

# **WELSHPOOL HIGH SCHOOL**



## **GOVERNORS' REPORT**

### **TO PARENTS**

**FOR ACADEMIC YEAR**

**2021-2022**

## **Message from the Chair of Governors**

The Governing Body are pleased to have successfully recruited a new Head Teacher and look forward to working with Mr. Arnold and his senior management team over the coming years. This is an exciting time for the school, Mr. Arnold brings a breadth and depth of knowledge to the school that will see it grow over the coming years with a strong senior leadership team supporting him.

Once again, the past twelve months have not been easy for our pupils or staff; the pandemic has eased and restrictions relaxed which can create additional anxieties for some pupils. This has been compounded by the war in Ukraine and another economic crisis. The war has had a significant effect on some of our pupils' mental and emotional health. Despite the many challenges the school has worked well and continues to support wellbeing and it features as a key point in the School Development Plan.

These issues have had a significant impact on pupil absenteeism this year, not only here in Welshpool. Due to this it was not a key performance indicator in 2021/22. The Governing Body is aware that in 2022/23 this target will be returned and therefore the school will make it a key priority for 22/23.

Examination results were mixed in '22, which in some part is due to pupils returning to the exam room for the first time in 2 years. The previous 2 years' assessments were obtained from teaching targets/expectations and are difficult to quantify. However, if we look at the data from 2019 and the last time pupils sat a formal exam all the key areas have improved significantly (please see the school prospectus for these figures).

The Sixth Form continues to be successful with 40% of pupils choosing to stay on as well as external pupils who see that WHS may offer them the flexibility of subject mix, quality of teaching and track record of successful examination results. The Sixth Form has seen some changes, especially with the introduction of the E-sgol courses running across Powys in partnership with other high schools. In its early stages we can see that this is bringing a wider subject choice and enables us to increase our Sixth Form over the coming years.

As a Governing Body our priorities are the key areas of the School Development Plan. But our future work will include other areas, such as development of conversational Welsh through external support, via extra-curriculum activities like the Urdd. Opening the school and its external areas out of school hours for the benefit of the community.

We believe that The Governing Body's voluntary input for the benefit of Welshpool High School and the communities served can only be enhanced through the support of the pupils, parents, guardians and of course the staff and community as a whole. We look forward to an exciting future as we work together to achieve the aspirations set out in the Development Plan, for the benefit of all learners who choose Welshpool High School.

## THE GOVERNING BODY

### Who we are:

[Term of Office expiry dates are shown after each name]

#### LEA Governors:

Cllr Jeremy Brignell-Thorp – 08.02.27  
Cllr Brendan McWhinnie – 04.05.25  
Cllr Graham Breeze – 26.07.25  
Mrs Yvonne Naylor – 23/09/25  
Vacant

#### Parent Governors:

Mrs Catherine Davies – 06.10.24  
Mrs Claire Seddon – 13.09.25  
Mrs Sarah Bowyer – 13.09.25  
Mrs Sarah Dillon – 24.02.25  
Mr Jeff Johnson – 16.11.24  
Vacant

#### Community Governors:

Mrs Suzi Harkness – 30.01.24  
Cllr Alison Davies – 28.11.22  
Rev. Adam Pawley – 23/09/25  
Dr Geoffrey Lanagan – 23/09/25  
Mr Nick Howells – 12.10.26

#### Teacher Governors:

Mrs Sharon Lewis – 05.07.26  
Vacant

#### Staff Governor:

Mrs Caroline Jones – 29.01.24

#### Student Governor:

Shared with Student Council members

#### Headteacher:

Mr Jon Arnold

The full Governing Body meets at least once every half term and subsequently through a series of committees.

The Chair of Governors, Mr Jeff Johnson, can be contacted via the school (Tel: 01938 552014) as can the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Karen Davies.

Parent Governors are elected by other parents.

Teacher Governors are elected by teaching staff at the school.

Staff Governors are elected by non-teaching staff at the school.

Community Governors are elected by the Governing Body.

LEA Governors are elected by the Local Authority.

**Financial Statement 2021/22**

**Income**

LEA Budget	£3,848,401
Statemented	£ 65,895
School meals adjustment	£ -
Pupil Movement (Adj)	£- ( 9,500)
W.G. Grants	£ 561,152
Other Grants & Income	£ 142,133

**TOTAL**                                  **£ 4,608,081**

**Expenditure**

Staffing	£3,670,294
Curriculum	£ 182,688
Premises	£ 288,836
Operational	£ 156,253
Catering Service	£ 28,311

**TOTAL**                                  **£4,326,382**

<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit) Brought Forward</b>	<b>£ (550,790)</b>
<b>In Year Underspend</b>	<b>£ 281,700</b>
<b>Reserve / (Deficit) Carried Forward</b>	<b>£ (269,090)</b>

## **PSE**

PSE continues to be delivered by form tutors in school. We offer flexibility in our schemes of work depending on local and national trends. We use our PSE curriculum to celebrate and raise achievement and have guest speakers into school to deliver special assemblies. Our local police liaison officer comes into school every half term to deliver a variety of workshops to pupils in all year groups.

## **Art Department**

Year7 pupils have worked on a collaborative project with Arts connection and the Powysland museum to create a mural that was exhibited on the outside of the museum. The project included a research trip to the museum where we learnt about the local history of Welshpool and collected photos and drawings of interesting features we could include in our design along the way. Artist Megan Elinor then worked with students to design and create the mural, teaching them how to create stencils and develop a design inspired by our local environment.

Mrs Jones ran a competition to design a mural under the theme of 'Grown and Thrive' as a student wellbeing initiative, students from all year groups were invited to enter and the winning entry from each year group was invited to work with Miss Atkin to create the final design on the wall outside the canteen.

One of our students won the Knighton and District Rotary Club Young Photographers Competition. The theme was 'Colours of Nature' and our student came first in the 12-15 age group. Her photograph was exhibited in the club's photography exhibition.

## **Provision for Students to Participate in Sport**

### Curriculum

- Invasion games – football, rugby, basketball, netball, hockey
- Net games – badminton, tennis, volleyball, table tennis
- Striking games – indoor bowls, cricket, rounders, softball
- Athletics, cross country and swimming
- Health related fitness – circuits, use of leisure centre facilities including the fitness suite and spinning
- Level 3 Community Sports Leader Award [CSLA] – AS students – opportunity to gain an additional qualification in Year 12
- Outdoor education – to include orienteering and problem solving
- Sports Day for Years 7-10

### Extra-Curricular

This was the first year where extra-curricular sports got properly up and running since Covid-19.

Throughout the year there were opportunities for pupils to get involved in:

- Lunchtime clubs for football, badminton, hockey, rounders and ultimate frisbee
- After school clubs for football, rugby, hockey, netball, tennis and athletics

- Inter-form competitions in football, rounders, tennis and athletics
- School representation in a variety of different sports. We had success in the following competitions:
  - U12 and U18 Boys Powys Football Champions
  - U12, U13 and U14 Girls North Powys Netball Champions
  - U16 Girls Netball Champions
  - U13 Girls and U15 Boys Powys Athletics Champions
  - U13 Boys North Wales Tennis Champions

### **Policy Review**

Schools are required to have a large number of policies in place. These policies are reviewed regularly, and all members of the governing body are invited to attend these meetings.

Policies reviewed in 2021/22 were:

- Careers Education
- Data Protection
- Anti-Bullying
- Pupil Discipline
- Freedom of Information
- Sex Education
- Transition Plans
- Additional Learning Needs
- Complaints Procedure
- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Inclement Weather
- Attendance
- Equal Opportunities
- E-safety
- Food and Fitness
- Substance Misuse
- Sustainable Development
- Whistleblowing
- Staff Disciplinary
- Staff Capability
- Staff Grievance
- Charging and Remissions
- Pay
- Governors' Allowance
- Health & Safety
- Curriculum
- Collective Worship
- Performance Management

- Unacceptable Actions by Complainants
- Vexatious Complaints
- Lockdown
- Debt Recovery
- Redundancy

Current versions of policies of interest to parents are all posted to the school website, under Documents.

Term Dates - 2022/2023 and 2023/2024

## 2022 – 2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>Autumn Term 2022</b>		
Monday 5 September to Friday 28 October	Thursday 1 September <sup>1</sup> Friday 2 September <sup>1</sup>	40 days
<b>Half Term – Monday 31 October to Friday 4 November</b>		
Monday 7 November to Wednesday 21 December		33 days
<b>Spring Term 2023</b>		
Monday 9 January to Friday 17 February		30 days
<b>Half Term – Monday 20 February to Friday 24 February</b>		
Monday 27 February to Friday 31 March		25 days
<b>Summer Term 2023</b>		
Monday 17 April to Friday 26 May		29 days
<b>Half Term – Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June</b>		
Monday 5 June to Friday 21 July	Monday 24 July <sup>1</sup>	35 days



## 2023 – 2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR <sup>1</sup>

Autumn Term 2023	Non-Pupil Days	No of School Days
Monday 4 September to Friday 27 October	Friday 1 September <sup>2</sup>	40 days

**Half Term – Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November**

Monday 6 November to Friday 22 December		35 days
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Spring Term 2024	Non-Pupil Days	No of School Days
Tuesday 9 January to Friday 9 February	Monday 8 January <sup>2</sup>	24 days

**Half Term – Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February**

Monday 19 February to Friday 22 March		25 days
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Summer Term 2024	Non-Pupil Days	No of School Days
Monday 8 April to Friday 24 May		34 days

**Half Term – Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May**

Monday 3 June to Friday 19 July		35 days
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## **Attendance**

Returning from the pandemic attendance has been high profile across the school. Assemblies have been used to set targets and supportive letters and meetings have taken place. The pastoral team continue to work extremely hard in monitoring attendance and support both pupils and parents with any attendance issues. As requested by the pupils, we have continued with our McDonald's rewards trip. This is sensitively managed and pupils above 95% with their attendance, are invited on the trip.

## **Year 11 celebratory events**

Year 11 went to the Trafford Centre on the last day of the autumn term. Pupils were invited based on their behaviour during the first term. The trip proved very positive and a leaving party is currently being planned for year 11 for when they leave in May. A trip to Alton Towers is also being organised.

## **School Leaver Destinations**

This information is available in the School Prospectus, which can be accessed via the school website.

## **Links with the Community**

### **Careers**

We have continued to have very strong links with local companies and this year several have been into school to deliver career talks during lesson time. Employers and Employees have delivered talks regarding their own career pathway and tried to explain the link between education, progression and aspirations. All pupils have found the sessions useful in terms of motivation and inspirational.

The school continues to deliver a full range of careers and guidance provision and engages with Careers Wales. Careers Wales have delivered workshops to years 9, 10 and 11. Individual interviews are available to all pupils at any time. Our careers advisor attends specific parent evenings throughout the year and this includes options evening.

### **School Prospectus**

Our new prospectus is available to download on the school website, as is our 6<sup>th</sup> Form prospectus. A limited number of hard copies will be available in the front office.

## **Curriculum & Educational Provision**

The School provides an effective curriculum which meets the needs of the pupils.

In Key Stage 3, all National Curriculum subjects are delivered to pupils. The collaboration with partner primary schools to ensure consistency in curriculum provision continues to be effective. Appropriate intervention is established to support the development of Literacy and Numeracy skills through such initiatives as intervention sessions and the reading behaviours strategy. The curriculum is arranged to ensure that more able pupils are stretched to meet their

potential and that more vulnerable pupils are supported through the Department for Learning Support and quality first wave teaching. The Literacy and Numeracy Framework is an integral part of provision across the curriculum and the implementation of the Digital Competency Framework continues to progress.

Preparation for the implementation of the new curriculum for Wales continues. The Policy and Curriculum Committee monitors these developments.

In Key Stage 4, the school offers a good range of general and vocational courses, including classroom and offsite provision. All of the core subjects are covered comprehensively, with all pupils following the Welsh Baccaalaureate course, mostly at National (Level 2) level. In addition, most pupils complete the full course GCSE in Welsh as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language. The school is successful in ensuring that pupils are guided effectively in making choices of study for optional subjects, and the school continues to meet the requirements of the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure.

In the Sixth Form, a range of general and vocational courses are offered, and this offer is broadened further through effective collaboration with Chweched Powys Sixth partners. All of the facilitating subjects preferred by the Russell Group of Universities are available in the offer. Post 16 transformation work continues at a county wide level, with strategic and operational management boards commissioning the curriculum offer across Powys.

### **Learning Support Provision**

The Department for learning Support (DLS) is managed by the ALNCo, Mrs Joanne Baines. Joanne has worked in the Department for Learning Support as an SEN mathematics teacher since 2011. Mrs Baines gained a Diploma in Trauma and Mental Health–Informed Schools and Communities; Practitioner Status, in 2022 and is one of the Mental Health Champions. She has also completed the training which has qualified her as a mental health first aider. Mrs Baines has an MA in Education (Leadership), which focused on Person Centered Practice.

Mrs Baines is supported in the department by ten Teaching Assistants who have a varying range of skills and qualifications including degrees in Education, Pedagogy and Childcare.

Mrs M Davies is an integral part of the department who supports Mrs Baines with the day-to-day management of the department.

As a department, we are still facing several challenges due to the Covid pandemic. However, the department is coping well with the role of supporting children who were not able to access learning and the high level of emotional support they were used to. This is done through consistent care, support, and attention, while supporting pupils to build their resilience and make informed decisions.

ALN pupils, some with complex needs, are supported successfully both educationally and emotionally. We successfully supported several pupils throughout the examination period and during the transition to College in July. One of the boys with a Statement has joined our sixth form on the LLS course and is doing well.

Effective transition plans are put into place from Year 5/6 and continue to develop through person-centred practice throughout high school, with gradual transition through each key stage and on to further training or Year 12/13.

Mrs Baines and the Teaching Assistants have engaged in several CPD training activities again this year including Dyslexia training, supporting pupils with a hearing impairment, supporting children with Autism and ADHD, and training regarding CVI.

Intervention programmes and support are provided individually and in small groups to develop spelling, handwriting, reading and numeracy strategies; to increase resilience and manage anxiety. We are now able to ask for specific support for children with additional needs such as dyslexia and those with EAL from Powys' specialist teachers.

Mrs M. Kozuchowska, our Polish TA, spends time with our EAL pupils to develop their strategies for learning in both English and their first language and to mentor them as they progress from KS3 to KS4. Miss Marta and Mrs Baines have received training to ensure that the EAL support and tracking system is robust.

Miss Marta is also working with a group of Polish pupils to ensure they gain their Polish GCSE. This was hugely successful last year with all pupils achieving A or A\* grades.

We have started using 'Giglets' as a reading resource for children with EAL. This is also being used by Marilyn Hinks who comes in two days a week to support a number of pupils with EAL, Dyslexia and those from Ethnic Minority Groups.

Person-Centered Practices are now embedded throughout the review process in DLS. This is another step towards the transition to the new Additional Learning Needs Act (2018). We are in the second year of the implementation programme which began in September 2021 and are on course to have years 8, 10 and 11 converted to the new system by August 2023.

Mrs Baines has received training to ensure that she is competent in using the new TYFU system to record, monitor and ensure provision for pupils with ALN. This system allows for IDPs and OPPs to be formulated and shared with all stakeholders. Staff training has been conducted with heads of year to show them how to access and use the new system. This training will be carried out with all staff in the next academic year.

Within the department a high standard of behaviour and a calm friendly atmosphere is expected. A small number of pupils from each year group spend their free time playing games, relaxing, and completing homework in a supervised and nurturing space.

Close relationships continue to be built and maintained with outside agencies such as Sensory Services, Youth Intervention Service, Young Carers and the School Nurse, all of whom are welcomed into the department to meet regularly with pupils to strengthen resilience and improve outcomes.

### **Language Category**

English Medium.

### **Welsh Language**

We deliver Welsh Second Language only in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Welsh First Language is not offered in the curriculum.

### **Healthy Eating and Drinking**

Powys Catering provides food and drink during lunch. The menu on offer complies in full with the Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measures 2009 and the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional standards and requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2003. The identity of those students on free school meals is protected by the biometric system.

### **Toilet Facilities**

Welshpool High School has toilet facilities in the following areas:

Girls' Gymnasium – 10 toilets

Boys' Gymnasium – 10 toilets

Science downstairs – 1 male and 1 female staff toilet

Mathematics department – 1 toilet + 1 toilet in Head of Lower School's office

Drama/Art departments – 2 toilets

English department – 3 toilets for girls, 2 for boys and 1 for staff

Humanities department – 4 for girls, 2 for boys and 2 for staff, plus 1 disabled toilet

Department for Learning Support – 1 toilet used for staff and disabled

Theatre – 2 toilets and a disabled toilet

Reception – 1 toilet

Technology department – 1 staff toilet

6<sup>th</sup> Form Block/Business Partnership Centre – 1 staff toilet

Outside canteen area – 3 female staff toilets; 1 male toilet; 1 disabled toilet

Medical room – 1 toilet

Headteacher's office – 1 toilet

All toilets, sinks, taps and doors are cleaned Monday to Friday by trained staff.