

# **WELSHPOOL HIGH SCHOOL**



## **GOVERNORS' REPORT**

### **TO PARENTS**

**FOR ACADEMIC YEAR**

**2022-2023**

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

The Governing Body is pleased that the Head Teacher, Mr. Arnold, and his Senior Management Team have had a productive first year, working with all staff to develop and embed the School Development Plan into everyday work.

Our pupils and staff are still dealing with the post pandemic additional anxieties that prevail for some pupils. This has been compounded by the continued war in Ukraine and the economic crisis.

These national issues have once again had a significant impact on pupil absenteeism this year, as they did last year. WHS has been overly disadvantaged in this area due to the lack of support from PCC Education Welfare Officials. The Governing Body will continue to monitor the situation as a priority.

A positive set of Examination results was returned for 2023. There have been some excellent results for many pupils and the school will continue to build on this successful platform; however, as expected, they are lower than those from the teacher assessment Covid years. Please see the prospectus for these figures.

The Sixth Form continues to grow from strength to strength with a considerable number of pupils choosing to stay on, as well as pupils from other schools who see that WHS can offer them the flexibility of subject mix, quality of teaching and track record of successful examination results. Last year we had the introduction of the E-sgol courses running across Powys in partnership with other high schools. There were some initial difficulties when utilising other schools, but we are confident that these have been ironed out and that they will not be repeated.

This year we expect to have an Estyn inspection. We are working closely with PCC to ensure that WHS is in the best possible position to give staff and pupils a strong understanding of this process.

As a Governing Body, our priorities are the key areas of the School Development Plan and the expected Estyn inspection for the 2023/2024 academic year.

Away from the day-to-day school schedule we will also be monitoring and challenging PCC Schools Improvement Programme. This plan could see our local school communities disadvantaged due to school catchment areas being re-drawn.

We will continue to challenge PCC on its unfair funding policies that see WHS receive 10 to 30% less funding for its pupils than other schools in the north of the county.

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, carers 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 School Development Plan, for the benefit of all learners who choose Welshpool High School.

## THE GOVERNING BODY – September 2023

### 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  
Vacancy

#### Parent Governors:

Mrs Catherine Davies – 06.10.24  
Mrs Claire Seddon – 13.09.25  
Mrs Sarah Bowyer – 13.09.25  
Mr Jeff Johnson – 16.11.24  
Mrs Anne Jones – 28.06.27  
Vacancy

#### Community Governors:

Mrs Suzi Harkness – 30.01.24  
Mrs Alison Davies – 28.11.25  
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  
Mrs Natalie Forsyth – 28.06.27

#### 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 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 2022/23

### Income

LEA Budget	£3,848,248
Statemented	£ 62,000
School meals adjustment	£ -
Pupil Movement (Adj)	£- ( 6,000)
W.G. Grants	£ 411,528
Other Grants & Income	£ 108,403

**TOTAL**                                **£ 4,424,179**

### Expenditure

Staffing	£3,746,040
Curriculum	£ 212,075
Premises	£ 275,326
Operational	£ 84,616
Catering Service	£ 40,219

**TOTAL**                                **£4,358,276**

<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit) Brought Forward</b>	<b>£ (269,090)</b>
<b>In Year Underspend</b>	<b>£ 65,903</b>
<b>Reserve / (Deficit) Carried Forward</b>	<b>£ (203,187)</b>

## **Attendance**

Attendance has been high profile across the school. Assemblies have been used to set targets and supportive letters have been sent home. Attendance meetings have taken place with a member of the Educational Welfare Team present. The pastoral team continues to work extremely hard in monitoring attendance and supporting 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% attendance are invited on the trip. Our new attendance officer, Mrs Zoe Alderson, has settled in very well and helps produce half-term reports looking at specific data.

## **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 was also held in May for year 11. A further celebratory trip to Alton Towers was held in June for year 11.

## **School Leaver Destinations**

This information is available in the School Prospectus, which can be accessed via the school website: <https://www.welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk/>.

## **Links with the Community**

### **Careers**

We continue to have very strong links with local companies and this year several have been into school to present career talks during lesson time. Employers and Employees have delivered talks regarding their own career pathway and explained the link between education, progression and aspirations. All pupils found the sessions motivating and inspirational.

The school continues to deliver a full range of careers and guidance provision and engages with Careers Wales. Careers Wales 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. Further information regarding Careers Wales can be found on our school website.

Year 10 were successful in finding over 150 placements for their work experience.

For the first time the school hired out its tennis courts to the community during the summer months of 2023. Anyone over 18 was able to gain a 'licence' for £50, gaining full access to the courts for themselves and any family or friends they wished to play with, from Easter through to September. The school is determined to be at the heart of its community and believes that initiatives like this significantly improve health and well-being.

The school hosted sports camps run by Adele Nicholl (international athlete and former student) in the Easter and Summer holidays.

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

### **Curriculum**

- Invasion games – football, rugby, basketball, netball, hockey
- Net games – badminton, tennis, volleyball, table tennis
- Target or 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**

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

- Lunchtime clubs for football, tennis, badminton, hockey, rounders, table tennis and dance
- After school clubs for football, rugby, hockey, netball, tennis, cricket and athletics
- Inter-form competitions in football, rounders and athletics
- Year 8 Adventurous Activities residential trip to Snowdonia
- School representation in a variety of different sports. We had success in the following competitions:
  - \* U12 and U15 Boys Powys Football Champions with the U15s making it through to the last 4 schools in Wales!
  - \* U12 and U14 Girls North Powys Netball Champions
  - \* Several winners at the Powys Schools Swimming Gala
  - \* U14 Girls Hockey Powys Champions
  - \* U15 Girls Powys Athletics Champions
  - \* Several winners at the Powys Schools Cross Country and Athletics Championships
  - \* U13 Boys North Wales Tennis Champions
  - \* A number of students continue to work towards completing D of E.

### **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.

**RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education)** is also a mandatory aspect of our school curriculum, that has been significantly developed by specialist Science teachers.

## **Art Department**

Congratulations to L. Jones, a Year 10 student, for winning the Montgomeryshire Society Annual Schools' Competition 2022-23 with her entry entitled 'Blue'. The student won first prize in the Year 9-10 category. The society president Dr Margaret Jones called into school to make the presentation.

In collaboration with Arts Connection Mrs Forsyth arranged 6 sessions of workshops, that gave students the opportunity to work with several artists and explore healthy and unhealthy relationships through visual arts, theatre and creative writing.

The aim of the project was to empower the young women and non-binary people to be able to identify toxic relationships and raise awareness of what a healthy relationship looks like.

The aim of the project was to support students and enable them to:

- Celebrate and have a raised awareness of what healthy relationships look like
- Improved people attitudes / prejudices towards certain groups of people
- Make the stories of those affected more visible
- Give people the knowledge and confidence to know how to keep their friends safe
- Help them make better decisions in the future and have better lives
- Develop skills around confidence, resilience that are helpful for a range of situations
- Improved wellbeing (confidence, mood, friendships)

The workshops were split into different elements of the expressive arts. The first 3 sessions were drama and performance based looking at different types of relationships. The next 3 sessions looked at creating zines that can be used around school and the community to promote awareness and understanding.

N.Dearing won the Welshpool Town Council 'Logo Competition' to design the logo to go on the side of the new eco-friendly electric vans. His design has been made up and you can see it on the side of the council vans around town.

## **Music Department**

2022-23 was yet again another busy year for the Music department with a number of events and achievements:

One of the pupils gained a Music scholarship to Bangor University

The extracurricular calendar featured a number of key events including the Christmas Concert, RABI Carol Concert, Mince Pies and Music event and School Eisteddfod. To end the year no less than six Primary schools joined the department, performing in the Summer Concerts, seeing over 80 primary pupils benefitting from the opportunity to showcase their talent and supporting and strengthening our transition work within the cluster.

40 Instrumentalists and GCSE pupils attended a workshop run by the Royal Army Corps at Newtown High School where they did both the school and department proud in terms of their active participation.

At the end of the Summer Term the department took 30 pupils to a mass band workshop run by Montgomeryshire Youth Music. We were the largest school there by a significant amount and it was an exceptionally proud and exciting day for all concerned. The performance by a band of 60 youth players at the end of the day was an experience that I know will be with all of our pupils for a long time to come.

Jazz Band also went on tour to perform at Guilsfield and Arddleen Primary schools. This was part of an initiative run and funded by the delivery of the National Plan for Music in Powys. Mrs Evans has been working with Primary schools to implement the first experiences initiative, which helps support classroom teachers in delivering whole-class instrument lessons. The aim behind this is to demonstrate the accessibility and benefits of instrument lessons, with the 10-week course culminating in an assembly where pupils showcased what they had learnt. The final assembly also featured performances and testimonials by Welshpool High School Jazz Band to further promote the initiative, something that proved to be a massive success: 60 pupils in just one school put in requests to access the free taster session funding following the Jazz Band visit.

Singing Group have again had a full year of performances within the community, performing at St. Mary's Christmas Lunch, in a St. David's Day Concert with the Fron choir and in a concert to celebrate the refurbishment of the organ at Pool Quay Church



## **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 2022/23 were:

- Acceptable Use
- Additional Learning Needs
- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance
- Careers Education
- Charging and Remissions
- Child Looked After
- Collective Worship & RE
- Complaints Procedure
- Curriculum
- Data Protection
- Equal Opportunities
- E-safety
- Food and Fitness
- Freedom of Information
- Governor School Visits
- Governors' Allowance
- Health & Safety
- Inclement Weather
- Lockdown
- Management of Change & Redundancy
- Pay
- Performance Management
- Pupil Discipline
- RSE
- Safeguarding
- School Therapy Dogs
- Staff Capability
- Staff Disciplinary
- Staff Grievance
- Staff Sickness Management
- Substance Misuse
- Sustainable Development
- Traffic Management
- Transition Plans
- Unacceptable Actions by Complainants
- Vexatious Complainants
- Whistleblowing

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

Term Dates - 2023/2024 and 2024/2025

## 2023 – 2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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	Friday 22 December <sup>2</sup>	34 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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**Non-pupils days:** there will be three further non-pupil days, two in the autumn term and one in the summer term. Please check your school website for these details.

<b>Good Friday:</b>	Friday 29 March 2024
<b>Easter Monday:</b>	Monday 1 April 2024
<b>May Day Bank Holiday:</b>	Monday 6 May 2024
<b>Spring Bank Holiday:</b>	Monday 27 May 2024
<b>Royal Welsh Show:</b>	Monday 22 July to Thursday 25 July 2024

## 2024 – 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Autumn Term 2024	Non-Pupil Days	No of School Days
Monday 2 September to Friday 25 October	Monday 2 September <sup>2</sup>	40 days

### Half Term – Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November

Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December		35 days
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Spring Term 2025	Non-Pupil Days	No of School Days
Monday 6 January to Friday 21 February	Monday 6 January <sup>2</sup>	35 days

### Half Term – Monday 24 February to Friday 28 February

Monday 3 March to Friday 11 April		30 days
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Summer Term 2025	Non-Pupil Days	No of School Days
Monday 28 April to Friday 23 May		20 days

### Half Term – Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May

Monday 2 June to Monday 21 July		36 days
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<b>Good Friday:</b>	Friday 18 April 2025
<b>Easter Monday:</b>	Monday 21 April 2025
<b>May Day Bank Holiday:</b>	Monday 5 May 2025
<b>Spring Bank Holiday:</b>	Monday 26 May 2025
<b>Royal Welsh Show:</b>	Monday 21 July to Thursday 24 July 2025

### **School Prospectuses**

Our new prospectus is available to download on the school website: <https://www.welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk/>, as is our 6th 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 as we continue on our journey of delivering the new Curriculum for Wales. 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.

The new Curriculum for Wales is being implemented with pupils in Years 7 and 8. 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 Baccalaureate 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. 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.

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 and qualified as a mental health first aider. She has an MA in Education (Leadership), which focused on Person Centered Practice.

Collaboration with the cluster Primary Schools has greatly improved this year. This is partly the result of Mrs Baines being appointed as the 'Cluster ALNCo Champion', offering support and guidance for all ALNcos in the cluster during the transition to the new Tyfu system.

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 is supported in the department by ten Teaching Assistants (TAs) who are well qualified to support the needs of our learners.

Pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) are supported successfully both educationally and emotionally. Pupils are successfully supported throughout the examination period and during the transition to College.

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 making good use of the support offered from specialist teachers through the ALN group consultation panels and PIP process.

Mrs M. Kozuchowska, our Polish TA, supports 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.

Mrs Kozuchowska 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.

Person-Centred Practices are 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 third year of the implementation programme which began in September 2021 and have successfully converted all pupils in years 8, 10 and 11. The September 2023 intake in Years 7, 8 and 10 will be converted to the new system by August 2025.

Mrs Baines receives ongoing training to ensure that she is competent in using the TYFU system to record, monitor and ensure provision is in place 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 all teachers and support staff and is now the primary information sharing platform for all pupils with ALN.

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.

Having built positive relationships with local businesses, we were fortunate enough to take 38 pupils on a bus trip to the seaside at the end of the year. This was fully funded by Ballard's Garage and Rikki Lloyd's Butchers. We also had a very kind donation which enabled us to buy the children an ice cream each. We all had a wonderful day.

### **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 fully 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 receiving 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 female staff 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 each day Monday to Friday by trained staff.