

YSGOL GYMRAEG YSTALYFERA BRO DUR

(3-18 School at the Ystalyfera site and 11-16 at the Bro Dur site)



Governing Body's Annual Report to Parents - Full Report

2023-24

Chairman of Governors:

Mr. Tudur Jones

Vice Chair of Governors:

Mr. Adam Amor

Headteacher:

Mrs. Laurel Davies

Introduction to Annual Report 2023-24

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It gives me great pleasure once again to write an introduction to Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur Governing Body's Annual Report to Parents 2023-'24.

Firstly, the Governing Body would like to express our gratitude to the parents and friends of our school, on all three sites, for their continued support and valuable contributions during the past year. The role of the governing body is to ensure that everyone involved in the school – both pupils and staff – can achieve their full potential, which contributes to ensuring a healthy and prosperous school community. In turn, we as Governors owe a significant debt of thanks to Mrs Laurel Davies and all the teaching and support staff for providing our children with a wide variety of valuable experiences, as well as a high-quality education.

There were so many notable highlights during the school year, one of which was the enormous success enjoyed by individuals and groups at the National Urdd Eisteddfod at Montgomeryshire, in a variety of competitions. Another outstanding feature of the school's work was the generous sum of money raised by pupils for the benefit of local charities and worthy causes. This year again, groups of pupils took advantage of a wide variety of opportunities to travel abroad, as a part of organised educational and sporting trips, for which I thank all the staff who selflessly give their time and energy to enhance the experiences of our young people throughout the year. An enormous source of pride for the Primary Department was to receive the 'Language Charter Gold Award', which recognises their fantastic work in promoting the Welsh language. Well done!

I would like to congratulate the pupils at Ystalyfera and Bro Dur on their excellent success in the Summer 2024 external examinations, and we extend our very best wishes to those who are about to embark on the next phase of their lives, be it at university, college, the workplace, or a return to Canolfan Gwenallt.

We certainly look forward to another successful and prosperous year at Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur in 2024-'25, whilst ensuring you all that the Governing Body will continue to work diligently in supporting the school to the best of our ability.

Tudur Jones

Chairman of the Governing Body

YSGOL GYMRAEG YSTALYFERA BRO DUR - GOVERNING BODY 2023-24

Mr. Tudur Jones
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur
Ynysydarren Road
Ystalyfera
SA9 2DY

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO PARENT MEETINGS

As a result of the School Standards and Institutions (Wales) Act 2013, which came into enforcement on 4th May 2013, a school's governing body is no longer required to hold an annual meeting for parents.

The School Standards and Institutions (Wales) Act 2013 now enables parents of registered pupils at the school to request up to three meetings a year with the governing body by petition, providing that:

1. The petition contains the signatures of the required number of parents of registered pupils at the school, which is the lowest of the following:
 - a) Parents of 10% of registered pupils, or
 - b) Parents of 30 registered pupils (calculated using the number of registered pupils at the school on the date the petition is received).
2. The requested meeting must be to discuss a matter relating to the school.
3. No more than three meetings shall be held during the year in which the petition is first received.
4. There are enough school days left in the school year for the meeting to take place.

Members of the Governing Body 2023-24

		<u>Elected</u>	<u>End</u>
Community			
Ordinary – Vice Chair	Adam Amor	08/02/2022	07/02/2026
Ordinary	Edwina Ranft	08/02/2022	07/02/2026
Ordinary	Helen Jones	08/02/2022	07/02/2026
Ordinary	Julie Jones	08/02/2022	07/02/2026
Ordinary	Justyn Knight	08/02/2022	07/02/2026
AAI			
Ordinary – Chairman	Tudur Jones	01/04/2023	31/03/2027
Ordinary	Cllr. Alun Llewelyn	01/09/2021	31/08/2025
Ordinary	Cllr. Helen Ceri Clarke	01/09/2021	31/08/2025
Ordinary	Cllr. Rosalyn Davies	01/09/2021	31/08/2025
Ordinary	Gavin Thomas	01/04/2021	31/03/2025
Non-voting			
Clerk to the Governors	Siân Parry		
Voting			
Head	Laurel Davies		
Parent			
Ordinary	Emma Jones	22/09/2023	12/09/2027
Ordinary	Carys Nia Jones	22/09/2023	12/09/2027
Ordinary	Sara David	17/05/2021	16/05/2025
Ordinary	Kerys Thomas	17/05/2021	16/05/2025
Ordinary	Janelle Carter-Jones	17/12/2021	16/12/2025
Ordinary	Meleri Tweed	17/12/2021	16/12/2025
Teaching staff			
Ordinary	Richard Davies	01/10/2022	30/09/2026
Ordinary	Ffion Wen Jones	11/03/2021	10/03/2024
Support Staff			
Ordinary	Andrew Bravin	19/07/2023	18/07/2027
Pupils			
	Head boy & Head girl		
Total membership 20			
	Quorum is 10		
Designated Governors			
Safeguarding	Kerys Thomas		
ALN	Meleri Tweed		
Data	Julie Jones		
Health & Safety	Adam Amor		

ANNUAL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2024-25

Term	Begin	Half Term		End
		Begin	Finish	
October 2024	2 September	28 October	1 November	20 December
Spring 2025	6 January	24 February	28 February	11 March
Summer 2025	28 April	26 May	30 May	21 July
INSET Days – Monday, September 2 nd ; Friday, October 25 th ; Monday, 3 rd March; Friday, June 27 th ; Monday, July 14 th ; Monday 21 st July.				

Schools will be closed to pupils for INSET / staff preparations for 6 days.

A copy of the school calendar is available on the school website: www.ysgolystalyferabrodur.cymru

Timings of the day at Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur

Ystalyfera Secondary		Ystalyfera Primary		Bro Dur Secondary	
8.25am	Staff on site	8.25am	Staff on site	8.25am	Staff on site
8.30am	Morning Staff Meeting	8.30am	Morning Staff Meeting	8.30am	Morning Staff Meeting
8.40am	Morning Registration Assemblies	8.40am	Registration Assemblies	8.45am	Registration Assemblies
9.00am	Lesson 1	9.00am	Lessons	9.05am	Lesson 1
9.50am	Lesson 2			10.05am	Lesson 2
10.40am	Break	10.15am	Break	11.05am	Break
11.00am	Lesson 3	10.30am	Lessons	11.20am	Lesson 3
11.50am	Lesson 4			Mon - Junior	
12.40pm	Dinner	11.50am	Dinner	12.20pm	Lesson 4
1.30pm	Lesson 5	12.40pm	Lessons	1.25pm	Dinner
2.20pm	Lesson 6	1.45pm	Break	Friday	
3.10pm	End of the Day	3.00pm	End of the Day	12.20pm	Dinner
				1.15pm	Golden Hour
				2.15pm	Golden Hour
				3.15pm	End of the Day

New Staff Appointments for September 2023

Ystalyfera	Bro Dur
Mr Elidir Dafydd (Head of Welsh); Mrs Amy Wright (Science); Mr Dafydd Millard (Physical Education); Mrs Holly Ellis (Music); Miss Emma Grimes (Maths); Miss Martha Rees-Swain, Mrs Lowri Hughes, Miss Erin Brittain Jones (Education Support); Miss Jodie McCarthy (Health and Wellbeing Support); Miss Elin Owen (Welsh Language Support Officer).	Mr Lloyd Mordecai (English); Mr Thomas Rapsey (Art); Miss Amy Matthews (Maths); Mr Charlie Jones, Mr Taliesin Golding, Mr Tyler Kelly (Education Support).

School prospectus

A new school prospectus was published in September 2017 and there have been minor adjustments since publication. The School Prospectus will be 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, a hard copy will be provided upon request to the school office.

Number on roll/staffing

1552 were on role (PLASC January 2023) with 100 teaching staff.

Progress in setting and achieving academic and other targets.

The school conducts an evaluation of its performance and prepares an annual improvement plan with an annual strategic plan. This covers departmental and national priorities including spending requirements and training needs. Governors are regularly updated on progress made on key areas of the development plan, at its termly meetings.

Report on post-Inspection priorities 2023-24

Post Inspection Priorities	Progress against actions in the School Development Plan
<p>Refining our plans for literacy provision across the learning continuum from senior staff skills to develop the Reading and Speaking and Listening skills of pupils from 3-19 years</p> <p>C2: Mapping the provision for holistic skills across the learning continuum developing and planning valuable opportunities for development from 3-19 to increase pupil learning effectiveness.</p>	<p>Two twilight sessions in January and April evenings used to focus on this work. Staff received training and have identified a 3 tier vocabulary.</p> <p>Most departments have embarked on creating a learning environment focussed on reading and developing subject specific language.</p> <p>Inset days focussed on sharing good practice.</p> <p>June lesson observations focussed on evaluating impact.</p> <p>Primary department achieved Gold Welsh Language Charter status.</p> <p>Ystalyfera site achieved Bronze Award.</p> <p>Literacy leaders in place.</p> <p>Purchase of 'Darllen Co' as a resource to improve reading skills.</p> <p>Holistic skills have been mapped across the continuum.</p> <p>Cluster conference arranged.</p>

<p>Provide a suitable challenge for all learners to ensure they reach their full potential through opportunities, teaching strategies, and tracking and monitoring.</p>	<p>Heads of Department have developed a stronger understanding of standards and we have ensured consistency across all departments.</p> <p>Through Inset days we have focussed on sharing good practice which was identified through lesson observation cycles.</p> <p>The Research Cycle has focussed on key whole school priorities and we have created a bank of resources from each member of staff's own personal research.</p> <p>School Teaching and Learning model has been finalised and all staff and pupils have contributed to its formation.</p> <p>Summer results prove that the focus on a broader range of courses have benefited pupils across the range of abilities.</p> <p>Assessment in the new Curriculum for Wales has made good progress with adaptations made to reporting and targeting.</p> <p>Outdoor learning in the primary department has further developed and local grants have enhanced the outdoor area.</p> <p>80% of all grades at KS5 were A*-C.</p>
<p>Continue to develop leadership by upskilling current leaders and developing future leaders at all levels to ensure high standards, develop potential and build capacity.</p>	<p>13 middle leaders completed the Middle Leader course with Partneriaeth.</p> <p>All SLT have received training in Coaching and Mentoring.</p> <p>The primary department has trialled personal professional growth models.</p> <p>All staff were members of Professional Learning Communities (PLC's).</p> <p>KS3 and KS5 numbers are strong as a result of effective marketing.</p> <p>The school has received a grant for wrap-around provision for pre-school pupils.</p>
<p>Ensure support and wellbeing systems are consistently implemented across all areas to increase each pupil's engagement with education.</p>	<p>The primary department has a strong Children's Rights Committee</p> <p>Excellent progress across the school to improve attendance as a result of the tracking and monitoring processes.</p> <p>The introduction of 'Class Charts' has improved monitoring processes within the school.</p> <p>The new tracking and monitoring of pupils on the ALN register is now in place.</p> <p>All pupils with ALN have been moved to the new system as required by the new ALN Code.</p>

Estyn Visit

A copy of the full report was received from Estyn following their visit in February 2021. High praise for many vital aspects of the school's work, including our focus on meeting the emotional needs and wellbeing of our pupils. Following the evaluation of progress made against the recommendations from Estyn, the school formulated a new SIP, and progress against new priorities are outlined above.

Community Work

Our philanthropic committee has worked actively to support good causes, both locally and nationally, with various activities which have raised funds for the following:

Macmillan - £135
 Children in Need - £2067
 Brains Trust - £97.50
 Save the Children - £559
 Mr X Appeal - £2000
 Christmas Boxes - £1000
 Food Bank £500

Eisteddfod Urdd Dur a Môr 2025 - £607.45

Sponsored Walk Bro Dur - £2497.91 (Just Giving) Urdd Dur a Môr and School fund

Sponsored Walk Ystalyfera - £3204.23 (Just Giving) Ewings Sarcoma Research Trust and School fund

Joseph Smile £1932.57

We have further enhanced our relationships with various partners, both locally and nationally. We are grateful to businesses and community groups for their support in ensuring the best possible provision for pupils across the whole age-range and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support. The Youth Service, Ospreys Rugby, the Phoenix Project with the Fire Brigade along with Riverside and Bulldogs have worked with us to develop pupil self-esteem and team skills. Once again, we worked with our partners for our PSE days, namely the Road Safety team, WCADA, Nurses, Swansea University and UWTSD, Cardiff Met, the Coleg Cymraeg and Menter Iaith. Careers Wales has delivered sessions for pupils across the age range and KS4 pupils attended the careers fairs at the Brangwyn Hall and Margam Park. We invited the Good News For Everybody Society to present New Testaments to year 7 pupils followed by a service conducted by Mr Steffan Jones of Pontardawe. Our Caffi Cymraeg, in partnership with Swansea University, has been a huge success with pupils in the primary department, welcoming members of the community to the school to improve their Welsh speaking skills.

Our new website is constantly updated, and it's encouraging to see increased use of the information and news shared through this platform.

Annual report - Finance

Below is a delegated out-turn statement and a non-delegated statement for the financial year, as prepared by the Head of Finance.

School Financial Statement 2023-24

YGYBD – Primary

	Delegated	Non-Delegated
Teachers Salaries	£499,476	
Non-Teaching Salaries	£143,255	
Wages inc Catering and Cleaning		
Other Employee Expenses	£500	
Other Direct Costs		
Premises inc Contracts	£39,301	
Capitation		
Capital Financing		
Admin, Exams, LA, Transport	£40,073	
Other Activities		
Grants	-£102,734	
Other Income	-£53,815	
Contribution to/(from) reserves	£11,334	£11,334
	£577,390	£11,334

YGYBD – Secondary

	Delegated	Non-delegated
Teachers Salaries	£5,426,664	
Non-Teaching Salaries	£1,362,409	
Wages inc Catering and Cleaning		
Other Employee Expenses	£296,272	
Other Direct Costs		
Premises inc Contracts	£687,917	
Capitation		
Capital Financing		
Admin, Exams, LA, Transport	£1,023,614	£1,368,905
Transportation		£993,771
Other Activities		
Grants	-£725,899	
Other Income	-£812,995	
Contribution to/(from) reserves	-£147,504	-£147,504

Pupil Performance

This year's external examinations returned to 'normal' with no adaptations, early release or adjustments of grade boundaries. Examination processes returned to pre-pandemic processes. It is a pleasure to share a summary of our results for summer 2024:

GCSE YGYBD	2024
5A*-C	79%
5A*-C (M&C/S – Lit or Language)	51.9%
5A*-C (M&C/S – Language)	50.6%
5A*-G	98%
5A*/A	21.5%
Score 9 capped	376.1

Attendance

Without doubt, pupils learn best when they are at school and most of our learners want to be in school and appreciate the structure and social framework it provides. We will continue to work to keep our attendance levels as high as possible, during a period where post-Covid challenges continue to affect families and individuals.

Secondary Data 2023-24	
Boys	90.50%
Girls	89.56%
Total	90.01%

Primary Data 2023-24	
Boys	93.04%
Girls	89.22%
Total	91.24%

The following strategies are in place to reduce unauthorised absences:

- Weekly monitoring by Heads of Year.
- Careful tracking by the Heads of Year and the Education Welfare Officer.
- Timely communication (letters) with parents.
- Termly report on attendance.
- Meetings to include Assistant Headteacher, Heads of Year, Education Welfare Officer, School Support Officer, to discuss pupil attendance.
- Meetings with parents to provide support / challenge where appropriate.

Discipline

We believe that all schools have a duty to create a caring and supportive environment where it is possible for all pupils to develop happily and confidently. Our school's Positive Behaviour Policy aims to promote consistency, build staff confidence, and promote an ethos of supportive teamwork between the school, parents and external support agencies. Our aim is to ensure that we take firm, consistent and fair action with every incident to restore relationships and move forward constructively. School rules will be communicated and discussed in the registration periods and all pupils are expected to comply. Our positive behaviour promotion policy ensures that there is very little misconduct within and outside the school walls.

The school implements a clear policy in dealing with bullying issues and responds immediately if such a problem arises.

Health and Safety

We have worked closely with county Health and Safety officials throughout the year. We have ensured that all our Health and Safety processes and procedures are up to date and followed by all staff and pupils. At the Ystalyfera site we were visited by county Health and Safety officers to monitor our processes and systems: we received very positive feedback.

Review of Policies

The Governing Body reviewed and updated policies during the year, and statutory policies can be accessed on the school's website.

Special Educational Needs

Our aim is to provide an inclusive education for all pupils, ensuring that all young people reach their full potential. As a 3-18 Welsh medium school on two sites, we are fortunate to have a strong and dedicated team of staff who ensure that the educational and emotional needs of all pupils are met. We have excellent dedicated sections, at Y Gilfach on the Ystalyfera site and Y Gorwel at the Bro Dur site where pupils receive small group and 1:1 intervention sessions. Mr. Aled Maddock (Ystalyfera Secondary), Mr. Robert Colwell (Ystalyfera Primary) and Mrs. Gwenllian Dooher (Bro Dur) are our ALN coordinators and are responsible for planning and co-ordinating provision for pupils and organising the work of the dedicated team of support staff. All statements are reviewed annually at Annual Review Meetings involving the young person, parents and relevant external agencies.

A person-centred approach is used throughout the school to ensure that the voice and opinions of children and young people are central to all decisions made. The three ALNCo's regularly use the Four + One review tool when reviewing pupils' Individual Education Plans and when holding review meetings to ensure that pupils' progress is celebrated, and pupils are challenged to progress and develop further academically and socially. Mrs. Meleri Tweed is our designated ALN Governor. During this academic year, our ALN Coordinator and Governors have fulfilled the requirements of the new Code of Practice which came into force in September 2021. We are moving pupils over to the new ALN system in line with Welsh Government guidelines.

Many pupils on the ALN Register now receive access arrangements in their external and internal exams, which ensures that they're able to fully demonstrate their understanding and knowledge of their chosen subjects. The Department runs several specialist workshops including Rapid Reading, Rocket Phonics, the numeracy workshop, Talkabout and Lego therapy, as well as individual programmes which include in-depth teaching and Speech and Language programmes.

Bro Dur Site

Number of pupils on the ALN roll	ILP	School Maintained IDP	LA Maintained IDP	Statement
Total (51)				
7 (6)	2	5	1	0
8 (16)	13	0	0	3
9 (11)	1	7	0	3
10 (7)	7	0	0	0
11 (10)	3	7	0	0

Ystalyfera Site

Number of pupils on the ALN roll	ILP	School Maintained IDP	LA Maintained IDP	Statement
Ystalyfera Site				
Nursery (9)	4	3	2	0
Reception (4)	3	1	0	0
Year 1 (4)	3	1	0	0
Year 2 (5)	3	2	0	0
Year 3 (5)	4	0	0	1
Year 4 (3)	1	2	0	0
Year 5 (7)	6	0	1	0
Year 6 (7)	3	3	1	0
Year 7	61	5	2	0
Year 8	26	2	0	2
Year 9	13	2	0	1
Year 10	16	1	0	4
Year 11	7	2	0	1
Year 12	6	0	0	0
Year 13	0	0	0	0

Access for Disabled Pupils

The governing body is mindful of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET) in its daily activities. The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils can participate in the school curriculum and (if they wish) in activities such as after school clubs, leisure/sporting events and educational visits. All aspects of accessibility, including access to written information, are included in the planning process and accessibility plan.

Safeguarding and Welfare of Pupils

Our designated Child Protection Officers ensure that all pupils receive support and intervention where necessary. We have five members of staff trained as Level 3 Child Protection Officers and our Designated Safeguarding Governor (Mrs Kerys Thomas) provides additional support. Heads of Year, a wellbeing officer, a

school counsellor, Cynnydd team and a school nurse all play vital roles in supporting pupils, and the Buddies have now re-established themselves following the Lockdown period.

Healthy Schools

During the year the school has focused on promoting healthy eating and drinking, adhering to the Healthy Eating Regulations. The Catering Manager has received Saffron Training, which ensures all meals have been nutritionally tested. We are committed to the Healthy Eating and Drinking in Schools Bill which incorporates the guidance for 'Taste for Life'. We are heading towards Phase 4 of Healthy Schools. We teach children about the importance of a balanced diet through PSE, Design Science and Technology lessons and through our new Health and Wellbeing curriculum, as well as through thematic events throughout the year.

Toilets

The school has adequate toilet facilities in all blocks. Nedd and Main Blocks (Ystalyfera) and Bro Dur have unisex toilets and in Eirion Block (Ystalyfera) there are separate toilets for girls and boys. Toilets are cleaned daily, and their cleanliness is supervised throughout the day.

Preparing for a new curriculum

Our vision for our new curriculum is now well established. We have considered in detail what we should teach, how we will teach it and focused on how our provision will ensure that our learners make progress in realising the Four Purposes of the New Curriculum. As a 3-18 school we have been able to focus on understanding the learning continuum and have focused on developing the aspiration and self-confidence of our learners. As a two-site school, we have been able to work together to share best practice and ensure that the curriculum focuses on developing pupils' skills through experiences and relevant, contextual information. The 'Dysgu Gorau Dysgu Byw' curriculum was extended to year 8 at the Ystalyfera site with pupils focusing on developing their independent learning skills, self-belief, and ability to work within a team. The 'Amser Aur' ('Golden Time') curriculum is taught at both Bro Dur and the primary department. To access the Curriculum Statement for Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur, please use the link below:

<https://www.ysgolystalyferabrodur.cymru/site/data/files/documents/cig/99B376C680EBD8969A3E66E81330341B.pdf>

Welsh

Welsh is the official language of the school, for extra-curricular activities and almost all academic lessons. The school is proud of its Welsh ethos and is taking steps to ensure this is maintained for all new cohorts of pupils. Parents are asked to support the school in this regard by encouraging their children to speak Welsh, respecting the ethos of the school, and encouraging them to always do their best to promote this key aspect. The school's Language Policy is in place, which sets clear strategic targets with the aim of developing confidence and language skills with pupils across the whole 3-18 age range. In 2021 each department introduced a language policy, and we ensure that all staff adhere to the policies within their department which operate to realise the vision of the whole school language policy.

Transition

Cluster work continues to be a strength, with cluster meetings every half term. We have a focused Cluster Development Plan that ensures we have shared ownership of a holistic approach to delivery. The cluster's 2023-24 priorities were:

- Ensuring the development of pupils' skills across the cluster with a primary focus on reading and oral skills.
- Ensuring that pupils make effective progress in line with Curriculum for Wales by developing a shared understanding of progress.
- Leadership development.
- Increase pupil attendance.
- Increase pupil transition aged 4 / 7 / 11.

A full transition programme was undertaken focusing on providing face-to-face experiences for pupils across the cluster. We continued to use Microsoft TEAMS for a Modern Foreign Language transition course which was a great success with pupils developing French, Spanish, and Italian skills. Question Time sessions were held with pupils, and in the summer term Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to attend a transition day in preparation for September 2025.

Senedd Ysgol (School Senate)

The Senedd Ysgol had another successful year. Several fund-raising projects were led by the Senedd Ysgol, including planning, preparing and implementing a fundraising day for Children in Need and organising a rousing show for Red Nose Day. They were very proud of the funds raised. As part of the activities a competition was organised for Year 7 pupils to create posters to advertise the events, so it was great to be able to involve a wide range of learners. In addition, the Senedd Ysgol played an active role in planning and conducting interviews for new Senedd Members and new staff appointments. With a major focus in the school's improvement plan on developing the use of the Welsh language, the Senedd created and distributed an online questionnaire to gather pupils' views and presented them to the SLT.

Another very busy year for the Senedd with each member contributing effectively.

Maintenance

Work to refurbish the 2G field at Bro Dur continues, as well as an annual investment to try to raise the standard of the rugby pitch, in line with county guidelines. We had confirmation of funding for the new skills Hub at Bro Dur which will start in September 2024 and the wrap-around provision at Ystalyfera which will start in November 2024. We look forward to being able to expand our provision following these two investments.

Sports Facilities

The school has two 2G pitches, two rugby pitches, four tennis courts/netball fields (Ystalyfera site), two netball fields (Bro Dur site), two sports halls.

Sporting Achievements

Ystalyfera Site

Year 5 and 6 Rugby Competition – the Urdd's inaugural rounds and participation in the local rugby festival.

Football: Girls and Boys Year 5 and 6 team competed in the Urdd competition.

Netball: Tournament for Years 5/6 organised by 'Pass'.

Primary athletics: 3rd in small schools' category

Cricket: Urdd - Year 4, won 1 gem.

Kloe Jones - WAKO World Champion (Gold medal in light kick, Gold in light continuous, Bronze in points fighting and Bronze in team points)

Mabli Lloyd - represented Neath Port Talbot College Regional Netball Academy Squad (under 15s)

Evie Cooper - Welsh champion and Welsh Schools champion in hammer throwing

Ifan and Wil Davies - represented the South Wales cricket team

Maggi Richards - represented the County in hockey

Llinos Selby - 1st in the world with the Welsh dance team.

Boys and girls' basketball teams - participation in the NBA Junior tournament

Boys' tennis team (Yr.8) - reached the South Wales final

Rhiannon Wheeler - Won a football cap - Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales. Member of the Swansea squad and captain of Afan-Neath team.

Lowan Herdman - Member of the Wales Under 18 Schools squad

Betsan Roberts-Truman and Harri Roberts-Truman - Welsh Junior Team (triathlon) at the British Championships

Nick Fisk-Jones - Member of Wales Rugby Under 18 development team

Cellan James and Cellan Davies - Welsh Academicals Rugby

Ellis Lewis and Callum Kerswell – Members of Ospreys Rugby under 18's squad

Bro Dur Site

Football Girls Yrs. 8+9 – Welsh Cup Semi-final

Girls' Rugby Under 14 – Ospreys Under 14's Champions + Welsh Cup Champions 15 a side

Girls' Rugby – Urdd Under 14's 7 a side champions

Girls' Netball Yrs. 7+8 – Quarter finals plate competition at the Urdd national tournament

Under 14 boys' hockey – Reached the South West Wales final

Rugby 7 a-side boys Yr.9 – Winners of the bowl at the Bishopston 7 a-side tournament.

Rugby 7 a-side Year 11 boys – Plate winners at the Urdd National 7 a-side tournament

Girls' Football Yrs. 7+8 – Urdd Football National Champions (second year running).

Girls' cricket Yrs. 7+8 – Welsh Cricket finals

Year 7 boys' cricket – West Glamorgan Cricket finals

Girls' tennis Yrs. 8+9 – Welsh Tennis tournament finals

Wil Jones, Elis Cox, Joseph Forward, Cian Evans, Aled Davies, Elis Thomas – Aberavon Under 16's Schools Rugby.

Mali Walker Hunt – Wales Under 15's Netball

April Thomas – Tennis Wales

Osian Davies – Wales Athletics

Elis Cox - Boys Clubs of Wales Rugby squad

Erin Young and Tiana Callaghan gain 'Leaders in Rugby' qualification

Finnley Austin – West Wales Athletics + West Wales Champion (60m / 100m / 200m) – second in the National Championships.

Steffan Shopland, Steffan Bankhead, Finnley Austin, Ava Thompson – Afan Nedd Tawe Athletics Team

Cian Evans, Wil Jones, Elis Cox – Ospreys Under 16 Rugby Union

Elis Thomas – Wales Rugby League U16's

Wil Jones and Elis Cox – Ospreys Rugby Academy

Cellan David – South Wales Cricket

Moli Thomas – Wales Under 15’s Football
 Maccsen Jenkins-Wilsher – Welsh Judo
 Nieve Toghill – Afan Nedd Tawe Netball
 Isabelle Thomas – Welsh Rugby Cup final Player of the Tournament (Road to Principality)
 Mali James – Player of the tournament Urdd 7 a-side rugby.
 Josh Comer – Welsh Boxing
 Kayden Jones – British Boxing Champion
 Harley Spiller – IKF Welsh Champion (International Kick Boxing Federation)
 Lowri Rae John, Sophia Pockett, April Thomas – South Wales Under 12’s Girls Football Academy.

Once again, pupils of all ability levels enjoyed considerable success in music with a large number passing instrumental examinations organised by the NPT county music service. The Urdd Eisteddfod in Meifod was an opportunity for the school to compete on a national level, in choirs, dramatic presentations, public speaking and folk dancing. Thank you to staff and pupils for their hard work.

Pupil Achievements

Celebrating our pupils’ achievements is vital to our provision and we are constantly looking for new ways to recognise their success. During this academic year we have celebrated the achievements of our pupils by means of our weekly assemblies in the primary department and monthly assemblies in the secondary department. We have used social websites to promote every success. A wide variety of award winners were recognised at our annual awards night. Here is a list of the recipients:

Awards Night 2023-24

Academic Awards		
Year	Ystalyfera Site	Bro Dur Site
7	Mathew Jones and Eva Dallison	Cassie Evans
8	Enfys Tweed and Ffion Keaney	Alice Winship
9	Cara White and Aled Murphy	Zac Evans
10	Esther Harper and Dewi Jones	Llinos Davies
11	Abigail Jones and Lloyd Harvey	Catrin Lewis
12	Ellen Smith and Finbarr Soady	
13	Maddie Pritchard and Aled Jones	

A Level Best Results: Welsh / Geography/Chemistry	
Prize	Name
Chemistry	Aled Jones
Geography	Aimee Evans
Welsh	Efa Jones

Head of Year Awards		
Primary	Joseph Goddard, Lexi Mitchell, Marnie Cruickshank, Aria Rowley, Harri Evans, Sarah-Jayne Brown, Pixie-May Roberts, Sebastian Jones-Williams	
Year	Ystalyfera Site	Bro Dur Site
7	Gracie Marks and Macsen Davies	Scarlett Rowland and Macs Jones
8	Alex White and Efa Francis	Colton Evans and Nieve Toghill
9	Ruby Morgan and Maisy Baker	Mali James and Robyn Edwards
10	Zac Kinsey and Esther Harper	Elis Thomas and Ffion Chapple
11	Gruff Peters and Niamh Macleod	Gethin Williams and Madison Phillips
12	Rhiannon Aue Reiph Onyewu	
13	Aled Davies Niamh Evans	

Whole School Awards		
Prize	Ystalyfera Site	Bro Dur Site
Headteacher's Award	Lilly Walford	Alex Edwards
Governors' Award	Morgan Francis	Cian Evans
School Ambassador	Llian Llewellyn	Carla Verallo

Team of the Year		
Team	Ystalyfera Site	Bro Dur Site
Primary Team	The young researchers	Year 8 and 9 girls' rugby team
KS3 Team	Junior Choir	
KS4 Team	Year 10 Football Team	
KS5 Team	Academy Rugby Team	

Special Awards		
Prize	Ystalyfera Site	Bro Dur Site
Work in the Community Award	Jack Griffiths	Seren Winney
Volunteer Award	Logan Price	Seren Morgan
Memorial Awards		
Andrew Davies Award	Tegan Owen / Rhys Brettle	
Eirion Richards Award	Kloe Jones	
Sam Francis Award	Rhydian Escott	
Tamsin Rees Award	Year 9 fundraising committee	

Members of the School Senedd/Senate 2023-24

Year	Senedd Ystalyfera	Committee	Senedd Bro Dur
7	Bluebell Bonfante-Tilley Ioan Funnell Betsan Roberts-Truman	Ella-Mai Rees Tristan Davies Oliver North Seren-Mai Davies Corey Evans Aoife McMenamin Gwenllian Davies Zander Royle Thomas Davies Lola Hopkins Ellis James Cari Griffiths	Lydia Thomas Harrison Morgan
8	Menna Stevens Harri Roberts-Truman	Blayke-Louise Bills Ioan Nicholas Laila Jones Gwenan Evans Talya Jones Loti O'Sullivan Harri Roberts-Truman Logan Sterl Jordan Challis Eden Jones Efa Francis Arthur Wilkinson	Rhonwen Jones Anwen Hughes
9	Garin Thomas Gethin James Olifer Medicott	Olifer Medicott Niall Soady Gethin James Charlie Stokes Gruffudd Watkins Maisy Baker Garin Thomas Jasmine Morgan Tom Gimblett Evan Watts Celyn Stevens	Maisy Griffiths Carys Parker
10	Amelia Sivertsen Levi Hubbard	Amelia Sivertsen Luke Bowkett Levi Hubbard Aimee Jayne Goulding Cassie Cole	Lucy Pritchard Noah Knight

		Beth White Zac Kinsey Tyler Williams Olivia Thomas-Howells Esther Harper Miley Powell Katie Galsworthy Kloe Jones Evie Williams	
11	Abigail Jones Aneurin Skinner Elsbeth-Miri Funnell	Bethan Lloyd Sioned Bevan Jac Harris-Barfoot Arthur Barber Evan Thomas Joseff Evans Erin Williams Lucy Lewis Efa Charles Niamh Macleod	Alex Edwards Maddison Morgan Madison Phillips Lowri Leyshon
12/13	Ioan Hamm, Ellen Smith, Mindie James, Aled Jones, Efa Jones, Sion Lloyd, Matthew Williams, Bethan Bray, Emily Pickering, Maddie Pritchard, Mea Verallo, Mali Loader, Aimee Evans, Lili Walford, Gwenllian Morgan Jones, Morgan Francis		

	Ystalyfera Site	Bro Dur Site
Head pupils	Aled Jones and Efa Jones	Cian Evans Gethin Williams
Principal prefects	Sion Lloyd, Matthew Williams, Bethan Bray, Emily Pickering, Maddie Pritchard, Mea Verallo, Mali Loader, Lili Walford.	Ffion Massey Maddison Morgan Ffion Massey Alaw Jones Carla Verallo Madison Phillips
Prefects	Aimee Evans, Gwenllian Morgan Jones, Morgan Francis	Alex Edwards Lowri Leyshon Athena Murray Olivia Mahe Myfanwy Baker Saphire James