

ACHIEVE PROSPECTUS



YSGOL
AFON WEN
Achieve

Expanding
horizons

YEAR 9 to YEAR 11

welcome

Croeso

Mrs C Crockett - Headteacher

I am delighted to introduce you to our unique and vibrant community.

Our prospectus aims to give you a comprehensive feel for life here at Ysgol Afon Wen, highlighting our values, aspirations, and the dynamic environment we foster for both pupils and staff. I am pleased to welcome you to the prospectus of our new All Age School - Ysgol Afon Wen, which will serve the children in our community from September 2024.

At Ysgol Afon Wen, we are committed to nurturing the potential within every pupil. Our Triple AAA Promise will inspire and ignite the learning spark by activating learning, advancing curiosity, and achieving success. Through this promise, we will create an environment where every pupil can flourish.

Choosing the right school for your child is a significant decision, and we understand the weight of this choice. Your child's happiness and success are paramount, and we are committed to providing a balanced environment to ensure these outcomes. We are committed to offer an outstanding education that gives every child who joins us the best possible start in life. We strive to be the best school for your child, working tirelessly to help them develop into well rounded individuals prepared for the next stages of their lives.

Our school is not the creation of a large primary and secondary school on one site, but the development of a truly inclusive 3 to 16 learning community. We are creating an all-age school ethos by embracing the best aspects of innovative practice and providing excellent teaching and learning for all our pupils.



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Children have one chance at education, and they deserve the best. Our role is to ensure they receive it. We maintain the highest expectations for our pupils and ourselves, constantly seeking to improve the quality of education we provide. We value the partnership with pupils, staff, and parents, working together to achieve our shared goals - together!

I am very much looking forward to working with you and your child to ensure they become respectful, resourceful and successful young people in the future.

Proud of
our history,
confident
in **our future**

why choose Ysgol Afon Wen

Why opt for an all age school?

- All Age schools come in various forms, including different layouts, staffing structures, and age ranges.
- At Ysgol Afon Wen, we operate as a single school with pupils aged 3-11 and 11-16 on one site.
- Our core values are consistent throughout the school, fostering a unified environment.
- Our staff work as one cohesive team, sharing professional development and learning experiences with pupils across Activate, Advance and Achieve phases.
- Teachers at Ysgol Afon Wen, have the opportunity to teach different year groups, promoting collaboration and a diverse learning experience for both pupils and educators.

Key Staff - Advance Phase

Mr D Jones - Associate Assistant Headteacher ACHIEVE

Miss H Boyce - Progress Leader for Year 9

Miss M Jenkins - Progress Leader for Year 10

Mrs C Morgan - Progress Leader for Year 11





vision, values & ethos

At Ysgol Afon Wen, we are committed to nurturing the potential within every pupil. Our **Triple AAA Promise** will inspire and ignite the learning spark by activating learning, advancing curiosity, and achieving success. Through this promise, we are dedicated to creating an environment where every pupil can flourish.

We aim to engage minds with innovative and dynamic educational experiences. Our curriculum is designed to challenge and inspire, encouraging exploration and fostering a lifelong passion for knowledge. At Ysgol Afon Wen, learning is an adventure, and we strive to make every moment a step towards greater understanding and personal growth.

By empowering individuals to reach their full potential, we ensure that our community shines brightly, now and in the future. We believe that every pupil has unique strengths and abilities, and our goal is to help them discover and develop these talents.

Our supportive and inclusive environment ensures that every member of our community feels valued and motivated to succeed.

To achieve our **Triple AAA Promise**, we ensure five core values are at the heart of our work:



our school structure

How our school is structured . . .

There are three faculties and three phases that make our school whole.

Subject areas are organised into the three main faculties



Our three phases



Within each team there is strong wellbeing support

our curriculum Year 9 to Year 11

Activating Learning: We provide a stimulating and interactive learning environment that caters to diverse learning styles. Our dedicated teachers use innovative teaching methods to make learning engaging and effective.

Advancing Curiosity: Curiosity is the driving force behind all learning. We encourage our pupils to ask questions, explore new ideas, and develop a love for discovery. Our curriculum is designed to foster a spirit of inquiry and creativity.

Achieving Success: Success is not just about academic achievement; it's about personal growth and development. We celebrate every milestone throughout your child's journey and support them in setting and achieving their goals. Our comprehensive approach ensures that our pupils are fully prepared for future challenges and opportunities that life presents!

We have one curriculum and assessment model from Year 1 to Year 11.

We aim to:

- Provide a stimulating learning environment
- Provide pupils with high levels of challenge
- Provide excellent standards of education, both vocational and academic
- Provide enrichment activities which stimulate social and cultural awareness
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning
- Provide objective, informed and evaluative advice and material to pupils to enable them to develop their career potential





our curriculum Year 9 to Year 11

Our Achieve phase comprises of Year 9, Year 10, and Year 11 pupils. This phase ensures through careful design that all pupils prepare for their GCSEs in Year 9 and complete their GCSEs (Years 10-11). It is our purpose to ensure that all pupils receive excellent support and guidance.

The timetable is constructed of fifty, one hour lessons rotated fortnightly. The pupils have lessons in Art, Drama, English, French, Geography, History, ICT, Mathematics, Music, PE, RSE Teamwork, RVE, Science, Technology and Welsh.

The curriculum is fully integrated to provide the necessary holistic approach within and across AoLEs. This includes in lesson design (chosen skills and content) and by providing cross-curricular learning experiences that link to overarching exploration themes.

In Years 10 and 11, pupils work towards accredited courses, for most pupils this will be GCSE/vocational qualifications. Pupils follow the compulsory core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. There is a plethora of option subjects to select in Year 9. The option box choices are designed to ensure that all pupils undertake a broad and relevant curriculum, which does not restrict future choices.

Option subjects include Art, Agored, Business Studies, Construction, Drama, Engineering, French, Food and Nutrition, Geography, Health & Social Care, History, Information Technology, Music, PE, Product Design, Religious Studies, Computer Science, Media, Textiles, Photography and Sports.

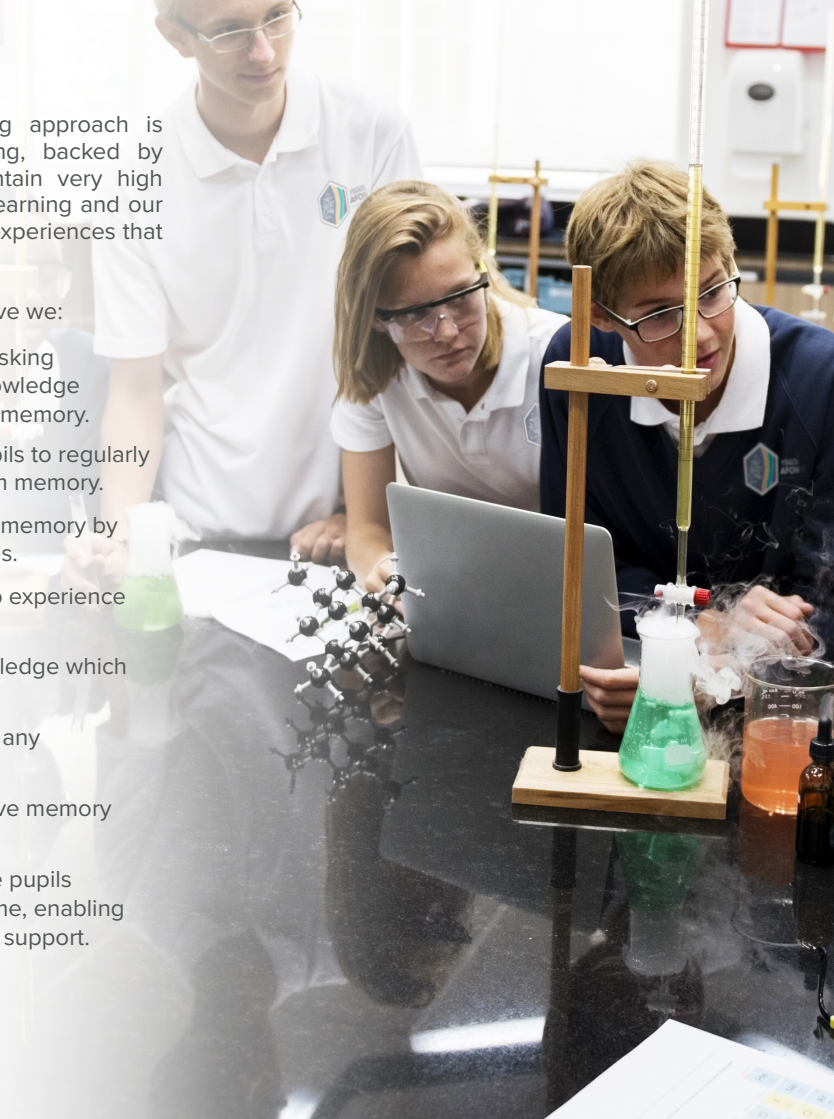
Pupils also study statutory lessons in Personal and Social Education, Religious Education, Physical Education, Welsh Bacallaureate and Welsh. Equality and Diversity BTEC is offered to most groups, along with finance qualifications.

learning and teaching

In the Achieve Phase, our teaching approach is grounded in the science of learning, backed by solid educational research. We maintain very high expectations for our pupils and their learning and our goal is to create memorable learning experiences that captivate them with engaging content.

To maximise our pupils' ability to achieve we:

- Employ inquiry-based learning by asking numerous questions to transfer knowledge from working memory to long-term memory.
- Minimise forgetting by allowing pupils to regularly partake in recalling information from memory.
- Address the constraints of working memory by explaining concepts in gradual steps.
- Model extensively to allow pupils to experience expert thinking.
- Connect new lessons to prior knowledge which enhances pupil understanding.
- Oversee initial practice and correct any misunderstandings.
- Encourage deep thinking; we believe memory is a byproduct of thought.
- Emphasise the next steps to ensure pupils learn what they need at the right time, enabling personalised learning and targeted support.



beyond the curriculum expanding horizons

Extensive Opportunities:

We provide pupils with numerous opportunities beyond the standard curriculum through a variety of extra-curricular clubs. These clubs allow pupils to explore new interests and develop diverse skills. In our Achieve Phase, these clubs include:

- Sport
- Technology
- Expressive Arts
- Sciences

Emphasis on Reading:

We prioritise reading because it has a profound impact on educational outcomes. Pupils who read frequently achieve higher levels of success. Our approach to teaching reading is highly effective, ensuring that our children develop strong reading skills that benefit them throughout their lives.

House System

Our House system fosters friendly competition and a school community spirit through a range of activities. In our Achieve Phase, these activities include:

- Eisteddfod
- Karaoke
- Sport
- Dancing
- Baking
- Poetry

Curricular Enrichment through Trips:

We enhance our curriculum with exciting trips that enrich classroom learning. These trips are local, gradually expanding to more distant locations as pupils progress through our school.





additional learning needs ALN

The Welsh Government is dedicated to enhancing the expectations, experiences, and outcomes for children and young individuals with additional learning needs. To achieve this goal, they have introduced the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act, aimed at revamping the existing systems for Special Educational Needs (SEN) within schools. Ysgol Afon Wen, like all educational institutions in Wales, has embraced the ALN Act.

Ysgol Afon Wen upholds inclusive principles and provides a range of services to cater to every pupil's unique requirements. Pupils with Additional Learning Needs are integrated into mainstream classes and mixed-ability groups, where they may receive supplementary support from our instructors. The class teacher is informed about any additional learning needs present in the class and tailors instruction accordingly. Depending on the complexity of the needs and required interventions, pupils may access support during classes or through specialised sessions.

Ensuring equitable treatment for employees, pupils, and all members of the school community is a core value at Ysgol Afon Wen. We are committed to preventing any form of discrimination against individuals in our procedures, practices, or service provision.

Our accessibility plan is available on the school's website under the policy section.





our facilities

In Autumn 2024, when our pupils in the Achieve Phase join us, we will transition to our new cutting-edge facilities. These exceptional amenities will offer our pupils more chances to activate their learning, advance, develop and achieve in a fresh and inspiring setting.

This setting of Ysgol Afon Wen will provide:

- Spacious and well-lit classrooms equipped with IT resources.
- Dedicated spaces for various subjects like art, music, drama, science, product design, textiles, food technology, and computer science.
- A modern theatre and contemporary dining and outdoor areas.
- Expansive grounds and a variety of sports facilities including a gymnasium, a large sports hall, and grass pitches.

A Net Zero Carbon School

Our school prides itself on being inclusive and accommodating to all. It will be one of the first Net Zero carbon all-age schools in Wales, a source of great pride for both students and teachers

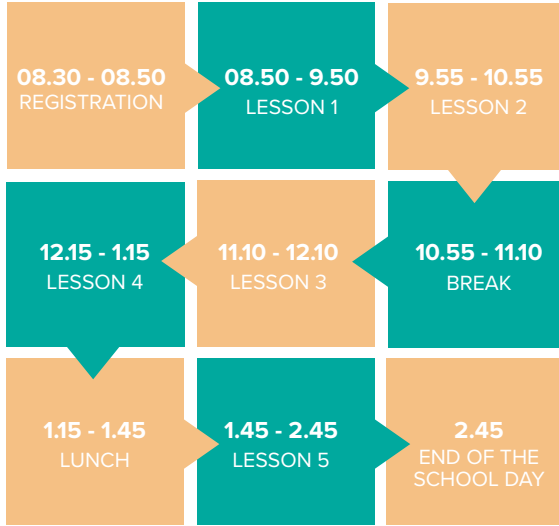


Grŵp Herio Cymru
Sero Net 2035

Wales **Net Zero 2035**
Challenge Group

our school day

Achieve Year 9 to Year 11



Pupils are not allowed to leave school during the school day without permission.

attendance

At Ysgol Afon Wen, we expect all pupils to have 95% or more attendance. When children attend school consistently, they are more likely to do well with their studies but also build strong relationships and feel connected with the school community.

It is vitally important that your child's absence is reported to us on the first day of absence and each subsequent day of absence unless there has been medical authorisation for a period of absence granted on day one. Absences should be reported via the school office.

Medical evidence is required to authorise absences.

Our uniform Year 9 to Year 11

What uniform do our pupils need to wear?

UNIFORM ITEM	PLEASE PURCHASE FROM
COMPULSORY ITEMS	
White Polo Shirts (badged)	Any Supplier / Badged - MST Sports Ltd and The Welsh Shop
Navy Jumper / Cardigan (badged)	Any Supplier / Badged - MST Sports Ltd and The Welsh Shop
Dark Grey Trousers / Skirts / Pinafores	Any Supplier
Dark Grey Tailored Shorts	Any Supplier
Yellow Gingham Dress (Nursery to Year 6)	Any Supplier
Plain Black Shoes	Any Supplier
PE Black Top (Badged)	Any Supplier / Badged - MST Sports Ltd and The Welsh Shop
Black PE Joggers / Shorts / Leggings	Any Supplier
PE Sport Top - Top Layer	Any Supplier / Badged - MST Sports Ltd and The Welsh Shop
OTHER UNIFORM INFORMATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hoodies are not allowed in school.● Pupils may wear one small plain stud earring. Please do not wear any facial piercings to school. All piercings must be able to be removed during the school day.● Make up should be minimal / natural and please do not allow false nails to be worn to school.	
FOR EMBROIDERY ITEMS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MST Sports Ltd - 6 Windsor Place, Ynysybwl, Pontypridd CF37 3HR● The Welsh Shop - Unit B1, Taffsmead Rd, Treforest Ind Est, Pontypridd CF37 5TF	

arriving and departing school

As a school, we promote and support sustainable modes of transportation within our school community. By encouraging walking, cycling, and the use of public transportation, we aspire to enhance the wellbeing of our pupils and reduce our environmental impact.

Entering the school site

- Pupils will enter site via the main pupil entrance (Year 7 to Year 11)
- Pupils will enter via the Activate/Advance yard (Year 3 to Year 6)
- Pupils will be met by their class teacher at the classroom door (Nursery to Year 2)

By Car:

There are available parking facilities onsite, however these are limited. At all times we would encourage families to participate in active travel where possible. We operate a restricted system on site in the mornings and afternoons to ensure the safety of our pupils. Staff will not release your child until you arrive to collect them. Please do not worry if you are running a few minutes late.

If you expect to arrive later than five minutes, please can you get in touch with a member of the Achieve school team.

Learning starts at 8.30am and we expect pupils to be on site from 8.25am at the latest. They will be met by the form tutor who will support them to prepare for the day ahead.

By School Transport:

We operate restricted movement at both ends of the day. Families should be mindful of this when dropping / collecting their child to school.



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Expanding horizons

YSGOL AFON WEN 3-16 SCHOOL
YEAR 9 to YEAR 11

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