



Welshpool High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

2025-2026

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations ~ Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau



Prospectus

The central aim of our school is
“Raising Achievement
by Raising Expectations”



Mr Arnold with our Head Students, Joshua and Hope

We believe that:

high expectations of behaviour, attitude and learning contribute to young people fulfilling their potential; high expectations lead to the development of responsible and well-educated young people.

We work toward this main goal by building strong partnerships between parents/carers students, and staff. We also appreciate how our community supports and enhances learning in many different ways.

INTRODUCTION

by the Headteacher

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our school. I hope that after reading this prospectus you will believe, as a student or a parent/carer, that Welshpool High School provides the appropriate ethos and a suitably happy and confident environment in which to work and learn.

Welshpool High School is an English medium school that prides itself on being a caring and positive learning community, which aims to help every student to achieve success. All students are encouraged to aim high and work hard towards the fulfilment of their ambitions and potential.

We believe we instill values and practices that enable students to be self-disciplined and focused on learning. We want students to aim high, develop independence as learners, and to be able to work co-operatively and purposefully with peers and adults both individually and as part of a team. In terms of supporting this development, we view the positive partnership between home and school as essential.

We are determined to provide the best learning experiences for our students, utilising a range of different teaching and learning methods along the way.

We are responsive to the challenges of preparing our students for the needs of a changing world and have been rigorous in developing a curriculum to meet these needs. We endeavour to provide challenge, support and opportunity for students of all abilities through our curriculum, pastoral support and a wide range of extracurricular opportunities.



I look forward to your child joining us. Together we can ensure that they enjoy a successful and rewarding secondary education.

Mr Jon Arnold
Headteacher

INTRODUCTION

by the Chair of Governors

As governors, we are deeply committed to supporting and challenging the school to ensure continuous improvement.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Welshpool High School.

As Chair of the Governing Body, I am proud to be part of a school community that places students at the heart of everything it does. Welshpool High School is a vibrant and inclusive school where high expectations, mutual respect, and strong relationships underpin an ambitious and supportive learning environment. It provides a secure and friendly environment for all students, to help them achieve their goals.

Our dedicated leadership team and committed staff work tirelessly to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to achieve their full potential academically, personally, and socially. We strive to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, enriched with extracurricular opportunities that develop character, curiosity, and confidence.

As governors, we are deeply committed to supporting and challenging the school to ensure continuous improvement. We work closely with the Headteacher and staff to help shape the strategic direction of the school, always with the best interests of the students at heart.

Whether you are a prospective parent, student, or a member of the wider community, I hope this prospectus gives you a real sense of what makes Welshpool High School such a special place to learn and grow.

We look forward to welcoming you into our school community.

Mr Jeff Johnson
Chair of Governors

INTRODUCTION

from our Head Girl

Hi, my name is Hope and I am Head Girl at Welshpool High School. I am currently studying English Literature, Art, Drama, and Health and Social Care. My plan is to go to university and study English, Media and Communication.

Staying at Welshpool Sixth Form made the transition from GCSE to A-levels much easier as I already knew the teachers and they already knew my abilities. However, I do take English Literature at Llanfair High School, which is another great thing about this sixth form. It allows you to take subjects outside of the school if we don't offer it or if it clashes with another subject. Going to a new school was very nerve-racking, but with my passion for the subject and the support from the Head of Sixth Form, I gained more confidence and made long-lasting friends.



The teachers treat you with respect and they really want the best success for you. They do this by setting up extra revision sessions and helping you learn how to revise. But no matter your grades, they give you endless support and guidance through Year 12 and Year 13.

In my time at Sixth Form, the teachers really want you to have the best CV or personal statement possible, which is why they offer so many opportunities. From extracurriculars to helping younger pupils or taking part in DofE, the support around you is not only about your Sixth Form experience but also makes sure you're set up for the future. The number of fundraising activities you can get involved in is amazing. Taking on leadership tasks and being part of a team is a great way to gain confidence and go out of your comfort zone. I loved that there were so many opportunities, some things I thought I would never do.

This time last year I had no idea what I wanted to do after school, which made me anxious. But having speakers in school, careers meetings and days, and talking to teachers around me gave me a clear view of things I did not want to do and things that I might be interested in for the future. They also don't narrow it down to just university but let us know about apprenticeships and other plans we can pursue after Sixth Form.

Furthermore, one of the teachers' main priorities in this sixth form is our health and wellbeing. They are there to help anyone if you need it, they're always around even for a quick chat. It might be about a specific subject - you just need to talk to your subject teacher. They know that sixth form is a jump from GCSE, so they'll be there to help. Especially during exams, which can be a stressful time for many, knowing that there are teachers and a Head of Sixth Form there to support you is very reassuring.

Finally, I believe that Sixth Form is the best place to study in the area. It allows students to grow and gain confidence with their academic journey, offering support to try new things while giving you the independence to find your feet.

Hope Williams

INTRODUCTION

from our Head Boy

Hi, I'm Josh and I'm currently studying History, Geography and PE. After Year 13, I plan to travel during a gap year before heading to university. I firmly believe that Welshpool Sixth Form is the best place for your next step, and whilst some may say I'm biased, I'll explain why I feel this way.

No matter where you attend Sixth Form, A-levels will always be a big step up. However, here at Welshpool, many measures are taken to ensure you're comfortable in lessons and in our Sixth Form in general. This helped me a lot to adjust to Key Stage 5, and whilst A-levels are certainly more challenging, if you're willing to put in the effort, you're guaranteed to see results. Not to mention the teachers will do all they can to help you out.

In Year 12, within your individual courses you're offered so many opportunities to volunteer and help at events. Speaking from experience in PE, I had chances to referee and coach football, and in History, I became a History ambassador.



On top of this, I opted for just three subjects in Year 12 instead of four, meaning I had to choose an extracurricular activity. chance to try new things. You're offered a variety of things to do like DofE, Welsh Baccalaureate, Sport Leadership Award and so much more, which is a great .

One thing I found in Sixth Form is that the classes are much smaller, which I feel is a big advantage that larger schools don't have. It really allows you to ask questions freely with confidence, and it allows teachers to get to know you and how you like to learn, enabling them to teach more effectively.

Joshua Evans

GENERAL INFORMATION

School Address:

Welshpool High School
Salop Road, Welshpool
Powys
SY21 7RE

School Office Tel:

01938 552014

E-mail:

office@welshpool-
hs.powys.sch.uk

Web Address:

www.welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk

Absence Line:

01938 554119

Headteacher:

Mr J Arnold

Chair of Governors:

Mr J Johnson

Language Category:

English Medium. The main language of communication is English.

The school is a mixed comprehensive for pupils aged between 11 and 18 years.

It is maintained by Powys Education Authority who can be contacted at the following address.

Director of Education:

Dr Richard Jones
Powys County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

Tel: 01597 826000

Planned Admission Number:

162 students

School Day:

8.55 - 9.15 am	Registration
9.15 - 10.05 am	Period 1
10.05 - 10.55 am	Period 2
10.55 - 11.15 am	Break
11.15 - 12.05 pm	Period 3
12.05 - 12.55 pm	Period 4
12.55 - 1.45 pm	Lunch
<i>(1.40 pm pupil moving bell)</i>	
1.45 - 2.40 pm	Period 5
<i>(including registration)</i>	
2.40 - 3.00 pm	Period 6

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025			
1st Session	Tuesday, 2nd September	-	Thursday, 23rd October
HALF TERM	Monday, 27th October	-	Friday, 31st October
2nd Session	Monday, 3rd November	-	Friday, 19th December
Spring Term 2026			
1st Session	Wednesday, 7th January	-	Friday, 13th February
HALF TERM	Monday, 16th February	-	Friday, 20th February
2nd Session	Monday, 23rd February	-	Friday, 27th March
Summer Term 2026			
1st Session	Monday, 13th April	-	Friday, 22nd May
HALF TERM	Monday, 25th May	-	Friday, 29th May
2nd Session	Monday, 1st June	-	Friday, 17th July

Non-Pupil Days	
2025	2026
Monday, 1st September	Monday, 5th January
Friday, 24th October	Tuesday, 6th January
	Friday, 6th March
	Friday, 1st May

Parental Consultation Evenings	
Open Evening	October
Year 7	March
Year 8	April
Year 9	March
Year 10	February
Year 11	January
Year 12	January
Year 13	November

Y SENEDD STUDENT COUNCIL

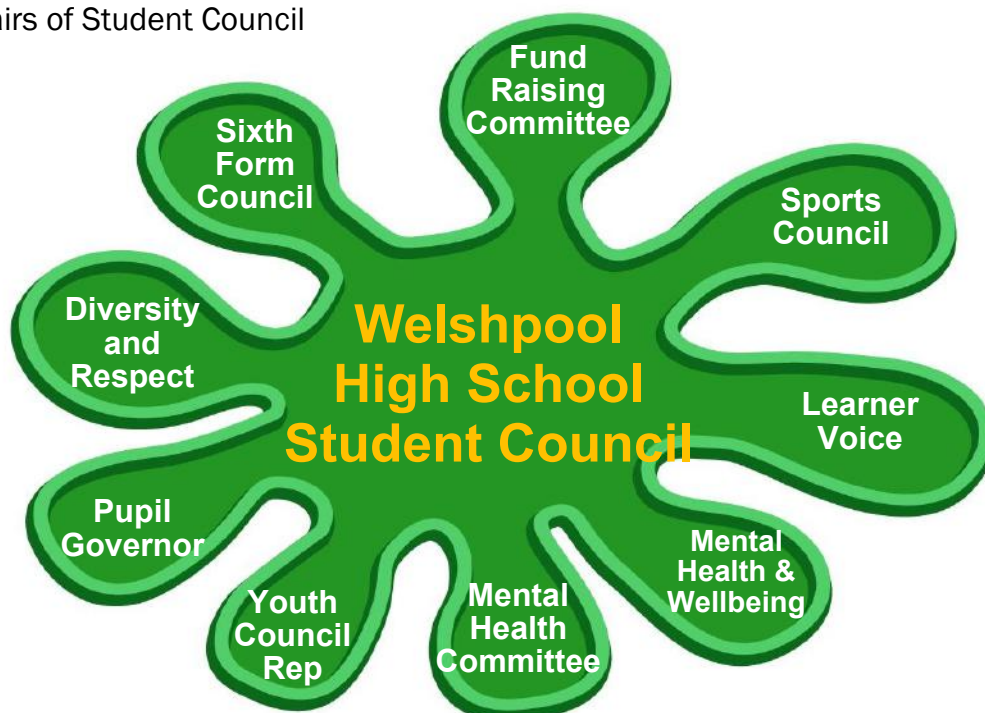
Our Student Council continues to go from strength to strength, with wide representation from across the student body ensuring that the voice of our learners is clearly heard. Each form group elects 2 representatives who sit on the full council and we are developing a system of sub-committees to address specific areas of interest and need as identified by our learners. Our Sixth Form leadership team assists with chairing the council meetings and committees, meaning that the student council is run by students, for our students. By sharing and feeding back ideas to staff, governors, and fellow pupils, we work together to tackle key issues which affect our school including uniform, learning strategies and more recently, a push to educate students on their rights.

As a Council we take responsibility for raising awareness of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, speaking in assemblies and highlighting the rights that all children are entitled to.

We are proud of how the council represents our students when meeting a range of visitors to our school. This allows us to express our views about school and local matters. Pupils who work with the Headteacher, Governors, Teaching Staff on new initiatives feed back to the main student council at our regular meetings, allowing for every aspect of life at Welshpool High School to be represented. We are currently focusing on improving our school's environmental credentials, as well as looking at restructuring the council to make it as effective as possible.

We look forward to helping you have your voice heard.

Joshua Evans and Hope Williams
Chairs of Student Council



TEACHING STAFF

2025-2026

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Headteacher:	Mr J Arnold	Deputy Headteacher:	Mr J Kinsey
Senior Assistant Headteacher:	Mrs N Forsyth	Assistant Headteacher:	Mr J Loxam
Assistant Headteacher:	Mr A Whitley	Associate Senior Leader:	Ms J Haycock

ENGLISH

Mr J Arnold
Mr B Corfield
Miss T Hibbott
Mrs E Hurst
Mrs V Jones
Mrs E Roach
Mrs H Thomas

MATHEMATICS

Mrs R Aldridge
Mrs J Baines
Ms H Bridgland
Ms M Davies
Mrs N Forsyth
Mrs K Pointer
Mr R Powell

SCIENCE

Mr D Bass
Miss C Brown
Mrs L Frank
Mrs S Lewis
Mrs S Phillips
Mr A Whitley
Ms J Williams

GEOGRAPHY

Ms M Davies
Mrs H Evans
Mr J Kinsey
Mrs H Walton

HISTORY

Mrs K Grindley
Ms J Haycock
Mr S McDermott

RELIGION, VALUES and ETHICS

Mrs S Arnold

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

Ms H Bridgland
Ms N O'Sullivan
Miss R Williams

WELSH

Mr S Monk
Dr B Sadler
Ms C Tibbott

ART

Miss N Atkin
Mrs E Richards

DRAMA and MUSIC

Ms G Charles
Mrs C Evans
Miss A Fletcher

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Miss B Davies
Mr A Humphreys
Mrs W Jones
Mr J Kinsey
Mr J Loxam

TECHNOLOGY

Mr J Birch
Mrs R Lewis
Mr J Kinsey
Mr J Purslow

IT and VOCATIONAL

Ms M Jones
Mrs J Loxam
Mrs D Smith

PSYCHOLOGY

Mrs V Jones

CALON

Mrs J Baines

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT STAFF 2025-2026

Mrs Z Alderson	Data Manager/Examinations Officer
Mrs R Bartley	Inclusion Officer
Mrs A Davies	Receptionist
Mrs K Davies	PA to Headteacher
Mr M Fellows	IT System Manager
Mrs L Hughes	Finance Officer
Mrs R Hughes	D & T Technician
Mrs A Jones	Careers
Mr M Jones	LLS Sports Academy
Mrs C Jones	Business Manager
Mr K Lynch	IT Technician
Mr A Macdonald	School Caretaker
Mrs K Morris	Administration Officer
Mr A Roberts	Evening Caretaker
Ms A Rees	Science Technician
Mrs J Thomas	Science Technician
Mrs S White	Attendance Officer

Calon

Mrs E Barrett	LSA	Miss K Brown	LSA
Mrs K Dart	LSA	Mrs C Doody	LSA
Mrs D Evans	LSA	Mrs H Gannon	LSA
Mrs H Gwilt	LSA	Mrs M Kozuchowska	LSA

Cover Officer

Mrs W Harries

Cover Supervisors

Mrs H Fletcher
Mrs K Parnham
Mrs A Roberts

COMMUNICATING with parents

A key feature of the school is the partnership and co-operation between school and home. Excellent communication is something of which we are proud and most parents get to know the Form Tutors and Heads of Year well.

If students wish to be admitted to the school at any other time of the year, Pastoral Staff will be happy to arrange a personal interview and a tour of the school.

We ask that you look carefully at our Home-School Agreement which is part of the prospectus. Rather than ask all parties to sign this, we would be grateful if you would review the agreement found on page 50.

Our reporting system aims to give students and parents as much useful information as possible.

A progress report on each student is sent to parents termly. Parents are encouraged to respond if there are areas of concern.

The Parental Consultation Evenings are held annually and are extremely well attended. At these, staff and parents are able to exchange information and ideas in a relaxed environment.

Parents who are unable to attend are invited to contact their child's Head of Year.

When a student is ill and unable to attend school, parents are asked to telephone the school absence line or contact the school Attendance Officer daily.

In the event of long term illness, we can offer some continuity in the child's education.

If a pupil becomes unwell at school, they should go along to the medical room and a parent will be contacted if necessary.

A complaints policy is available on the school website in the event of a parent wishing to make a formal complaint about the school's curriculum or organisation.



CARING

for our students

We have excellent links with primary schools. Our new Year 7 students will already be familiar with the school buildings, the curriculum and the teaching staff, having spent two days at the school in the summer term of Year 6. Moving to a new school can be a big step for young people, but we believe our students are well prepared and ready to enjoy the exciting new opportunities offered to them at this school.

Form Groups

The school is organised in year groups and students entering Year 7 are grouped into form groups.

The pastoral and academic development of each student is overseen by their Form Tutor, who is concerned with every aspect of the student's education. The Form Tutor plays a vital role in monitoring the academic progress of each student, and students are helped to set targets and develop as effective learners.

It is the function of a good school to make opportunities available to its students and then ensure that they benefit from those opportunities. We expect participation and endeavour and we help students to live up to our expectations.

Also, we expect our students to come to school properly dressed, properly equipped and ready to give their best.

When any contact with the school is necessary, the Head of Year will offer support and advice.

Standard of expected behaviour

The most important rule of the school is that everyone should show respect for other people and their property.

We believe that bullying is unacceptable and should not be tolerated and we are successful in dealing with known and suspected incidents of bullying.

The anti-bullying policy is available on the school website.





STANDARDS of expected behaviour

An important rule of the school is that everyone should show respect for other people and their property. We should expect to give and to receive respect.

At the start of lessons, we should

- ◆ arrive on time or expect to make up the lost time at break or lunchtime
- ◆ enter the classroom or laboratory sensibly, safely and quietly
- ◆ take off jackets
- ◆ take out books, pens and pencils ready for work
- ◆ remain quiet for the teacher to take the register

During lessons we should

- ◆ concentrate at all times and try to do our best
- ◆ put up a hand before answering questions
- ◆ work sensibly and not distract anybody else from their work
- ◆ record homework in the homework planner
- ◆ not eat, chew or drink
- ◆ not use radios, electronic devices, mobile phones or other distractions from work. If an attempt is made to use them during lessons they will be confiscated until the end of the day. More than 3 confiscations will lead to parents being asked to collect the item.

At the end of lessons we should

- ◆ wait until the teacher gives the instruction to pack away
- ◆ pick up any litter and put it in the bin
- ◆ leave the room in a sensible manner

STANDARDS of expected behaviour

During free time such as break and lunchtime we should

- ◆ behave sensibly and respectfully to everyone else
- ◆ try to understand other people's points of view
- ◆ move quietly around the school
- ◆ avoid bullying, fighting or swearing
- ◆ not use radios, electronic devices or mobile phones
- ◆ never leave school without first asking permission from a teacher or from the school office, after bringing written permission from parent/carer

Absence

Parents/carers should contact the school office or leave a message on the absence line for each day of absence.

Essential Equipment

To enable students to work effectively we recommend that they bring the following pieces of equipment to school with them every day: a bag, 2 pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, coloured pencil crayons (not felts), calculator, homework planner (provided by the school) and a reading book.

Homework

All students need time to work on their own. Homework can take a number of forms such as reading, researching, making notes, revising, reflecting etc. Parents can play a very important part in supporting their child in doing homework by encouraging them, getting involved on occasions, and creating a quiet, warm place in which their child can work without unnecessary disturbance.

Homework is set regularly and every student will receive a homework planner to record actual details.



STANDARDS of expected behaviour

Travelling to and from School

We expect all our students to behave appropriately when travelling to and from school. Many of our students travel to and from school by bus. We expect the same standard of responsible and courteous behaviour on school transport as at school.

Any queries concerning transport can be directed to the Assistant Headteacher, Mr A Whitley, **OR** the Transport Co-ordination Unit, County Hall, Tel: 01597 826000.

Lunch Arrangements

Only in exceptional circumstances will students be allowed home for lunch. Students may either bring a packed lunch from home or purchase a meal in our dining hall, where a range of food is provided.

Drinks and snacks, like filled rolls and fruit, are available in the Foyer at break time and breakfast is served each morning from 8.00 am.

Uniform

The school uniform has been chosen to be a suitably smart alternative to casual clothes and every pupil is expected to wear it.

A full list of the uniform is given on the following pages



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Girls

- ◆ Black formal school skirt, or tailored trousers, **NOT** canvas, denim, corduroy or fashion trousers
- ◆ Plain white shirt
- ◆ Grey V-neck school jumper embroidered with the school motif
- ◆ Black blazer embroidered with the school motif
- ◆ Black, charcoal grey or white socks, or black tights
- ◆ Official school tie
- ◆ Plain black footwear



Boys

- ◆ Black tailored school trousers, **NOT** canvas, denim, corduroy or fashion trousers
- ◆ Plain white shirt
- ◆ Grey V-neck school jumper embroidered with the school motif
- ◆ Black blazer embroidered with the school motif
- ◆ Black, charcoal grey or white socks
- ◆ Official school tie
- ◆ Plain black footwear



All Pupils

- ◆ Plain black footwear
- ◆ A dark coloured coat or jacket (**NOT** a hoodie)
- ◆ Apron for Food Technology

Please mark all items
with student's name

All items are available online at: www.constructiv.co.uk **OR** through Constructiv Clothing, Unit 50, Mochdre Industrial Est, Newtown, Powys SY16 4LE

PE KIT

Girls

- ◆ Black and green polo shirt embroidered with the school motif
- ◆ **Plain** black shorts
- ◆ Black football socks/white sports socks

Boys

- ◆ Black and green polo shirt embroidered with the school motif.
- ◆ **Plain** black shorts
- ◆ Black football socks.

All Pupils

All pupils need trainers (**NOT** black soles) **in addition** to their normal school footwear.

During the Autumn and Spring Terms pupils will also need football/rugby boots.

Optional Items:

- ◆ Reversible black/green rugby top.
- ◆ Hooded top embroidered with the school motif.
- ◆ Black long sleeve base layer.
- ◆ Students are advised to wear gum shields and shin pads for all outdoor games.
- ◆ All PE kit can be purchased from Constructiv Clothing.

Constructiv Clothing.

Unit 50, Mochdre Industrial Est,
Newtown, Powys SY16 4LE

Tel: 01686 610890

E-mail: enquiries@constructiv.co.uk



HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Please mark all items with the student's name.

All jewellery to be removed for PE lessons.

Studs/Bars/Facial Piercings

Governors appreciate the inherent danger in studs/bars being worn and so advise that only one stud in each ear will be allowed. Facial piercings, i.e. lip, nose or eyebrow studs are strictly not permitted.

Make-up & Hair Styles

No extremes of make-up and hairstyles; including tram lines and designs shaved into hair, or inappropriate colour, will be permitted.

Mobile Phones

Students are allowed to bring mobile phones for contacting parents before or after the end of the school day, but they must remain switched off and stored away during the day.

Mobile devices/smart watches, etc are not allowed. The school will not take any responsibility for loss or damage to any mobile phone/device brought into school.

CURRICULUM

features

The aim of our curriculum is to provide our students with a rich, varied and challenging programme which will equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to lead fulfilled lives. The Curriculum for Wales sets out the basic framework for every school in the country.

Our curriculum not only meets National Curriculum criteria, but also incorporates a number of important educational features which build on the strengths and expertise in the school. Some of these features are outlined below.

- ◆ Strong outcomes in all of the core subjects (English, Maths and Science) due to a well planned curriculum and high quality teaching.
- ◆ Good facilities and opportunities for Technology, Information Technology, PE and Creative Arts.
- ◆ In Science in Year 11, all students follow at least a Double Award Science GCSE. The most able scientists can study three separate GCSE Science courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- ◆ Excellent provision for Languages with two modern international languages being offered to our Key Stage 4 students.
- ◆ Music, Art, Photography and Drama are popular courses and they are taught in specially designed facilities.
- ◆ Music has an outstanding reputation. We have a jazz band, a concert band, a singing group and school choir.
- ◆ Many of our students are members of the Montgomeryshire Youth Music, and a number of students have won places in national bands, orchestras and choirs.
- ◆ Drama also has an outstanding reputation. We provide a range of opportunities for students to get involved in drama productions. Many of our students choose to join the Montgomeryshire Youth Theatre and several have become professional actors.
- ◆ Art and Photography are popular and there is excellent provision for students wishing to develop in this area. Several extracurricular activities are offered

Cont...



CURRICULUM features

- ◆ Excellent provision for students with Additional Learning Needs.
- ◆ Vocational courses are offered at Key Stage 4 and in the Sixth Form.
- ◆ An increasing number of our students have entered university because of their excellent vocational and 'A' Level results.
- ◆ An impressive range of 'AS' and 'A' level courses are available in the Sixth Form. **We also collaborate with neighbouring schools and colleges to offer over thirty courses at 'AS'/'A' Level and Level 3.**
- ◆ Excellent curriculum provision for Physical Education. GCSE and 'A' Level PE are popular options. We also offer a Sports Coaching Award in the Sixth Form.
- ◆ Key Stage 4 courses may lead to qualifications at GCSE Level 2 and Level 1, and BTEC Level 2 and Level 1.
- ◆ Welsh is a statutory part of the National Curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4.



CURRICULUM organisation

The National Curriculum splits secondary education into 2 key stages

Key Stage 3 Years 7, 8, 9 (Age 11 - 14 years)

Key Stage 4 Years 10, 11 (Age 14 - 16 years)

Key Stage 3: All students follow courses in these subjects:

English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Religious Values and Ethics, Welsh, French, Spanish, Design and Technology, PE, Art, Music, Drama, Personal and Social Education (PSE), Health Studies, Information Technology (IT), Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

Students will also experience opportunity to learn within and across the six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE) as part of the newly implemented Curriculum for Wales (CfW).

This will help develop learners in the four purposes.

- ◆ Ambitious, capable learner
- ◆ Enterprising, creative contributors
- ◆ Ethical, well-informed citizens
- ◆ Healthy, confident individuals

Initially in Year 7 most students are taught in mixed ability form groups. As soon as desirable, some departments reorganise the teaching groups and students are placed in sets according to ability. This enables students to be taught in classes which best meet their academic needs.

In all courses students are assessed regularly and the opportunity exists for them to be moved to different teaching groups if necessary.

At the end of Year 7 other departments often reorganise classes and place students into sets.

Cont...

CURRICULUM organisation

Key Stage 4:

All students follow a core of subjects alongside their choice of optional subjects. The example below is our current offer for Year 10.

Core Subjects:

Welsh, English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate, Physical Education, Religion, Values and Ethics, PSE including Learning and Study Skills, Careers Education, Academic Monitoring, Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE).

Option Subjects:

GCSE

Art
Drama
Geography
History
Music
PE
Spanish
D & T Engineering Design
Sciences
Photography
DT Product Design
Health and Social Care

BTEC

First Award in Business
First Award in Hospitality
First Award in ICT
SWEET/Life Skills Pathway
The King's Trust Award

CURRICULUM organisation

Currently students in Key Stage 4 study the Welsh Baccaulaureate. The central focus of the Welsh Baccaulaureate at National/Foundation Level is to provide a vehicle for students to consolidate and further develop essential and employability skills and to provide experiences which will enable them to be better prepared for their future destination, whether that is university, further training or employment. The emphasis in the Welsh Baccaulaureate is on applied learning, for instance acquiring and applying a range of transferable skills relevant to the needs and demands of the workplace and further education.

Through following the Welsh Baccaulaureate course, students raise their skill levels and improve their confidence, enabling and empowering them to take their place as responsible and active citizens within a diverse society. Alongside and through the development of skills, the Welsh Baccaulaureate provides students with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and understanding of society, the community in which they live and wider awareness of global issues, events and perspectives.



Welsh Baccaulaureate



Welsh Baccalaureate



THE SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form provision aims to cater for the needs of 16-19 year old students who wish to remain in full-time education. We are able to offer a broad range of courses and the Sixth Form is popular and expanding, with approximately 55% of students staying on to study with us.

The Sixth Form facilities include a common room, access to computers, a careers library and a newly refurbished study area.

All Sixth Form students are supported by a team of experienced staff: the Head of Sixth Form, Learning Coach and Tutors.

We aim to cater for each individual's subject preferences and combinations. The current range of academic and vocational Post-16 courses available is shown below.

BTEC Level 3 Business Studies, Information Technology, Creative Digital Media , Sports Coaching.

'AS' and 'A' Levels Art, Biology, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Drama, English Literature, French, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, Hospitality and Catering, Mathematics, Further Maths, Music, Philosophy, Photography, Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Spanish, Technology, Welsh, Welsh Baccalaureate.

'A' Levels are designed primarily as an entry route to university and are therefore highly academic. Success depends on a sound academic footing and the ability to study independently.

GCSE resit examinations in English and Mathematics for Sixth Form students may be taken following consultation with the Head of Sixth Form.

Entry Requirements

We recommend that students have gained GCSE grades A* to C in at least 5 subjects to access most Sixth Form courses.

A separate prospectus is available which gives a full description of the Admission Criteria.

Course Requirements

In order to help students keep up with the pressures and demands of studying in the Sixth Form, they receive regular assessments, termly reports and individual interviews with staff.

Further details of course assessment are available from the Head of Sixth Form on request or are available in the Sixth Form prospectus, published separately.

MEETING

individual educational needs

We are justly proud of the support offered to students with additional learning needs across the ability range. Some of our students have exceptionally high academic ability; others have specific learning difficulties. Some of our students will have a school or local authority IDP (Individual Development Plan). Whatever the ability, we aim to meet each student's individual needs and to take into account the views of the student and parents/carers.

For example, one student may need stimulating material to extend and enhance the curriculum while another student may need a specific support programme such as reading, handwriting skills, spelling skills, or dyslexia support.

Admission arrangements for students with additional learning needs are the same as for all students. Students with a LA IDP are placed by the Local Authority, who make every effort to comply with parent and student preference in accordance with the Local Authority's admission procedure.

On entry to the school, most students undertake standardised tests in reading, spelling, and verbal and non-verbal reasoning and mathematical skills to inform future provision.

Our policy is to teach students in groups which best meet their educational needs.

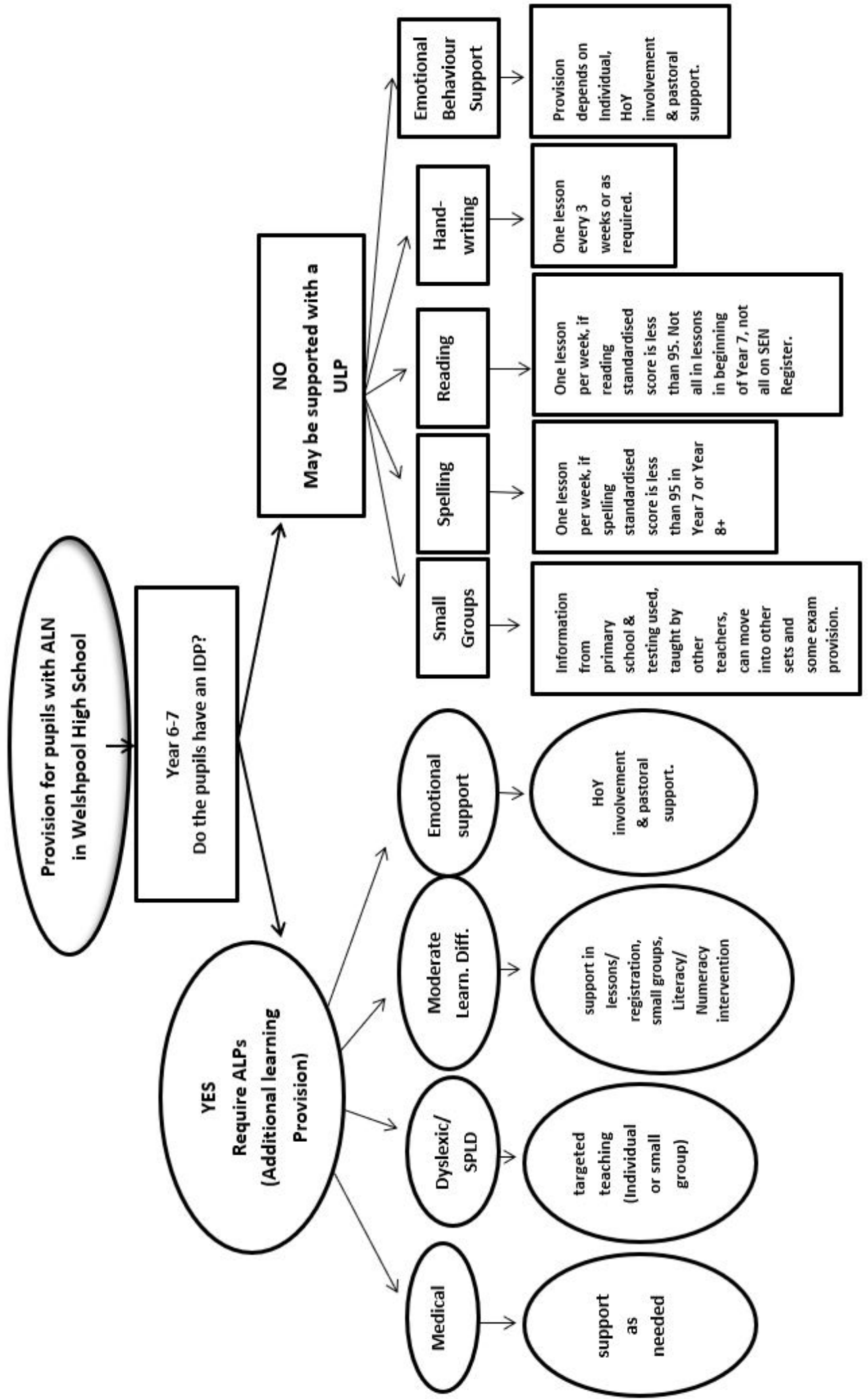
Some students with specific learning difficulties might be taught in small groups or will visit the Additional Learning Needs Department (Calon) for some of their lessons.

In-class support will be provided in accordance with the student's IDP. Selected students will be invited to take part in a reading or spelling intervention using short, intensive courses. Our suite of computers enables students to practise their keyboard skills and some students may benefit from using programmes to enhance performance in memory skills, touch typing, reading and mathematics. Some students will take part in lessons designed to enhance emotional literacy and may also be invited to attend support groups.

Mrs J Baines (Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator) is also responsible for monitoring and reviewing the needs of Children Looked After, Gypsy Roma Traveller pupils and multilingual learners.

Students at KS4/KS5 with additional learning needs will also be provided with additional support for external examinations. The school policy on additional learning needs is available on request.

The following flow chart is to show how the Additional Learning Needs Dept supports pupils on entry to High School.





MORE ABLE and talented

At Welshpool High School, More Able and Talented is defined as:
“Those who show exceptional ability in one or more subject areas or those who possess a general academic learning ability that is significantly greater than most of their peers.”

In addition to this, the broadest definition is taken into account to also include less easily acknowledged traits such as leadership and interpersonal skills. Generally, the term ‘More Able’ is concerned with academic subjects, e.g. Maths, English, etc and ‘Talented’ refers to the arts, PE, Music, etc. The group reflects the upper 5-10% of your child’s year group.

At Welshpool High School we believe that ALL children are entitled to an education that will enable them to succeed and achieve. This includes the more able students and we therefore strive to provide an education that is both personal to their needs and motivates them to excel and achieve. It is important to remember that a child may not be above average in all subject areas.

What students should expect from being in the More Able and Talented Group:

- ◆ enrichment through personalised learning, both inside and outside the classroom
- ◆ opportunities to develop and encourage independence and self-assessment
- ◆ to be able to nominate themselves as More Able and Talented
- ◆ to be able to suggest and select their own extracurricular activities
- ◆ involvement in many More Able and Talented activities

How are More Able and Talented students identified?

The method of identification for More Able and Talented is extensive and annually reviewed. No one method can be entirely accurate, therefore we endeavour to obtain as much information about individual students as possible.

A summary of the process is as follows:

- ◆ information/nomination from previous school
- ◆ internal and external assessment and testing
- ◆ specific subject criteria developed by teacher, parent/carer, self-nomination

All subject areas are also requested to identify and monitor the students who they believe to be the more able in their subject area.

Celebration of Success

Welshpool High School values the celebration of achievement at all levels and in all areas of school life. It is essential that More Able and Talented students adopt the following attitudes:

- ◆ to aspire to reach their full potential;
- ◆ to be confident that celebrating success is rewarding;
- ◆ to take pride in their achievements.

SPORTS PROVISION

and extracurricular activities

Sports Provision

The school believes that PE is important with lifelong physical activity being considered essential for good health, which should not be taken for granted. The PE programme is planned to provide vigorous, purposeful and regular activities through which our students can experience enjoyment, well-being and achievement. PE includes competitive and non-competitive activities, individual and group activities and has a focus on health-related exercise.

The PE programme lays the foundation for

- ◆ skill development
- ◆ lifelong participation
- ◆ positive attitudes to health and physical activity

The activities in the PE programme include football, rugby, hockey, netball, cricket, tennis, basketball, softball, badminton, athletics, gymnastics, rounders, adventurous activities, swimming and health related fitness.

The use of the Flash Leisure Centre gives us a wonderful opportunity to extend the PE programme. Swimming, bowls, spinning and work-outs in the fitness suite are very popular and encourage long term health awareness.

The multi-purpose sports hall caters for team and individual sports. The astroturf facility allows the school to deliver a wide range of activities during and after school hours.



Our facilities include a re-surfaced football/rugby pitch, new netball/tennis courts, long jump pits, cricket nets and athletics track.

The Physical Education Department also provides an extensive range of extracurricular activities.

Extracurricular clubs and competitions give students the opportunity to fully participate in a variety of sports.

SPORTS PROVISION

and extracurricular activities

Extracurricular clubs cater for students who wish to participate in meaningful exercise.

A variety of clubs run on a weekly basis throughout the year. Inter-form fixtures are a prominent feature and students take great pride in representing the school.

All age groups have the opportunity to compete against other schools throughout the academic year and have been particularly successful in recent years, especially in team games (hockey, netball, football and rugby) as well as having exceptional success in athletics, cross-country, swimming and tennis.

Pupils also have the opportunity to progress from competitive school sport through to county, regional, national and international level. The school currently has a number of successful teams and individuals who have achieved 'elite' level performance.

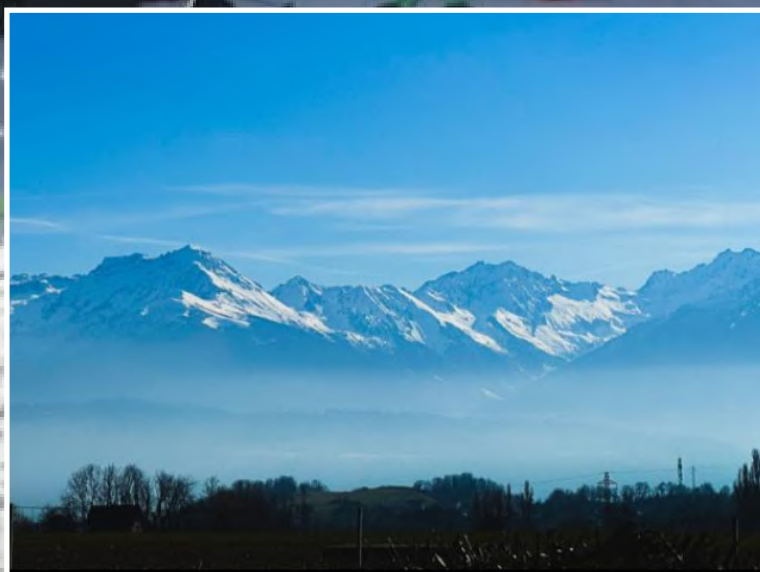
The PE Department organises an outdoor education residential trip for those pupils in Year 8, a biennial skiing trip for pupils in Years 10 and 11 and this year a football tour to Spain for pupils in Years 9 and 10.



SPORTS PROVISION and extracurricular activities



SPORTS PROVISION and extracurricular activities



SPORTS PROVISION

and extracurricular activities

By offering a wide range of extracurricular activities, we aim to increase young people's participation in physical activity. Activities such as dodgeball, basketball, table tennis, badminton and spinning are offered to encourage all the pupils at Welshpool High School to get involved with sport and to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

The school makes the most of the talents on offer by using the Sixth Form students to assist in the running of many of the lunchtime activities. As the Sixth Form students are considering their future options, this experience is extremely useful as it provides them with a taste of what is required when working with young people.

We have also made links with many of the sports clubs from the Welshpool area. Coaches and instructors from these clubs are often used to run the activities, so that the pupils know that they can take part in activities outside school, should they wish to do so.

Through our links with Sport Powys pupils are provided with opportunities to engage in and implement well-established programmes such as the Young Ambassadors and Active Leaders Schemes.

Many of the opportunities available are focussed on health and wellbeing i.e. social, mental, physical, and emotional and go hand in hand with the new curriculum; developing leadership, are person centred and provides a learner voice.



EXTRACURRICULAR activities

Art

The Art Department offers a vibrant and inclusive environment where creativity thrives both inside and outside the classroom.

Key Stage 3 students can enjoy a range of extracurricular opportunities, including weekly art clubs and exciting community projects, helping them to explore their ideas and develop new skills.

For GCSE and 'A' Level students, we operate an 'open door' policy at lunchtime, giving them the freedom to use our facilities whenever inspiration strikes, alongside dedicated after-school sessions to support their studies.

We are proud to collaborate with local arts organisations such as Arts Connection Powys and The Montgomeryshire Society, ensuring our students benefit from enriching experiences that connect them with the local community and Welsh culture and heritage.



EXTRA CURRICULAR activities

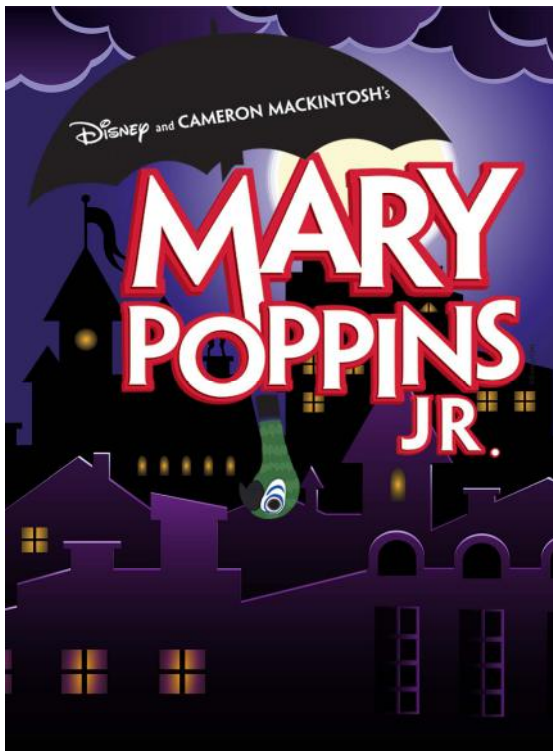
Drama

Drama and Theatre studies offers a range of extracurricular activities for students.

In Years 10 and Year 11 students are given the opportunity to attend a theatre trip. This takes place in one of our local Theatres, such as Theatre Hafren in Newtown or Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury.

Years 12 and 13 students become regular visitors to our local Theatres enabling them to gain knowledge of various types of performance.

School productions are a very important aspect of Welshpool High School. These productions ignite energy throughout the school in rehearsals and during the run of the shows. Productions enable students to shine as performers, set designers and costume and lighting designers. Our past productions have included 'A Christmas Carol', 'Peter Pan', 'Rock of Ages' and Mary Poppins Jr.



EXTRACURRICULAR activities

Science

Throughout the academic year we celebrate events such as British Science week and women in STEM week providing a number of fun opportunities outside the laboratory.

There are opportunities to represent the school in science competitions and we have a strong record of success. These competitions take place both in school and at other venues including the Salter's Challenge at Aberystwyth University.

We offer a Science Club to Key Stage 3 pupils which is always very popular. It gives an opportunity to try out new experiments in a fun and exciting way, building up confidence in practical skills. We always look for opportunities to host science shows and invite visiting speakers to the school to enrich our curriculum.



EXTRACURRICULAR activities

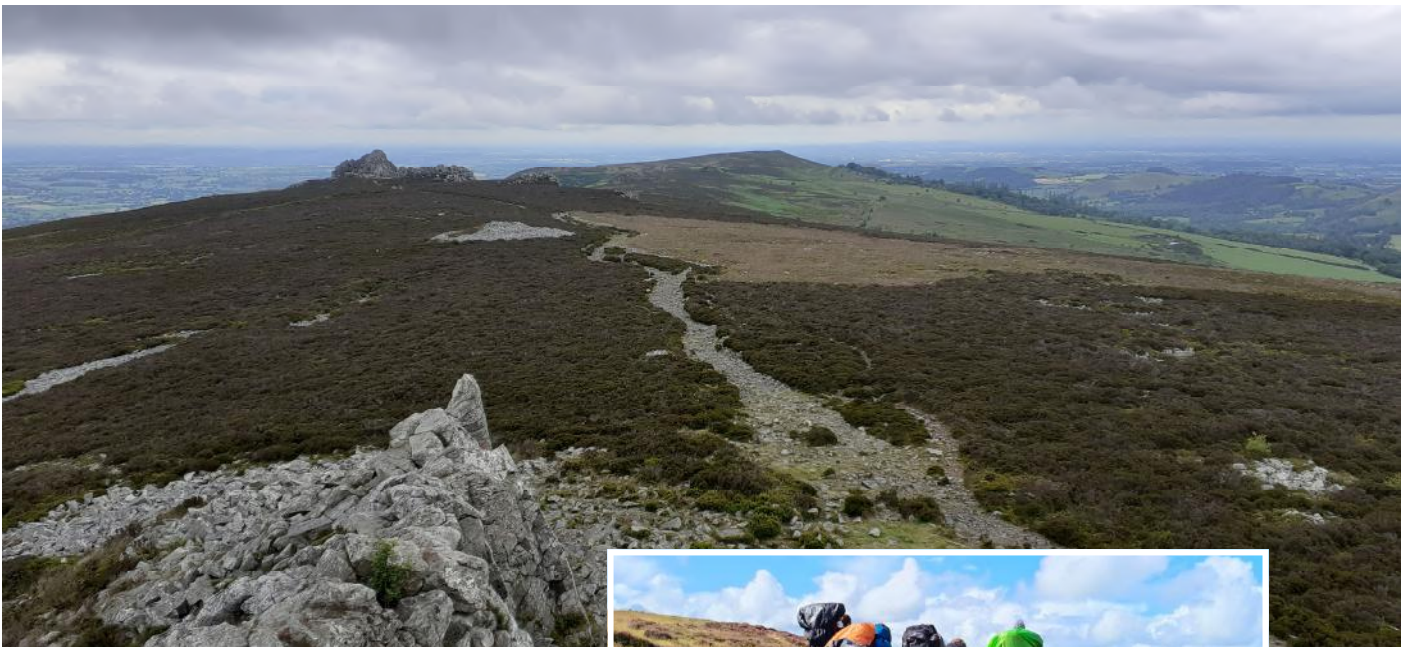
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The summer training expedition goes to Long Mynd and the Stiperstones and the autumn qualifying expedition to Llangollen and The Berwyns. Both trips are three days walking and two nights camping, with students carrying all their own equipment and planning their own routes.

We have seen all weather conditions on these expeditions in the last few years and some seriously determined WHS students have completed the expeditions despite all that the elements can throw at them! All students would agree that D of E is fun, it is a way of meeting and working with both friends and new people, it develops opportunities to undertake activities outside of school time and looks great on CV and UCAS forms when it comes to leaving school.

At the moment the award is limited to 16 students in Year 12 due to staff numbers and group sizes for the expeditions.

In 2025-2026 we will look to run a group in Year 12, doing the training over the winter and then the walk and expeditions in July and September 2026.



EXTRACURRICULAR activities

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



EXTRACURRICULAR activities

Music Department

Extracurricular activities are a central feature of Welshpool High School's Music Department. The regular clubs include a Singing Group, Concert Band, Jazz Band and KS3 and Upper School Live Lounge Groups. All rehearsals are centred around the bi-annual Concert Nights, at Christmas and during the Summer Term.

The music groups also play an active role in the wider community, one key date during the Autumn term being the R.A.B.I Carol Concert at the Livestock Market. Other events during the course of the year include the annual 'Mince Pies and Music' afternoon and a wide range of performances within the local area.

The most important highlight of the department's extracurricular calendar has to be the school production. This production helps pupils develop their confidence and stretch their capability. Whether they take part as a soloist on stage, helping back stage or participating in the chorus or band, one thing is for certain; they end the final performance night with an immense sense of pride, confidence and achievement, having undoubtedly given us all a few surprises along the way!





This year's Head Students with their leadership team.



CAREERS

education and work experience

Careers information and guidance feature prominently in the school curriculum. The individual student's need is our main concern and this is catered for in a professional manner.

Careers Education

Throughout Years 8, 9, 10 and 11, students receive information and individual guidance from experienced careers staff, including a resident Careers Officer. Students have access to a well equipped careers library and computer research facilities including Careers Wales online.

Careers' Mark

Welshpool High School has once again, been working very hard to improve its provision for careers and the world of work, and in July 2021 we were awarded The Careers Wales Mark. Achieving the award demonstrates the improvement of standards in the provision of careers and the world of work. The Careers Wales Mark recognises that Welshpool High School has demonstrated they have active procedures in place to ensure a continuous process of improvement.



CAREERS

education and work experience

Work Experience

All students have the opportunity to spend a period of time on a work experience placement. As far as possible, the students link their placement to the school subjects they are studying, and undertake projects to help them with their GCSEs. Some students also use the work placement to sample, and identify themselves with, various careers.

Our staff closely monitor students' experiences on work placement and certification is incorporated into their final Record of Achievement.



At the end of Year 11, many of our students continue their education in the Sixth Form studying 'A' Level courses. Other students may go on to local colleges of Further Education or Modern Apprenticeships.

The Careers Service is pleased to offer professional impartial advice to students and their parents/carers and arranges personal interviews immediately following examination results in Years 11 and 13.

Educational Visits

Trips are an important part of the school curriculum and can significantly enrich the experience of students.

The same standard of behaviour that is expected in school will also be expected on trips. Where there are any concerns about the behaviour of a student, the opportunity to take part in trips will be withdrawn.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

a resource for all

The School Library is a resource for the whole school.

Features include:

- ◆ Quiet study facilities for our Sixth Form
- ◆ All day access to computers for individual study and research
- ◆ A reference Library to support research and study in all subject areas
- ◆ Comfortable seating for leisure reading and browsing
- ◆ Books! Fiction and non-fiction for all ages, interests and abilities

The Library is open during the school day, and during break times and lunchtimes when it is busy with students reading, researching, doing homework and choosing books to borrow for their personal reading. Year 12 and Year 13 students may use the library at any time of the day for private study, if it has not been booked for a class project.

Library-based project work across the curriculum is a feature of life for every school year group, giving students the opportunity to improve their skills in independent learning and research.

Book related events such as competitions, quizzes, and author visits are also held. We run a permanent schedule of Book Fairs where students have the opportunity to buy books.

All Year 7 students take part in Library Induction training in which they learn how to find their way around the library and how to make best use of its facilities.

We have a well established Reading Booster Programme, where Year 12 and Year 10 students team up with Year 7 or Year 8 students to help them gain confidence and fluency in their reading.

The library is supported by a computerised library management system which facilitates quick and accurate cataloguing, membership records and book loans.

The system is installed on the school's curriculum network so that the library catalogue can be consulted from any computer in school.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

a resource for all



HOME/SCHOOL agreement

Welshpool High School Home/School Agreement

The School will try to

- ◆ care for the student's safety and happiness
- ◆ deal with any cases of bullying or harassment firmly and in accordance with our anti-bullying policy
- ◆ ensure that the student is given the opportunity to achieve their full potential, both educationally and developmentally
- ◆ encourage high standards of work and behaviour and try to instil a sense of responsibility and belonging within the community of the school
- ◆ provide details of school policies on behaviour
- ◆ provide a balanced curriculum and endeavour to meet the individual needs of the student
- ◆ provide a report, at least three times a year, concerning the student's level of achievement and progress
- ◆ provide facilities and books in the Library for extracurricular study
- ◆ provide opportunities to discuss the progress of the student and, if necessary, any problems that may arise
- ◆ provide access to extracurricular activities

Cont...

HOME/SCHOOL agreement

As Parent(s)/Carer(s) I/we will try to

- ◆ make sure they attend regularly, on time, properly equipped and wearing school uniform
- ◆ inform the school (on the first day of absence) if they are absent
- ◆ support the school's systems of rewards and sanctions
- ◆ support the school's policies and rules on behaviour
- ◆ let the school know of any changes in circumstances or problems that may affect their work or behaviour
- ◆ support them with their homework and other aspects of home learning
- ◆ attend Parents' Evenings and discussions about their progress

As a Student I will try to

- ◆ attend school regularly and on time
- ◆ wear school uniform and make an effort to have a clean and tidy appearance
- ◆ bring all equipment/books in a bag and take care of school property
- ◆ arrive on time for each lesson
- ◆ complete all homework, classwork and coursework on time and to the best of my ability
- ◆ tell a member of staff if anyone is being harassed or bullied
- ◆ keep the school free from litter and graffiti
- ◆ be polite and helpful to others
- ◆ avoid disrupting the learning of others
- ◆ follow staff instructions
- ◆ remain on the school premises at all times

ADMISSIONS

At the beginning of September 2025, 162 students joined Year 7 and there were no appeals.

We follow the Powys County Council admission policy for all students of compulsory school age.

Entry to the Sixth Form is outlined on page 29.

Safeguarding/Child Protection/Equal Opportunities

Welshpool High School fully recognises the contribution it makes to Child Protection. Support and interventions are in place and several detailed policies are available on request to support our safeguarding of pupils.

As part of our Policy on Safeguarding, all staff at Welshpool High School have a duty to make a referral if there is a concern.

The Governing Body at Welshpool High School is committed to securing the safety and well-being of employees, pupils and others affected by activities on school premises. There are regular inspections of the school carried out by the School Health and Safety Officer. Any potential hazards are identified and the necessary action is taken to ensure that the School remains a safe environment for the children to work and play in.

There are regular Fire Drills, when children practise speedy evacuation of the building. In assemblies such procedures are also reinforced.

To provide improved site security, Welshpool High School operates a closed circuit television system (CCTV) comprising a number of fixed cameras located around the school site. All cameras are monitored from the main office and are only available to selected members of staff.

At Welshpool High School we are committed to promoting equal opportunities by fostering an environment of respect among all its potential and existing students and staff regardless of their gender, marital status, disability, colour, race, nationality or ethnic origin, learning difficulty, religion or belief, sexual orientation or age.

Please visit our school website to find out more about our latest activities and achievements. The website is updated regularly.
www.welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk



DATA

2024-2025

WHS Sixth Form	66%	NVQ Traineeships	4%
Further Education College	24%	Full-time Employment	6%

Attendance of Compulsory Age Students 2024-2025

Attendance figures for the previous year have not yet been published. We continue to work with pupils and parents and are extremely proud of how we support and monitor pupil attendance.

Key Stage 4 Examination Results 2024-2025

Capped 9 Point Score	Literacy Point Score	Numeracy Point Score	Science Point Score
363	40	41	40

Historically, our exam results are favourable when compared to Powys and all Wales Data.

Link to MyLocalSchool web page:
(Update Date: November 2025)

[WELSHPOOL HIGH SCHOOL](#)



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