26 th 2018	Year 12 Parents
March 22 rd , 2018	Year 9 Parents

General

Number on roll	January 2017	1055
Number of Teachers	January 2017	66

Attendance

Pupil attendance	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
% Authorised absences	4.4%	4.2%	4.2%
% Unauthorised absences	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%
% Attendance	95%	95.3%	95.5%

Governing Body's attendance targets	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
	95.5%	95.5%	95.6%

Financial Statement

Financial matters are agreed upon in consultation with the Governing Body's Finance Sub-Committee. Below is a summary of school's financial statement for 2016-17

Costs	Income	Expenditure	End of year situation
Staffing		£4,010,187	
Buildings		£303,700	
Travel		£86,245	
Goods and Services		£645,946	
Income		-£1,047,713	
Net expenditure		£3,998,365	
Formula 2014/2015	£3,948,007		
Surplus 2013/2014	£206,373		
Avaiulable in total	£4,154,380		
Carried forward 2016/2017			£156,015

Pupil Performance

The results of the 2017 external examination results, namely the 2016/17 Summary Report of Pupil Achievement at 15 and 17 years of age (SSSP), are appended at the end of the report. The Governors would like to congratulate the pupils and staff of the school on their success at all levels, and wish to emphasise just how proud they are of school's good reputation. The Governors also noted, with some pride, the individual achievements of certain pupils and students.

KS3 Performance at Level 5+						
	2015	2016	2017	Family 2017	LEA 2017	Wales 2017
Welsh	92%	93%	99%	94%	92%	94%
English	91%	91%	95%	95%	90%	91%
Mathematics	92%	91%	99%	95%	92%	91%
Science	97%	95%	98%	97%	94%	94%
Core Performance Indicator (CPI)	88%	87%	97%	93%	88%	87%

KS4						
	2015	2016	2017	Family 2017	LEA 2017	Wales 2017
L2 Welsh	86%	84%	81%	78%	72%	73%
L2 English	85%	76%	79%	72%	69%	64%
L2 Mathematics (Best of)			66%	68%	64%	63%
L2 Science	93%	84%	87%	88%	79%	76%
L1	99%	100%	100%	99%	98%	94%
L2	98%	98%	87%	78%	73%	67%
L2+	75%	71%	61%	63%	57%	55%
CSI	71%	68%	60%	62%	56%	53%
Points (capped)	374	377	358	348	336	325

KS5						
	2015	2016	2017	Family 2017	LEA 2017	Wales 2017

% L3	100%	100%	100%	97%	98%	97%
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Pupil Destinations - 2016-17

Destinations this year	11	12	13
Return to School	103	75	5
Higher Education	-	-	63
Further Education / College	65	4	4
Training	2	-	3
Work	7	2	7
other	-	-	-

Curriculum and Organisation

Discussions concerning ERW Challenge Visits, pupil performance in external assessments and scrutiny reports on pupils' work, especially their response to teacher feedback, namely the learners dialogue, have taken place in meetings of the Governing Body. We have also considered the School's Self-evaluation Report and School Development Plan, transformation of the Additional Needs Provision, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Learning developments, new GCSE specifications, the Welsh Baccalaureate, revisions to the Curriculum following the Donaldson report, Year 10 and 12 choices and a review of the school staffing structure.

Detailed information about the school curriculum is available in booklets drawn up for pupils and parents, namely the School Prospectus, 14+ Learning Pathways and 16+ Learning Pathways. In addition, an open evening for Year 6 parents is held in October, a KS4 and Sixth Form Choices Evening is held in March and a higher education seminar for Year 13 students and parents takes place in September.

During the year Governors visit school departments in turn, and also attend governor training sessions.

Language Policy

Ysgol Y Strade is a category 2A school. Welsh is the official language at Ysgol Y Strade and all subjects, with the exception of English, are taught to GCSE standard through the medium of Welsh. At present, Mathematics and Science are taught in both Welsh and English in Years 9 – 11.

School operates in accord with Carmarthenshire's Strategic Language Plan in order to move the school along the language continuum. Since September 2015, A Level Biology has been offered in both languages. In KS3 and KS4 Welsh-medium Science and Mathematics lessons, lists of terms and subject vocabularies are given in Welsh and English. In addition, English-medium resources, books and ICT are regularly used alongside Welsh-medium resources to enrich pupils' linguistic, scientific and mathematical development. This ensures that every pupil can discuss the subjects in both languages and dispels any fear that may exist amongst those who think that studying Science and Mathematics through the medium of Welsh may cause difficulties for pupils after they leave school. At the moment departments are preparing on-line resources to help non Welsh speaking parents to support their children, and homework and after school clubs are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The Welsh Language

Welsh is the official language of School for extra curricular activities and the great majority of academic lessons. School is proud of our Welsh ethos and we take steps to ensure that this is maintained for every new cohort of pupils. The pupils who choose to attend this school are encouraged to speak Welsh around school, during extra curricular activities and in those lessons that are taught through the medium of Welsh. Parents are requested to support school in this respect by encouraging their children to speak Welsh, to respect the Welshness of the school and to encourage them to do their utmost to promote this on each and every occasion.

Policies

The Strategic Committee reviews school policies on a termly basis in a rolling programme, before these are adopted by the Governing Body. Ysgol Y Strade provides education in a supportive atmosphere, and strives to create an ethos that will serve as a medium to promote positive attitudes and values in a homely and secure environment.

Good discipline and rules applied in a fair and consistent manner are essential in order to safeguard order and standards within school. High standards of discipline are maintained by operating a clear disciplinary system through the use of SIMS points. School's Code of Conduct is included in the contact book, and expectations are discussed in tutorial lessons.

Pupils who break the rules are set work or must attend detention sessions. In accordance with Welsh Government guidelines, instances of serious misbehaviour can result in a period of exclusion from school. Instances of frequent misbehaviour are reported to parents.

School operates a clear policy when dealing with matters of bullying, and will respond at once if a problem of this nature should arise.

Additional Learning Needs 2016-17

School's aims and objectives state that we strive to cater for every pupil. This includes every pupil who has Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

The special educational needs can arise from a number of aspects, including: low academic achievement, high academic achievement, physical disability, psychological needs, social background, specific learning needs, anti-social behaviour.

In 2016-17, 18 pupils had statements of additional learning needs, with a number of other pupils earmarked as being in need of support. On occasion, statemented pupils are withdrawn from lessons so that they can be taught in small groups or individually. Where necessary they are also given support within the main-stream classroom environment. A number of other pupils receive specific help with reading, spelling and number during short sessions at the beginning of the school day. Some are also withdrawn from lessons for certain periods so that they can receive extra help.

A very close relationship is maintained between the Additional Learning Needs Department and other departments, as well as with external agencies e.g. the Educational Psychologist who regularly visits school.

Miss Rachel Davies, school's Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator, is responsible for planning and co-ordinating provision for pupils who have special learning needs. Statements are reviewed annually in a meeting arranged between individual parents and the county support services.

Mr Vincent Lloyd is the department's link Governor. 202 pupils are listed on the ALN register, distributed as follows:

Year	Statements	School Action and More	School Action
7	3	15	17
8	2	20	33
9	2	12	29
10	3	6	12
11	5	5	20
12	1	0	9
13	2	0	6
Total	18	58	126

A profile has been compiled of every pupil on the ALN register, namely the OPP (One Page Profile). The OPP includes the individual pupil's opinion, the factors that affect his/her learning during lessons, the results of any standardised tests and teacher targets.

A large number of pupils included on the ALN Register are given access arrangements to their external and internal examinations.

Able and Talented Pupils

Our primary schools share information concerning their pupils' talents with us before they reach Strade. Wide opportunities, both curricular and extramural, are afforded across the subject range to more able and talented pupils. Achievement data and challenging targets are used to identify and challenge pupils so that they may excel.

Sports

Governors believe that School's main sporting aims have been realised, namely:

- by providing a safe environment that motivates pupils and within which they can work towards general maturity
- by developing physical skills
- by encouraging excellence
- by promoting an awareness of the importance of health when exercising.

The following activities are offered:

Rugby	Badminton	Hockey
Soccer	Aerobics	Basketball
Swimming	Cross-country	Volley Ball
Athletics	Netball	Circuit training
Cricket	Creative Dance	Weight training
	Golf	5x60 activities
Gymnastics	Rounders	Duke of Edinburgh

In November a Celebration Evening 'Rewarding the Best' was held in the Stradey Park Hotel. Following an inspiring presentation by the young ambassadors and some of the sports council during the morning service, pupils were given the opportunity of voting for their 'Strade Star'.

Accessibilty Provision

The Governors are proud to announce that Ysgol y Strade's site and buildings are, and have been for some years past, accessible to pupils and adults who have a range of disabilities, and for wheelchair users. Disabled toilets are provided in the new buildings as well as a lift to the upper floors.

Provision of toilet facilities

Eight toilet locations are available to pupils, 4 for the girls and 4 for the boys. The toilet facilities are regularly checked, this being a feature of the Authority's cleaning contract. Pupils, via the work of the School Council, contribute to this work of monitoring the quality of these conveniences. We have taken action on questionnaire results by employing an on-site cleaner during the day to concentrate on keeping the toilet facilities clean.

Healthy School Scheme

Strade is a member of the National Healthy Schools Scheme and has attained Stage 4 and is aiming to attain Stage 5 this year. "A healthy school is one that succeeds in helping pupils to do their best and to build upon their successes". The school catering service fulfils the requirements of the 'Appetite for Life' scheme, and following meetings held with the School Council, over the past few years the choice of healthy options offered in the school refectory has greatly improved. The refectory and the sixth form café offer a selection of healthy snacks and drinks, a salad and fruit bar as well as a breakfast club.

All aspects of good health - emotional, mental and physical - are promoted. We promote a positive ethos where all members of the school community are important; staff members provide regular information on aspects of healthy living through the medium of PSE lessons, the BAC and specific Health Days.

Health and Safety

School's Health and Safety policy reflects the Governing Body's wish that all pupils and members of staff should receive their education and work on a secure site. All categories of staff employment are represented on the Staff Health and Safety Committee. Staff are urged to immediately report any deficiencies or perceived dangers to the Health and Safety Officer, the School Business Manager: iris@strade.sirgar.sch.uk.

School Prospectus

The School Prospectus is revised annually in order to include any changes that are required by Welsh Government and other relevant bodies. Copies are distributed to the parents of new pupils when they first join school or to those who transfer from other secondary schools. Copies are available on the school website or by email or, if a problem is encountered accessing these formats a hard copy is available, on request, from the school office.

Autumn 2012 Inspection and Post-Inspection Action Plan

School has drawn up an Action Plan in response to the chief recommendations made by the inspectors, and has made progress in each one of these recommendations as was recognised by Estyn in their post inspection visit held during February 2014. School continues to operate within these recommendations by following our School Development Plan. The Head regularly updates the Governing Body on how School is responding to these recommendations.

School Development Plan 2017-2018

School follows a Development Plan outlining the steps that are considered necessary to achieve school's main areas of improvement over the next three years. School's chief priorities include the following:

Target 1: Raise standards in all the main performance indicators.

Target 2: Improve the Literacy and Numeracy standards of KS3 pupils.

Target 3: Develop staff in order to ensure good teaching and learning, and to aim for excellence in the classroom.

Target 4: Prepare for changes to the curriculum following the Donaldson report, to include the digital competency framework.

Target 5: Ensure that school lessens the deprivation gap, and raises the standards of groups of learners (FSM, LAC, B/G, MAT, ALN)

Target 6: Maintain and strengthen school's relationship with stakeholders and the wider community.

Quantitative Targets 2017-18

KS3		KS4	
% L5+ Welsh	99%	% L2+	75%
		% 5+A*A	28%
% L6+ Welsh	71%	% L2+ FSM pupils	44%
		% 5+A*A FSM	11%
% L7+ Welsh	31%	% L2	90%
% L5+ English	97%	% L2 FSM pupils	66%
% L6+ English	70%	% L1	99%
% L7+ English	27%	% CSI	75%
% L5+ Maths	99%	% gap between Boys/Girls at L2	0%
% L6+ Maths	80%	Capped Average Wider Points Score	400
% L7+ Maths	39%	% L2 Welsh	82%
% L5+ Science	98%	% L2 English	80%
% L6+ Science	79%	% L2 Maths	78%
% L7+ Science	36%	% L2 GCSE Science	75%
% CSI	98%	%A*/A Welsh	25%
% CSI gap between Boys/Girls	0%	%A*/A English	25%
		%A*/A Mathematics	25%
		%A*/A Science	29%

KS5	
Average points score	900

Attendance	
Yr 7-11 pupils	95.6%
FSM/LAC pupils	90%

Other

The Governors are proud of the wide variety of links that school maintains with the community. A number of guest speakers were once again welcomed to school as part of the Personal and Social Education course, Work related Education and Baccalaureate-related work.

In addition, contributions were made during the year to a number of good causes and local activities, and visits and field trips in Wales, to England and abroad were arranged.

The 5/60 Officer, the Urdd officer, the Youth Worker and the Counsellor enrich pupils' experiences across the school. School maintains a very strong relationship with PC Huw Freeman, our link policeman. PC Freeman follows the 'School Beat' Teaching Programme and prepares lessons throughout the year on contemporary themes in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

School policies are regularly reviewed by the Governing Body. During 2016/17 the Language policy – Promoting the Welsh Language, Teaching and Learning, Examinations, "Time off" Policy for schools were given particular attention. The Finance and Marketing Sub-Committee discussed school's budgetary matters including the impact of grants such as the Pupil Deprivation Grant and the financial cuts that are foreseen over the coming years. During the year the Governing Body's Buildings Sub-Committee discussed the following matters: risk assessment - vehicular traffic on the school site, health and safety, site security, maintenance matters.

School Council minutes are regularly discussed in meetings of the Governing Body, and these include healthy eating in the school refectory.

Pupil Successes

The Governors are gladdened by, and take pride in, the successes recorded by school pupils in examinations, sports, eisteddfodau, concerts, competitions, humanitarian activities and a number of other fields. It is always a pleasure to hear, whilst away from the school environment, people speaking highly of the school and of the praiseworthy behaviour of the pupils. We extend our congratulations to pupils and staff, and long may those efforts continue.

