



**GOVERNING BODY
ANNUAL REPORT
TO PARENTS
2024-2025**

YSGOL Y STRADE

A message from the Chair of Governors...

Dear Parent / Guardian,

It is my pleasure to present the Governing Body's Annual Report for the 2024-2025 school year for your attention. Ysgol Y Strade has once again been a hive of activity over the course of the academic year, both in and out of the classroom. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Headteacher, the management team and all members of staff for their unprecedented dedication in ensuring the school's continued high levels of academic and cross-curricular success are maintained. I am also aware that the school is actively planning for the future and has a number of exciting developments to introduce during the next year or two.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Parents and Teachers Association, who hold social activities to raise money for our children. They volunteer their time continuously over the course of the year so as to be able to contribute to the costs of additional resources for the school at a time when finances are very challenging.

I would like to thank my fellow governors who are very keen to assure you that they take their duties seriously and do so through the various committees that meet regularly to discuss the school's policies and activities.

I would also like to thank you as parents and carers for your support over the years. Your support means that the school can continue to provide the best possible opportunities for your children to thrive and excel.

You are welcome to contact the Headteacher or myself as Chair of the Governing Body if you would like to discuss any issue contained in the report.

Yours faithfully

Gareth Beynon-Thomas
Chair of Governing Body

A Message from the Headteacher ...

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This Annual Report of the Governing Body gives you a useful insight into some of the school's key features and also its performance in a number of areas. Please take the time to read it and absorb the detail.

You may also request a paper copy by contacting Mrs Beryl Bowen, Clerk to the Governing Body on 01554 745100 or beryl.bowen@ysgolystrade.org.

Geoff Evans
Headteacher

Ysgol Y Strade's Aims

The school provides, within a happy and safe Welsh language community, the widest possible range of educational experiences, preparing our young people for the future. This enables all pupils to achieve their true potential academically, practically and socially and to show respect and courtesy towards classmates and adults. Ysgol Y Strade is a Welsh school, and the pupils are expected to use the Welsh language at every possible opportunity, both inside and outside the classroom.

Governing Body - 2024-2025

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Chair of Governing Body: | Mr Gareth Beynon-Thomas |
| Vice-Chair Governing Body: | Mr Roger Bowen |
| Headteacher: | Mr Geoff Evans |
| Clerk to the Governing Body: | Mrs Beryl Bowen (beryl.bowen@ysgolystrade.org) |

There are **20** members on the Governing Body, including:

The Headteacher

6 Parent Governongs

5 Local Authority Representatives

2 Teacher Representatives

1 Staff Representative

5 Co-opted Community Representatives

| SURNAME | NAME | REPRESENTATION | END DATE |
|---------------|---------|----------------|------------|
| VACANCY | | LA | |
| BEYNON-THOMAS | Gareth | LA | 31/08/2028 |
| BOWEN | Roger | LA | 02/02/2026 |
| BROOM (Cllr) | Kim | LA | 03/09/2029 |
| DAVIES | Martin | LA | 17/07/2028 |
| | | | |
| DENMAN | Sian | COMMUNITY | 31/08/2029 |
| HOPPING | Sara | COMMUNITY | 08/01/2029 |
| OWENS | Sarah | COMMUNITY | 03/02/2026 |
| STUART | Julie | COMMUNITY | 31/08/2029 |
| VACANCY | | COMMUNITY | |
| | | | |
| BOWEN | Mark | PARENT | 15/05/2029 |
| EVANS | Ben | PARENT | 15/12/2028 |
| HAWKINS | Jamie | PARENT | 28/02/2027 |
| HEYES | Emma | PARENT | 05/04/2026 |
| REES-DAVIES | Trudi | PARENT | 15/12/2028 |
| ROGERS | Steffan | PARENT | 15/12/2028 |
| | | | |
| HUGHES | Daniel | TEACHING STAFF | 01/10/2026 |
| JONES | Heulwen | TEACHING STAFF | 05/11/2026 |
| MORRIS | Bethan | STAFF | 31/10/2027 |
| EVANS | Geoff | HEADTEACHER | |

Governing Body Meeting with Parents

No meetings with parents were requested/held during the 2024-25 academic year

Changes to the Annual Parents / Governor Meeting (2013)

Section 94 School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the act) makes important changes to the previous legislative arrangements in respect of the Annual Parent/Governor Meetings. It provides new arrangements whereby parents can request a meeting with a governing body.

However, the parents will need to satisfy the four (4) statutory requirements when calling a meeting which are follows: -

- (i) that the parents of 10% of registered pupils, or the parent of 30 registered pupils (whichever is the lower) must sign a petition requesting a meeting;
- (ii) the meeting must be for the purpose of discussing matters relating to the school;
- (iii) the maximum number of meetings that parents can request in any school year is three (3);
- (iv) there must be sufficient school days left in the school year to allow a meeting to be held.

Further to the points noted above:

- a) meetings must be held before the end of a 25-day period;
- b) the 25-day period commences the day after receipt of the petition but does not include any day which is not a school day;
- c) if another meeting is required to be held as a result of a different petition the 25-day period will not commence until the day the other meeting has been held;
- d) there must be sufficient days left in the school year to allow a meeting to be held before the end of the 25-day period;
- e) meetings will be open to all parents of registered pupils at the school, Headteacher and any other person invited by the governing body;
- f) notification of meetings to parents must include the date, time and venue of the meeting and the matter or matters to be discussed.

Governing bodies will need to inform the parents annually of the right to petition using the powers provided by Section 94.

These arrangements have been adopted by the school since September 2018. In essence, the regulations no longer require a school to hold the annual meeting with parents unless such a meeting is requested by the parents of pupils attending the school. To date we have not received a petition to hold a parents' meeting pursuant to the above act.

The name/address for service of a petition requesting a meeting with the school governing body is:

Mrs Beryl Bowen
Clerk to Governors
Ysgol Y Strade
Sandy Road
Llanelli
SA15 4DL

Email address: beryl.bowen@ysgolystrade.org

Further advice and details about how parents may go about requesting a meeting with a Governing Body is available at the school, and/or on the Welsh Government website at:

<https://gov.wales/educationandskills>

School Holiday Dates 2025-26

| Term | Start | Half Term | | End |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| | | Start | End | |
| Autumn 2025 | September 1st | October 27th | October 31st | December 19th |
| Spring 2026 | January 5th | February 16th | February 20th | March 27th |
| Summer 2026 | April 13th | May 25th | May 29th | July 20th |
| Designated HMS days: | | INSET days allocated by school: | | |
| Monday, September 1st, 2025 | | Friday, November 14th, 2025; Monay, January 5 th , 2026; Friday, February 13 th ; 2026; Friday, March 27 th , 2026; Monday, June 20th 2026. | | |

Advisory Evenings for Parents

The school provides opportunities for parents to discuss with the school's teaching staff during the following evenings between 4.00 and 6.30 o'clock.

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------|--|------------|---|
| 02/10/2025 | Year 7 Pastoral Evening | | | Year 10 Options |
| 04/12/2025 | Year 11 | | 09/03/2026 | |
| 15/01/2026 | Year 10 | | | (for Year 9 pupils) |
| 29/01/2026 | Years 12/13 | | 25/11/2025 | Year 12 Options (for Year 11 pupils) |
| 12/02/2026 | Year 8 | | | |
| 26/02/2026 | Year 7 | | 23/10/2025 | Open Evening |
| 12/03/2026 | Year 9 | | | |
| | | | | |

Financial Statement

Financial matters are agreed through the Governors' Finance Sub-Committee. This is a summary of the school's financial statement for 2024-2025:

| Costs | Income | Expenditure | End of Year situation |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Staffing | | £6,602,308 | |
| Buildings | | £528,153 | |
| Transport | | £38,716 | |
| Energy and Services | | £899,450 | |
| Income | | £1,740,316 | |
| Nett expenditure | | £6,328,311 | |
| Formula 2024/2025 | £5,903,218 | | |
| Surplus 2023/2024 | £335,392 | | |
| Monies available | £6,238,610 | | |
| Carry forward to 2025/2026 | | | -£89,701. |

Pupil Destinations - 2024-2025

| Destinations by Year | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Apprenticeship | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Current Status Unknown | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Further Education FT | 85 | 8 | 6 |
| Further Education PT | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| HE | 0 | 0 | 51 |
| JGW + Engagement | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Job FT no formal training | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Job FT with formal training | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Job PT no formal training | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| Non-Employed – actively seeking | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Non-employed – not ready to enter | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Year 11 | 1 | 0 | |
| Year 12 | 97 | 0 | |
| Year 13 | 0 | 88 | 0 |
| Year 14 | | 0 | 4 |
| Total | 201 | 101 | 87 |

External Examination Results – Summer 2025

GCSE

| Points Score: | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Capped 9 | Literacy Average | Numeracy Average | Science Average | Skills Challenge Certificate Average |
| Strade 2025 | 364.7 | 42.1 | 37.4 | 39.5 | 40.8 |
| Strade 2024 | 378.8 | 43.9 | 40.1 | 41.3 | 39.4 |
| Strade 2023 | 372.1 | 43.5 | 39.6 | 41.4 | 32.1 |

| % GCSE grades | | | | |
|---------------|------|------|------|--------------------|
| | A*-A | A*-C | A*-G | Including We/En/Ma |
| Strade 2025 | 22 | 76 | 96 | 55 |
| Strade 2024 | 21 | 78 | 99 | 65 |
| Strade 2023 | 28 | 75 | 92 | 60 |

| % A-Level grades | | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| | A*-A | A*-C | A*-E |
| Strade 2025 | 34 | 75 | 93 |
| Strade 2024 | 25 | 74 | 94 |
| Strade 2023 | 34 | 79 | 97 |

Attendance

| | Attendance 2024-25 (%) | Absent with permission % | Absent without perm % |
|--------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| School | 88.3 | 9.1 | 2.6 |
| County | 87.2 | 8.0 | 4.8 |
| Wales | 89.1 | 6.5 | 4.4 |

Curriculum

The school has adopted a Curriculum for Wales framework for all year 7, 8 and 9 learners. The intention of our curriculum is to raise the aspirations of all learners. As a school we have carefully planned how to support all learners to realize the four purposes of the curriculum and to reach their potential. The school continues to embed the new ALN Code for Wales and plan our provision to meet the needs of different groups of learners. The four purposes are central to CfW and the starting point as we plan our curriculum.

Our school aims to support our learners to be;

- ambitious, capable learners, who are ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- principled, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, who are ready to live fulfilling lives as valuable members of society

Our curriculum will develop compulsory cross-curricular skills such as literacy, numeracy and digital competence. Our curriculum will enable learners to develop competence and ability in these skills and extend and apply them across all Areas. Learners will have opportunities across the curriculum to;

- develop listening, reading, speaking and writing skills
- be able to use numbers and solve problems in real situations
- be confident users of a range of technologies to help them operate and communicate effectively

Detailed information about the school's curriculum can be found in presentations and websites prepared for pupils and parents, namely the School Prospectus, Learning Pathways 14+, and Learning Pathways 16+. In addition, an Open Night

'The school in action' will be held for parents of Years 5 and 6 of the family of feeder schools in October, a GCSE options evening for parents and year 9 learners in March and a Sixth form options evening in February for parents and year 11 learners.

Our school curriculum is continuously reviewed in order to respond to professional enquiry, the changing needs of learners and social contexts and needs. The reviews will take into account the views of stakeholders and be approved by the Governing Body. We will publish a summary of our curriculum and revise the summary if changes are made to the curriculum during the review process.

Language Policy

Ysgol Y Strade is a category 3 school. Welsh is Ysgol Y Strade's official language and all subjects, except English, up to GCSE are taught through the medium of Welsh. Mathematics and Science are taught through the medium of Welsh and English in years 9-11. The school operates based on the targets of Carmarthenshire's Strategic Language Plan to move the school along the linguistic continuum. In Science and Mathematics lessons taught through the medium of Welsh, in years 9, 10 and 11, a list of terms and subject vocabulary are provided in Welsh and English. In addition, English-medium resources, books and digital resources as well as Welsh are regularly used to enrich the pupils' linguistic, scientific and mathematical development. This ensures that all pupils will be able to discuss the subjects through the medium of Welsh and English, thus removing any worry that may exist among those who believe that scientific and mathematical education can only be achieved through Welsh, making it difficult for pupils who have left school.

The Welsh Language

Welsh is the school's official language for extracurricular activities and the vast majority of academic lessons. The school is proud of its Welsh ethos and ensures that this is maintained for each new cohort of pupils. Pupils who choose to attend the school are encouraged to speak Welsh at all times including during extracurricular activities and in lessons that are taught through the medium of Welsh. Parents are asked to support the school in this regard by encouraging their children to speak Welsh, to respect the Welsh culture of the school and to encourage them to do their best to promote this on every occasion.

The school communicates with parents bilingually and all letters or correspondence released by the school are in Welsh and English.

Policies

The school's policies are reviewed termly on a rolling program by the sub-committees before they are adopted by the Governing Body. You can contact the school if you have any questions or want to look at a policy that does not appear on the school's website.

Additional Learning Needs 2024-25

The aim and objectives of the school state that we strive to cater for all pupils. This includes all pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). The additional learning needs may arise from a number of aspects including: low academic achievement, physical disability, psychological needs, social background, specific learning difficulty, anti-social behaviour.

In 2024-2025 there were 2 pupils (yr.11 and 12) on a Special Educational Needs statement and 15 pupils (yr.7-12) with an Individual Development Plan due to Additional Learning Needs. Some pupils with an Individual Development Plan statement or plan are sometimes withdrawn from lessons so that they are taught in small groups or individually in the work Hafan. They are also supported within the classroom in mainstream lessons as needed. The school continued in 2024-2025 with the Nurture Class in years 7 and 8 where the teaching is suited to the needs of a specific group of learners. A number of other pupils are given specific support in reading and a number are given morning intervention sessions. In addition, some pupils are withdrawn from lessons for periods in order to receive extra support.

There is a very close link between the Additional Learning Needs Department and other departments within the school and the ethos that ALN is part of everyone's work has been embedded across all aspects of school life. In addition, the Additional Learning Needs Department is closely linked to external agencies e.g. the Educational Psychology Service who regularly visit the school.

Miss Nia Williams, the school's Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator at the time, was responsible for planning and co-ordinating provision for pupils and special educational needs/additional learning needs. The statements/UDPs are reviewed annually, at a meeting scheduled with the individual parents and county support services.

Mrs. Sara Hopping is the associate governor for the department.

| Year | Individual Development Plans | School Register – Support Scheme |
|------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7 | 10 | 37 |
| 8 | 5 | 32 |
| 9 | 6 | 50 |
| 10 | 6 | 50 |
| 11 | 2 | 22 |
| 12 | 1 | 23 |

A support plan was created for a number of pupils who needed extra support. The Support Plan shows what is difficult for a particular pupil and also how to support the pupil; this information is available on ClassCharts so that all members of staff can access it. To further assist the teachers in providing the best education/strategies for all pupils we set out further information on ClassCharts including access arrangements.

A number of pupils now receive entry arrangements in their external and internal examinations including a large number of pupils on the SEN/ALN register.

Pupils with Disabilities

- In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 Ysgol Y Strade will aim to ensure access for pupils with any disabilities - physical, mental or learning.
- We strongly believe in providing equal access to the curriculum as well as providing equal opportunities for pupils with physical and mental disabilities as well as learning disabilities. To realise this aim we will discuss needs with the pupils' parents/carers and the Local Education Authority to decide upon the most appropriate learning plan for each individual child. The success of the programme provided will be monitored annually and modified accordingly. This will be done through discussion with the parents/carers in annual review meetings.
- The Disability Discrimination Act makes it compulsory for schools to prepare a Disability Equality Plan and an associated action plan that includes the steps the school intends to take to promote disability and accessibility equality.

Gifted and Talented Pupils

Our primary feeder schools share information with Ysgol Y Strade on pupils' gifts and talents before they arrive. There are wide curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for able and talented pupils across the subjects. Achievement data and challenging targets are used to identify and challenge pupils to excel.

Physical Education, Health and Wellbeing

Within the PE/ Wellbeing lessons pupils have the opportunity to build their mental and emotional wellbeing by developing elements such as resilience and perseverance whilst continuing to develop confidence, belonging and empathy. During these lessons, pupils are presented with physical challenges to overcome whilst linking with the theoretical and academic aspects they have covered in their theory work. One of the key purposes of this content is to promote an important understanding of the link between health (physical, mental and social well-being) and exercise.

The following courses are offered at KS4 and 5 to further develop in the field of Physical Education:

GCSE Physical Education
L2 Sports

A/AS Level Physical Education
BTEC Level 3 Sport

Experiences:

- Extracurricular clubs
- Compete in a variety of school, county and all-Wales games in a variety of activities.
- We support the Urdd competitions on an annual basis.
- Physical Education and Health and Wellbeing Tours
- Opportunities to lead, organise, award and coach a range of activities
- Taster sessions of different activities
- Inter-club days such as Race Fun and competitive Games (such as Netball, Rugby and Football)
- Close liaison with Carmarthenshire's active - expanding opportunities for pupils such as the Gold/Silver Sports Leadership and Young Ambassadors Programme.

The following activities are offered:-

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Rugby | Badminton | Physical Fitness | Crossfit |
| Football | Team Building | Basketball | Gymnastics |
| Folk Dancing | Cross Country | Cricket | Indoor Athletics |
| Athletics | Netball | Circuit rehearsal | Rounders |
| Cricket | Dance | Weight Exercise | Tennis |
| Ball Skills | | | |

Accessibility Plan

The Governors are proud to be able to announce that for several years now Ysgol Y Strade's site and building has been accessible for pupils and adults with a range of disabilities and wheelchair users. The new buildings include toilets for the disabled and lifts to the upper floors.

Provision of Toilet Facilities

There are 8 toilet locations provided for the pupils including 2 for girls, 2 for boys and 4 unisex. Toilet facilities are inspected regularly and is part of the school's cleaning contract under the school's service level agreement with the Local Authority. The pupils, through the work of the School Council, contribute to the work of monitoring the quality of these facilities.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Our shared vision for the school community has enabled us to continue to develop a strong sense of family. This has been achieved by working in partnership with all members of the school community.

We value strong relationships with parents and carers, supported by open lines of communication. We have continued to develop a programme of events to support better links which include open evenings, information evenings and annual community business engagement events to name but a few.

Very positive and productive relationships exist with our partner primary schools. We have a well established and effective process for representatives from each of the schools in the partnership to come together throughout the year, to collaborate on curriculum, pedagogy and assessment. This is supporting and enhancing the specific transition activities in place for learners. Our partnership with our cluster primaries is enabling us to develop a shared understanding of progression, a central goal of the Curriculum for Wales.

During the last few years, the 'Strade in the Community' program was introduced where we collaborate with various organizations and external services to enrich the learning experiences of our learners. These experiences bring many opportunities for our learners and their families. Examples include working together with the Fire Brigade, Foothold and a local boxing gym. The star of the program is the joint work with 'Hafan Y Coed' care home where the learners socialize and support the residents on a weekly basis.

Pupils from Ysgol Y Strade are also involved in a diverse range of other community activities, some of which form part of their D of E or Welsh Bacalaureate qualifications. The school also maintains and develops partnerships with a range of external agencies who form a valuable part of the wider community of support at Ysgol Y Strade.

Health and Safety

The school's Health and Safety policy reflects the Governing Body's desire to ensure a safe environment for pupils and staff alike. All employment categories are represented from among the staff on the staff Health and Safety Committee. This committee reports back to the Governors' Buildings Committee. It is emphasized to the staff that the Health and Safety Officer, the School's Business Manager, bethan.morris@ysgolystrde.org should be informed of any defects / dangers immediately.

School Prospectus

The School Prospectus is adjusted annually to include any changes required by the Welsh Government and other relevant bodies. Copies are available on the school website or by email should there be a problem, a hard copy will be provided by request to the school office.

School Development Plan 2025-2026

| By the end of July 2026, our intention is to; | |
|--|---|
| 1. | Ensure the effective use of attendance data to raise attendance rates for specific groups of learners including learners who are vulnerable and eligible for FSM |
| 2. | Ensure consistent provision for ALN learners and closely monitor progress so that everyone has full access to their education |
| 3. | Raise the standard of teaching across the school which includes; Ensuring timely and purposeful feedback to learners in the minority of departments Ensuring an appropriate challenge to all abilities by effectively differentiation |
| 4. | Provide purposeful opportunities for learners to apply their numeracy skills in more complex contexts across the curriculum |
| 5. | Strengthen the writing skills of the learners specifically writing accuracy |

HEALTHY EATING & DRINKING

The food and drink provided in school can make a positive contribution towards giving children and young people a healthy, balanced diet and encouraging them to develop good eating habits. The aim is to achieve a whole-school approach towards healthy eating and to encourage healthy attitudes to food and drink from an early age. This is in line with the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience within the Curriculum for Wales.

The school canteen provides a range of different, healthy dishes each day. The school offers a wide range of dietary options on a daily basis. Water fountains are located throughout the school for pupils to access drinking water or to fill up their drinking bottle and water is provided free of charge in the canteen at lunchtime.

PTA Contribution

The Parent and Teacher Association have contributed to the red wall, a 'mural' by Jenks Art in the school's Gym, to resources for the Additional Learning Education (ALN) department and supported extracurricular activities within the school, eg 'The school at work'.

A Youth Worker and Counsellors enrich pupils' experiences across the school. The school also has a very strong relationship with PC Alison Timothy, our police liaison officer. PC Timothy follows the 'School Beat' Learning Program and provides lessons on contemporary themes in key stages 3, 4 and 5 throughout the year.

The minutes of the School Council are regularly discussed in meetings of the Governing Body including matters of healthy eating in the school canteen.

Pupil Successes

The Governors rejoice and take pride in the success of the school's pupils in examinations, sports, eisteddfodau, concerts, competitions, humanitarian activities and many other areas. It is always a pleasure to hear from people outside the school about the good reputation it has in general and about the commendable behavior of the pupils.

We extend our congratulations to the pupils and to the staff and wish continued success for all their efforts.