

# **Islwyn High School**

## **Ysgol Uwchradd Islwyn**

**Annual Report Academic Year 2024/25**

Headteacher: Mr. Jason Hicks



**Governors' Annual Report to Parents**  
**Adroddiad Blynyddol y llywodraethwyr**

**Belong. . . Believe. . . Achieve. . .**

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### **The Chairperson of Governors is**

Mr Gavin Bryce, Islwyn High School, Waterloo, Oakdale, NP12 0NU.

### **The Clerk to the Governors is**

Mrs E Paskell c/o Islwyn High School, Waterloo, Oakdale, NP12 0NU.

## Foreword from the Chairperson of Governors

Dear Parent /Carer,

I am pleased to be able to commend to you the Governing Body annual report, covering the last academic year 2024 / 2025. This is my sixth annual report as Chair of Governors, and I am pleased to report that the school is continuing to make strong progress as it delivers its development plan. I remain immensely proud of the pupils and staff at Islwyn for their hard work and determination to succeed. The Governing Body meets regularly and is very well attended and this is vital as the Governing Body provides support and challenge.

Last academic year we continued to see progress being made for our most disadvantaged pupils through many initiatives that have been put in place to support them and it was pleasing to see this reflected in our exam results over last summer which were strong when compared with our “family of schools” we compare ourselves with and also showed a narrowing of the gap normally seen for free school meal pupils.

Looking forward, we continue to work with the Local Authority to bring online a new pupil support area and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) for public use on the Islwyn Site.

And lastly thank you to all the parents and carers for your continued support.

Best wishes



Mr G Bryce  
Chair of Governors

## Governing Body

The governing body plays a full and active role in the life and leadership of the school. Governors are listed below and can be contacted via school reception.

| Name                           | Governor                                | End of term |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Gavin Bryce                    | Chair of Governors/Local Authority      |             |
| Kirstie Moons                  | Vice Chair of Governors/Local Authority |             |
| Pat Cook                       | Local Authority                         |             |
| Lisa Curtis-Jones              |                                         |             |
| Roy Saralis                    |                                         |             |
| Ray Bevan                      | Community                               | 06/10/2028  |
| Jane Crook                     |                                         | 06/10/2028  |
| Jane Ford                      |                                         | 06/10/2028  |
| Sam Hicks                      |                                         | 01/04/2028  |
| Nicola Roberts                 |                                         | 18/09/2027  |
| Scott Reasons                  | Parent                                  | 26/03/2028  |
| Sarah Windsor                  |                                         | 26/03/2028  |
| <a href="#">Eszter Fortagh</a> | Teacher                                 | 03/02/2029  |
| John Morris                    |                                         | 03/12/2027  |
| Tina Crooker                   | Staff                                   | 15/11/2028  |

## Election of Parent Governors

When a vacancy arises in the Governing Body for a parent representative, the school will inform all parents of the vacancy and will make the necessary arrangements for the consequent election. Every parent of a registered pupil at the school will be entitled to stand as a candidate and to vote at the election and will be given the opportunity to do so. Each parent will be sent a ClassCharts message, which will indicate eligibility to stand, nominate and vote in elections and which will include a nomination form and personal statement. Elections will be by confidential ballot.

Any parents wishing to be considered for a role on the governing body are welcome to express an interest to the school by emailing Mrs E Paskell, Business Manager at [IslwynHighSchool@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:IslwynHighSchool@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk) or by calling 01495 233600.

### **Governing Body Annual Parents' Meeting**

There were no parent meetings held by the governing body during the course of this year. Should any parent wish to request such a meeting, please contact Mrs E Paskell at the school where further information can be provided.

Please be advised that the '*Schools Standards and Organisation Act 2013*' has removed the requirement for School Governing Bodies to hold an Annual Meeting with parents. However, new arrangements mean that you have the right to request up to 3 meetings in any school year with the Governing Body. For this to take place, the following 4 conditions need to be met:

Parents will need to raise a petition in support of holding a meeting.

- The meeting must be called to discuss matters which affect the school. It is not designed to discuss individual matters. The petition should include brief details of the matter to be discussed and the reasons for calling the meeting.
- Parents can use this right to request up to 3 meetings with a school's Governing Body during the school year.
- There must be at least 25 school days left in the year when the petition is received in order that the meeting can be held. A 'school day' means a day when the school is open to pupils and does not include weekends, public or school holidays or INSET days.

### **Additional Learning Needs**

Ysgol Uwchradd Islwyn High School ensures that pupils with ALN including pupils with a disability are admitted on an equal basis with others in accordance with its admissions policy. Parents are encouraged to visit the school to discuss their child's needs with the Deputy Headteacher and ALNCO (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator) Mrs N Strachan. School policies in relation to ALN can be found on the school website.

Currently, 10.46% of the school has an Additional Learning Need with 9.99 % having an IDP.

### **Cymraeg**

Welsh is taught as a second language to every pupil in years 7-11, meeting our statutory requirements. Teachers are supported to develop their use of basic Welsh, where they can, across the school to converse with and praise pupils. The school promotes pupil use of incidental Welsh and rewards this using ClassCharts.

## Financial Statement

The school budget for the year to 31 March 2025 was made up as follows:

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Formula Allocation:         | <b>£6,867,706</b> |
| Balance b/fwd from previous year: | <b>£ 855,215</b>  |
| Total income:                     | <b>£ 783,089</b>  |
| Expenditure:                      | <b>£7,585,184</b> |
| Balance c/fwd to 25/26:           | <b>£ 920,827</b>  |

Funding for the year has been spent on staffing, premises, supplies and services, with specifically targeted funding for EIG and PDG funding in line with WG priorities and the school development plan.

The School has received no gifts this financial year. No travel or subsistence payments have been made to members of the governing body.

## Sporting Honours

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>International Honours</b>                                                        | Grace Hawker - SEW u16 Shot Putt Champion 2025<br>Millie Hiscott - SEW u14 Discus Champion 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Pupils who have achieved international honours - i.e. representative honours</b> | Grace Hawker - Welsh Athletics 2025<br>Myah Newell Welsh Schools Football U14<br>Amelia Tiley - Welsh Schools Football U16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Pupils who have represented the county in the past year</b>                      | Ellis Stonelake - Dragons U16's Rugby<br>Ellis Stonelake - Islwyn District Rugby<br>Jayden Stebbings - Islwyn District Rugby<br>Evan Maher - Islwyn District Rugby<br>Joseph Bonnici - Islwyn District Rugby<br>Morgan Harrison - Caerphilly Schools Football U16<br>Amelia Tiley - Caerphilly Schools Football U16<br>Caerphilly Schools Football U16<br>Bradley Williams - Caerphilly Schools Football U15<br>Ryan Jones - Caerphilly Schools Football U15<br>Kingsley Parry-Lewis - Caerphilly Schools Football U15<br>Aimee Cake - Caerphilly Schools Football U15<br>Eva-Mai Morris's-Evans - Caerphilly Schools Football U15<br>Nyree Lowther - Caerphilly Schools Football U15<br>Cade Foxwell - Caerphilly Schools Football U14<br>Lewis Potter - Caerphilly Schools Football U14<br>Charlie John - Caerphilly Schools Football U14<br>Harry Livesey-Hambridge - Caerphilly Schools Football U14<br>Caroline Barham - Caerphilly Schools Football U14<br>Maisie Davies - Caerphilly Schools Football U14 |

|                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                            | Myah Newell - Caerphilly Schools Football U14<br>Darcy Lemin - Caerphilly Schools Football U13<br>Ella Chard - Caerphilly Schools Football U13<br>Grace Andrew's - Caerphilly Schools Football U13<br>Summer Burton - Caerphilly Schools Football U13<br>Miley Davies - Caerphilly Schools Football U12                                                                       |
| <b>Other notable team successes within the last year (either within school or outside)</b> | Year 7 Rugby Team Caerphilly Plate Winners 2025<br>Year 9 Rugby Team Caerphilly Bowl Winners 2025<br>Year 10 Rugby Team Caerphilly Cup Winners 2025<br>Under 13 Girls football Caerphilly Cup Winners 2025<br>Under 15 Girls football Caerphilly Cup Winners 2025<br>Under 13 girls Caerphilly School Cricket Champions<br>Under 15 girls Caerphilly School Cricket Champions |

## Pupil Cohort Numbers

Pupil numbers on roll in the Autumn term was 1064 pupils. This includes 63 pupils from the SSRB. There continues to be a steady increase in pupil numbers, with Key stage three reaching maximum capacity.

Of the 1064 pupils on roll, we had 4 pupils accessing LPC provision and 14 pupils accessing EOTAS.

| Year Group   | Number      |
|--------------|-------------|
| Year 7       | 200         |
| Year 8       | 206         |
| Year 9       | 206         |
| Year 10      | 189         |
| Year 11      | 200         |
|              |             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1064</b> |

Of Year 11 leavers, 6 were identified as not in education, employment or training, 3 of which were engaging with Careers Wales.

## Pupil Records

Pupil records are kept electronically on the SIMS and ClassCharts systems. Parents can access up-to-date information via a personal ClassCharts. Any parent requiring login should contact the school office.

## Attendance information

Whole-school attendance for the year reached 89.1%. Unauthorised absences stood at 3.4% with authorised at 9.9%. Pupil attendance continues to be closely monitored as we work with families to overcome barriers to attending school and ensure the school gives the necessary support to pupils to enable them to attend school regularly.

## School Performance Data

| KPI             | All Wales | IHS All |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| <b>Capped 9</b> | 353.3     | 380     |
| <b>Literacy</b> | 38.6      | 40.1    |
| <b>Numeracy</b> | 36.0      | 37.0    |
| <b>Science</b>  | 35.8      | 39.3    |
| <b>5A*-A</b>    | 18.0      | 16.5    |
| <b>Skills</b>   | 28.7      | 39.8    |

## Curriculum Statement

Islwyn High School aims to keep the curriculum at the heart of the education we offer. As a result, young people experience a rich, exceptionally varied curriculum, which is a conscious blend of the traditional and the contemporary. Students engage with a wide range of subjects through ambitious, well-designed courses, tailored to their needs.

The curriculum embodies our school values of **Belong, Believe & Achieve**.

**Belong**

- Students flourish socially and academically during and beyond their time at THEIR school. They learn to mix skilfully with adults and with each other, developing TRUST in people in tandem with progressing in their studies.

**Believe:**

- Students gain meaningful skills, knowledge and understanding which EMPOWERS them, enabling them to succeed in life with a DEEPER understanding of the world around them.
- Students experience a wide range of subjects, taught by TRUSTED PROFESSIONALS, who ensure a broad, deep SELF BELIEF for each individual.

**Achieve:**

- Islwyn High students develop into IMPRESSIVE people who contribute actively to the school and the local community and go on to ACHIEVE GREAT PROGRESS in the wider world.

Our curriculum supports these goals by being very carefully planned and constructed. Subject teams select content to be ambitious, inspiring and challenging, whilst at the same time ensuring that all students can access every lesson. Through careful sequencing, subject leaders have shaped the curriculum in order that skills knowledge and understanding (SKU) are built upon and core concepts returned to. We use thoughtful and rigorous assessments to identify and address misconceptions and provide structures to ensure that SKU is securely learned. Teachers carefully

plan explanations and model precisely how to produce work which enables students to think deeply about the SKU they are taught.

We keep the curriculum as broad as possible, for as long as possible to allow all students a rich experience. Every subject a student begins in year 7 remains accessible up to year 11, enabling our young people to become knowledgeable and confident, with a deep academic and cultural understanding. Subject teams have reviewed their schemes of learning to meet the needs of the Curriculum for Wales and embedded these new approaches within subjects and across AOLE's. This is also supported by a range of whole school strategies, including use of the Accelerated Reading Programme.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

Ysgol Uwchradd Islwyn High School offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities for all pupils, all of which are published on the school website.

## **School Prospectus**

The school prospectus is updated annually and can be found on the school website. [IHS Prospectus](#)

## **SDP - Summary of Improvement Priorities**

The following school improvement areas have been priority this year:

- Continue to improve standards (progress and outcomes) at KS3/4
- Improve attendance and wellbeing
- Continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning across the school
- Improve the quality of self evaluation and improvement planning

## **Complaints Procedure**

The governing body has adopted the Caerphilly County Borough Council procedure. A copy is available on the school website.

## **Health and Safety**

The school continues to be supported by a Service Level Agreement with CCBC Building Consultancy on matters relating to statutory maintenance, all of which are documented and monitored through the RAMIS system. Ramis is a database that records and tracks all Health and Safety matters.

The site CCTV is remotely monitored out of hours by the CCBC CCTV Monitoring Centre at Tiryberth, with the Fire and Intruder systems remotely monitored via a private alarm monitoring centre.

The LEA continues to provide the support of a Health & Safety Officer via the school's Health & Safety Service Level Agreement. The Health and Safety officer visits the school monthly providing advice and support such as carrying out inspections and providing support relating to items such as staff training, risk assessments and policies.

The school has a community use agreement in place with Caerphilly CBC which enables Caerphilly Sport and Leisure to use the facilities out of school hours for sporting activities and fixtures.

The school site staff carry out a range of reactive and preventive maintenance across the school and are supported by an SLA with building cleaning which includes day time cleaning.

There are plenty of very well-maintained toilets available on all floors. These main sets of toilets are complemented by a number of accessible toilets across the whole building for anyone requiring them. The school fully complies with the Equality Act 2010.

## **Staffing and Professional Development**

The school teaching and support staff has continued to grow alongside the growth in pupil numbers. As of September 2025, we have 67 teachers and 52 support staff. The school remains committed to providing staff with a wide range of professional development opportunities to enhance their skills, broaden their knowledge and support their career progression, ensuring they are equipped to deliver the highest quality of education and achieve the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

## **Links with Community and Parents**

At Islwyn High School our commitment to strengthening relationships with parents, local organisations, and the wider community is of great importance to us. Over the past year, we have strengthened, nurtured and celebrated these meaningful connections through a diverse range of impactful activities and collaborative partnerships, including:

- Achieving the Foundation of Community Engagement Silver School Award, which recognises our continued commitment to community engagement.
- Hosting a range of events led by our dedicated and committed Friends of Islwyn such as:
- Organised and supported a range of fundraising events, including family quiz nights, the Christmas Fayre, the Christmas Show and an evening with Welsh rugby legend Shane Williams.
- Provided refreshments for key school events, including Open Evening, helping to create a welcoming environment for staff, pupils, parents and visitors.
- Supported staff wellbeing by providing refreshments, cakes and biscuits for the PTA Coffee Hub, Tea and Talk sessions, coffee mornings and festive staff activities.
- Created opportunities to strengthen community connections by bringing staff, parents and families together through social events and shared experiences.
- Organised a successful Christmas shopping trip to Bath, providing an affordable opportunity for staff and families to socialise, build relationships and raise funds.
- Raised funds to support pupils, families and staff, contributing towards wellbeing,

community and academic initiatives across the school, supported the school prom, helping to create an enjoyable and memorable celebration for pupils and staff.

- Contributed to a positive and supportive school environment through their continued commitment to fundraising, community engagement and staff wellbeing.
- Helped strengthen the wider school community by supporting activities that bring people together, celebrate achievements and promote a strong sense of belonging.
- Working with a wide range of external services to provide our pupils and their families with the breadth of support they need to be successful.
- Working with Young Carers services to ensure support and recognition for pupils with caring responsibilities.
- Collaborating with local businesses and charities to enhance learning opportunities and promote social responsibility.
- Taking part in a range of community events such as the Remembrance Day service; the cluster carol concert held in the local church and our annual musical Annie which was held in the Newbridge Memo.

These initiatives reflect our ongoing dedication to fostering meaningful connections between the school, families, and the wider community.

Policies and Statutory information can be accessed via our school website.

If you are interested in joining our Friends of Islwyn group please contact the school for further information.

## Forthcoming Term Dates and INSET

| Autumn Term 2025 |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Term starts      | Monday 1 September 2025 |
| Half term starts | Monday 27 October 2025  |
| Half term ends   | Friday 31 October 2025  |
| Term ends        | Friday 19 December 2025 |
| Spring Term 2026 |                         |
| Term starts      | Monday 5 January 2026   |
| Half term starts | Monday 16 February 2026 |
| Half term ends   | Friday 20 February 2026 |
| Term ends        | Friday 27 March 2026    |
| Summer Term 2026 |                         |
| Term starts      | Monday 13 April 2026    |
| Half term starts | Monday 25 May 2026      |
| Half term ends   | Friday 29 May 2026      |
| Term ends        | Monday 20 July 2026     |

6 INSET days for 2025-26 are agreed as follows:

INSET 1 | 1 September 2025

INSET 2 | 5 December 2025

INSET 3 | 19 December 2025

INSET 4 | 13 February 2026

INSET 5 | 17 July 2026

INSET 6 | 20 July 2026



**Islwyn High School**

**Waterloo**

**Oakdale**

**BLACKWOOD**

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