

A photograph of three children in school uniforms. On the left, a boy in a dark grey sweater with a yellow collar and a school crest looks off to the side. In the center, a boy in a similar sweater has his arm around the first boy's shoulder and is smiling. On the right, a girl in a yellow polo shirt with a school crest is smiling broadly. The background shows a brick building and a cloudy sky.

Ysgol Friars PROSPECTUS

2024-2025

Dear Parent

Welcome to Ysgol Friars, where traditions of excellence and merit have been our guiding light since 1557.

Firstly, we'd like to thank you for considering us the right place for your child to continue their educational journey. We understand that choosing a school for your child is a decision that's not to be taken lightly. Ultimately, it won't just shape their future but also who they become as people, igniting their likes (and dislikes) and setting them off on a bright and prosperous life journey – so trust that we will be with your child every step of the process, empowering them to shine and flourish in academia and beyond.

Ysgol Friars is so much more than just a school; it's a vibrant community where learning is at the centre of everything we do. Yet, we are not just shaping students; we are nurturing our future leaders, innovators and lifelong learners.

If you wish to visit the school and experience firsthand what makes it so special, please do not hesitate to get in touch – we'd love to welcome you. Once again, thanks for considering Ysgol Friars. We are excited to start this journey together.

Yours faithfully,
Ysgol Friars

AN EDUCATIONAL LEADER

We're proud to be a top-performing school in North Wales, leading the way and setting the highest standards of achievement, quality of teaching and facilities, and fostering the most productive environment.

A DYNAMIC HUB OF LEARNING

Education is at the heart of our community; our teachers, assistants, support workers, and the entire pastoral team recognise and value the individuality of all students and are committed to your child's academic and personal progression.

AN ENGAGING CURRICULUM

The subjects and lessons available here are designed to offer a diverse range of learning experiences to motivate, challenge, and stimulate students. We are dedicated to nurturing the potential in everybody, ensuring they receive the best possible education.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

We've fostered a positive and inclusive atmosphere and way of life at Ysgol Friars, and our school has been regularly praised by Estyn, the school inspectorate, for the exemplary behaviour of our students.

A SMOOTH TRANSITION

At Ysgol Friars, we understand the significance of the leap from primary to secondary education, and we are here to provide ongoing support to make this a seamless, enjoyable, and exciting journey for your child.

A RICH HISTORY

For over four centuries, our school has stood as a beacon of learning and knowledge, guiding generations through the journey of education. Our heritage is the foundation upon which we continue to build a brighter future for every student.



CONTENTS

03	Our vision
04	Is this a good school for my child?
05	Results
07	A smooth transition from Primary to Secondary School
09	Meet the lovely team who will support, help and guide your child when they start
11	The right school for the able, innovative and talented
12	NACE Challenge Award
13	Our Vision
14	Is Ysgol Friars the right school for a child with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)?
15	A typical day at Ysgol Friars
17	Our uniform: fostering a sense of identity
19	How will my child get to school?
21	What equipment does my child need to bring to school?
22	Organisation and Curriculum
23	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9
25	The Curriculum 11 - 16
26	Years 10 and 11
27	14 - 19 Learning Pathways
28	Years 12 and 13 (The Sixth Form)
32	A commitment to Sport
33	A bright future Careers and the world of work
35	School Security
35	Medical and Emergency Contact
36	Religious Education
37	Language Policy
38	Charging for Educational Activities
39	Policy on Examination Entries and Payments of Fees
41	Ysgol Friars Additional Learning Needs Policy - a Summary
43	The Governing Body
44	Any problems? We're here to help.
45	Term Details

OUR VISION

To foster enjoyment of learning to the highest standards through the creation of a civilized community where pupils share a common set of values applicable to their local, national, and global identity.

Is this a good school for my child?

One of the most difficult questions a parent will ask is
- "Is this the right decision for my child?"

In all honesty, just by thinking this question alone, you are already heading in the right direction because you understand the importance of choosing the right school for your child to attend and how it will shape them as people, as well as their educational and academic abilities.

Nevertheless, it is a tricky question for parents to confidently answer, mainly because the vast information and data available can be confusing and conflicting, but we're here to help.

**The information on the following pages may help
you make up your mind ...**



Results

Our numbers speak for themselves.

As you'll see, when you consider the numeracy and reading test results, students make great progress here.

In recent years, the Welsh Government introduced new performance measures, and based on these new indicators, it is clear that we are one of the top-performing schools in North Wales.

Check out our impressive GCSE results below

Comparing our 2023 GCSE results with Wales in 2019 (the last year whereby results were based upon external examinations prior to the Covid-19 pandemic) show that Ysgol Friars outperformed National Averages at all levels in all three years, and this year's results are consistently strong.

GCSE	Ysgol Friars Summer 2023	Ysgol Friars Summer 2022	Ysgol Friars Summer 2024	Wales Summer 2023	Wales Summer 2022	Wales Summer 2024
A*-A	29.8%	40.1%	26.4%	21.3%	25.8%	16.0%
A*-C	74.2%	81.5%	74.9%	64.5%	69.7%	58.3%
A*-G	98.1%	98.7%	97.0%	96.8%	97.5%	96.3%

The Capped Points Score is a performance measure calculating the average score for each student, capped at a specified volume of GCSEs or equivalent qualifications. The Capped 9 points score has replaced Level 2+ and Level 2 data.

The Capped 9 Points Score for learners in year 11 includes all qualifications up to and including Level 3 that are approved or designated for pre-16 use in Wales by the regulatory body in Wales, Qualifications Wales. It consists of nine slots, each worth the equivalent of one GCSE in volume. 7B and 2A grades would give a capped-9 of 426, on average students at Friars did better than that in 2023.

There are three subject-specific slots for each learner’s best results in: English or Welsh Language or Literature GCSE, Mathematics, or Mathematics (numeracy) GCSE, and Science GCSE. The six remaining slots capture each student’s best remaining qualifications to make a total of nine GCSEs or an equivalent volume of qualifications. Those who do not achieve a pass in the specified subjects receive a score of zero for that slot in the measure.

In 2023, preliminary data shows that Ysgol Friars students scored an average of 429.5 points in the Capped-9 measure. This is an impressively high score and further shows why Friars is one of the top-performing schools in North Wales.

A-Level	Ysgol Friars Summer 2023	Ysgol Friars Summer 2022	Ysgol Friars Summer 2024	Wales Summer 2023	Wales Summer 2022	Wales Summer 2024
A*	11.9%	18.3%	9.9%	13.5%	17.1%	10.1%
A*-A	31%	39.5%	28.5%	34%	40.9%	29.9%
A*-E	97.3%	94.0%	98.8%	97.5%	98.0%	97.4%

The Welsh Government measures schools based on how many sixth formers achieve A* or A, A*-C and A*-E as well as a Wider Points Score.

A smooth transition from Primary to Secondary School

The change from primary to secondary school is a huge leap for students, and we're here to support them every step of the journey.

At Ysgol Friars, we have made it our mission to ensure this transition is seamless, enjoyable, and exciting for your child. Here's how:

We invite Y5 pupils to our Discovery Day in the Summer term, allowing them to delve into a range of skilled-based activities and get a real taste of our school.

Our teaching staff visits schools to teach classes in Y6 during the course of the year. This gives students a taste of what to expect at Ysgol Friars, as well as a chance to meet our lovely team.

Senior Staff members visit all schools within the local catchment area in early Y6 to chat with the pupils, share our story, answer any questions they may have, and show them just how friendly we are.

We invite students to take part in our "Roll Over Day" towards the end of Y6, giving them a chance to experience a full day at Ysgol Friars before they join in September.

Our Open Evening in November is an event we'd recommend you attend. Here you'll get the chance to visit the school, meet the staff, pupils and other parents.

Towards the end of Y6, you and your child will be invited to our "Welcome to Friars Evening", where you can meet the staff, and hear more about the school and how we will support your child in their learning.





Where pupils have additional learning needs (ALN), our ALN Co-ordinator (ALNCO) will prioritise attending the annual reviews of Y6 pupils where possible. It is essential to us that we ensure a smooth transfer to Ysgol Friars.

When children transfer to us from other secondary schools, we usually ask for copies of reports from previous schools before admission. This is to ensure we can meet the needs of children seeking to enter the school and, particularly for those beginning a GCSE course that has spaces available, which pupils wish to take. Parents/carers who have this information already should send it to the Year Group's Head of Year, who oversees each year group and who will usually arrange the admission charge of each year group and who will then usually arrange the admission.



We also provide two booklets

The first booklet is for the pupils and is updated every year. Written by pupils and staff, it contains maps, pictures and helpful tips about how to settle into their new school.

The second booklet is for you and gives advice on how you can help your children make a smooth transition to secondary school.

Meet the lovely team who will support, help and guide your child when they start

Each student will have a Form Tutor who will be a direct point of contact and support for them, a familiar face that they will see each day and establish a positive relationship with.

Y7-11 Form Tutors work with and under the direction of an Associate Assistant Headteacher and Mr. Martin Williams, the Deputy Headteacher responsible for Pastoral Welfare. Once your child attends Ysgol Friars, if you require any information or if there are any matters you wish to discuss, you should contact their Form Tutor or Head of Year.



Mrs Ceri Parry

Additional Learning Needs
Co-ordinator and Transition Lead

Mrs Parry will have visited your child at their Primary School and will be a familiar face for them who is closely involved with their transition into Ysgol Friars during the first few weeks of Year 7.

You child should see Mrs Parry if they've been getting extra help in some or all of their lessons.



Mrs Alice Hughes

Head of Year 7

Mrs Hughes is Head of Y7 and will move with your child through years 7-9 and is available for your child at all times.



Miss Ffion Williams

Associate Assistant Headteacher:
Head of Lower School


Miss Williams oversees the years 7-9 support system and is available for your child at all times. She is also available to assist you or your child if Mrs Rimmer cannot.



Pastoral Education

From 1st September 2024, the Pastoral Support Team will be:

Acting Headteacher	Mr Healey
Deputy Headteacher	Mr M Williams
Associate Assistant Headteacher for Key Stage 3 (Yrs 7-9)	Miss F. Williams
Associate Assistant Headteacher for Key Stage 4 (Yrs 10-11)	Miss M. Gutteridge
Head of Sixth Form Studies (Yrs 12-13)	Mr O. Atkins
Deputy Director of Sixth Form Studies	Mrs. C. Shacklady
Assistant Director of Sixth Form Studies	Ms. P. Graham
Head of Year 7	Mrs. A. Hughes
Head of Year 8	Mrs. S. Nicol
Head of Year 9	Mrs. D. Wood
Head of Year 10	Ms. D Burns
Head of Year 11	Ms. C Meredith



WINNERS
ENGINEERING
COMPETITIONS



CHAMPIONS
NATIONAL DEBATING
COMPETITIONS



TOP MARKS
NATIONAL MATHS
CHALLENGES



TOP 25
IN THE WORLD
FORMULA ONE
DESIGN COMPETITION

The right school for the able, innovative and talented

Each year, some of North Wales' finest and brightest young minds join our school, and we make it our mission to ensure they are consistently stimulated, challenged, and developing. In our commitment to ensure the more able and talented students (MAT) enjoy great progression here, we have appointed a member of staff to ensure their needs are always met.

The percentages achieving the top grades at A-level are well above national averages, and pupils secure places at Oxford, Cambridge, and other Russell Group Universities. Our Director of Sixth Form Studies supports such students in these applications to continue their studies at a higher education level.

Not all able students excel in all subjects. Each Department has a definition of a more able and talented pupil depending on the demands of the subject. We identify our most able students based on primary sector records coupled with evidence of ability and achievements at our school. Subject teachers will be asked to nominate the more able and talented pupils in their classes. The school also uses data to help identify pupils' strengths and weaknesses.

We provide more able and talented pupils with opportunities to develop capabilities over a period through a range of teaching and learning styles. It is a requirement that schemes of work will include differentiated tasks, and some will demand higher skills to extend and challenge more able and talented students.

In a bid to encourage growth and development, we give our more able students opportunities outside the normal curriculum to shine and develop their interests. Trips and competitions often stimulate interest. We regularly win engineering competitions and challenges, we have been National Debating Champions, pupils regularly gain top marks in national Maths challenges, and a team of our pupils came in the top 25 in the world, reaching the international finals in Abu Dhabi in a competition to design and race model formula one cars.



In March 2023, we were thrilled to receive the NACE CHALLENGE AWARD – and remain so proud that we are the only secondary school in North Wales to currently hold this brilliant award. It was awarded in recognition of our provision for MAT students, but also the support we provide all pupils.

This national award was given following a rigorous assessment process, coordinated by our “More Able and Talented” Coordinator.

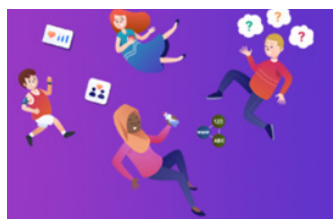
The report itself refers to Ysgol Friars as a positive learning environment whereby students are both challenged and supported to be the best they can be. It also recognised the progressive culture established and the importance of education and learning.

Further comments highlighted the impressive behaviour standards of students, and the high-quality teaching from professionals with a genuine passion and enthusiasm for their subjects.

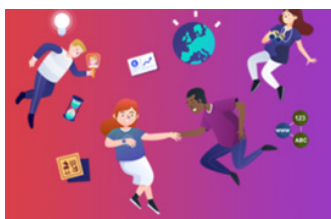
Ysgol Friars launched its new curriculum for Year 7 pupils in September 2022, and extended it to year 8 pupils in September 2023. The new curriculum for Wales is based around 6 **AOLES** and 4 purposes:



Expressive Art



Health & Wellbeing



Humanities



**Languages, Literacy
& Communication**



**Mathematics &
Numeracy**



Science & Technology

OUR VISION



OUR STATEMENT

To foster enjoyment of learning to the highest standards through the creation of a bilingual, civilized community where pupils share a common set of values applicable to their local, national and global identity.

"Foedere Fraterno"

Our vision statement is based on our motto.
Foedere means onward or moving forward and **Fraterno** is a brotherhood and refers to the community of monks where our school started in 1557

**Ambitious
capable learners
ready to learn
throughout
their lives**

**Ethical informed
citizens of Wales
and the World**

OUR PURPOSE

The learning experiences will help pupils become:

**Healthy,
confident
individuals ready
to lead fulfilling
lives as valued
members of society**

**Enterprising
creative
contributors,
ready to play a
full part in life
and work**

SUCCESSFUL
creative **accepting**
VIBRANT **supportive** ambitious
inquisitive **CONFIDENT**
academic RESILIENT
PROUD flexible

OUR VIEWS

We asked you and your teachers how you see Ysgol Friars and its pupils
Above are some of the adjectives you used.

OUR EXPERIENCE

- Each pupil is **unique** and the school recognises and celebrates this by **valuing** each individual **equally**.
- All pupils are **different** in terms of ability, skills, styles of learning, interests, gender, race, culture, motivation and emotional intelligence
- Pupils are **involved** in their own learning and have access to a broad, balanced curriculum which is adapted to **meet** the **needs** of the individual
- The curriculum provides **motivating experiences** and pupils are **challenged** and **stimulated** within a supportive environment to achieve success
- Lessons are **designed** to contain a range of activities and **learning** experiences

Is Ysgol Friars the right school for a child with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)?

The short answer is yes - and so is the long one. We are committed to ALN students and are proud to have taken a whole-school approach to delivering a curriculum that is accessible to everybody.

A child with Additional Learning Needs is somebody who requires extra support/preparation. This can be for a variety of reasons: academic level and ability, specified learning difficulties, emotional/behavioural/social issues, or a physical/sensory disability.

We do our best at all times:

- To ensure every student has an equal opportunity to develop and enjoy a curriculum that is relevant, broad, balanced, and differentiated (adjusted to suit the needs of the individual), whatever their educational needs.
- To identify children with additional learning needs and to ensure they make the right progress.
- To ensure everybody is comfortable and supported and plays their vital part in our school life.
- To support, guide and encourage parents/guardians to play their vital role in the process of educating children with ALN.
- To work effectively and efficiently as possible with external agencies (both statutory and voluntary).

At Ysgol Friars, we're here to help everybody succeed.

We assess and utilise all information provided in student transfer records/meetings as they make the transition from primary school.

We go above and beyond to offer:

- Extra small group sessions for literacy and numeracy.
- Bespoke, targeted support to improve reading skills.
- Our Nurture Unit - a programme that nurtures ALN students in smaller group sessions in the comfort of the library, with fewer teachers, which makes their lessons feel more like a continuation of primary school.
- Adaptable and flexible lessons and materials.
- Student support assistants for group/individual provision.
- Liaising with external agencies to arrange additional help and support if required.
- Ongoing communication, progress reviews, and meetings with you to ensure your child is making the right progress.

Accessibility arrangements

All the school's main facilities are accessible via lifts except for the teaching area above the Sports Hall and the Art and Social and Humanities block, which, owing to their design, do not have lift access.

Toilet facilities are available for students in each part of the school. In addition, there are accessible toilet facilities in all the school's main facilities, except the area above the Sports Hall and the Art and Humanities block, again owing to their design.

If necessary, and to meet the needs of all children, art classes may be moved to a more accessible block.

A typical day at Ysgol Friars

Punctuality is important to us, so we expect students to be on site by 8:55am, and the school day finishes at 3:15pm.

Here's everything you need to know about how the day is organised:

Y7-11 students must remain onsite for the entire day.

In special circumstances, if you wish for your child to return home for lunch, you must inform us in writing (via letter or email).

We have introduced a finger recognition system for use in the school's canteens at morning break and lunchtime. Parents/guardians can credit their lunch money by using the School Gateway app.

Your child may also be given a pupils' library card should they wish to borrow books from the school library. There will be a £2.50 replacement fee for any card lost.



Timetable

Like all schools in North Wales, we follow Curriculum for Wales, and in many ways, the work that we do builds upon the foundations laid at primary school. However, the biggest difference is that they will be taught by different teachers, in different rooms, for each subject.

We've included an example school day below:

TIME		LESSON	TEACHER	ROOM
9.00-9.10am	Registration		Mr. Ridgway	B1
9.10am - 10.00am	Period 1	 History	Mr. Hughes	C3
10.00am - 10.50am	Period 2	 Mathematics	Mr. Parry	M1
10.50am - 11.10am	Breaktime			
11.00am - 12.00pm	Period 3	 English	Miss. Davey	S1
12.00pm - 12.50pm	Period 4	 Science	Mr. Varty	G4
12.50pm - 1.35pm	Lunchtime			
1.35pm - 2.25pm	Period 5	 Technology	Mr. Holdsworth	T2
2.25pm - 3.15pm	Period 6	 Music	Mrs. Williams	A7



KS3 School Uniform

- Gold school polo shirt with Friars crest
- Trousers or skirts must be smart, plain and black
- White, or black socks, plain black or natural tights
- Plain, flat black shoes
- Black school sweat shirt with Friars crest

Our uniform: fostering a sense of identity

At Ysgol Friars, we understand that our uniform promotes a sense of unity, equality, and inclusivity. When our students wear our school colours and emblems, it instils a strong sense of community and belonging, which is why we have made it one of our key school rules that we want all children to adhere to.

The school is grateful to parents/guardians for their support for school uniform regulations. Please note, that variations are not permitted unless confirmed and agreed with the school directly.

TORSO

Only school polo and sweatshirt permitted
No tee-shirt to be visible under polo shirt

Years 7 to 9

Polo shirts must be gold/yellow with black piping and have a school crest

Years 10 to 11

Polo shirts must be black with yellow/gold piping and have a school crest

Hoodies currently classed as acceptable outdoor clothing

Watch permitted, no other visible jewellery

Acrylic nails are not suitable for school.
Natural, Clear or nude nail varnish is permitted.

BELOW THE WAIST

Trousers must be smart, plain and black

Skirts must be smart, plain and black; and of an appropriate length.

Black or natural plain tights

Shorts (with no visible logos with the exception of the school crest)

Belts must be plain black and hold trousers up.



HAIR

Hair dyed or streaked with natural colours is permitted, unnatural colours such as green and pink is not

Patterns shaved in hair are not permitted and the style to not be extreme, such as Mohican or other dramatic variations in length

Pupils with long hair should have a hair bobble with them for instances of Health and Safety. This applies to all pupils, regardless of gender.

Hats (or hoods worn up) are not permitted in school buildings - religious headgear excepted

FACIAL

Make-up / fake tan should appear natural and should be minimal

Facial piercing not permitted

One pair of stud earrings permitted

FOOTWEAR

Shoes must be plain black;

Trainers permitted if plain black, branding is permitted but must be black.

Black or white socks

Black boots are permitted (up to calf level)

Heels no more than 4cm

Physical Education - Compulsory Uniform

INDOORS

Girls and Boys

White polo shirt with school crest, black shorts, bare feet / trainers depending on the activity.

OUTDOORS

Girls

White polo shirt with school crest, black fleece with school crest, black shorts, white socks and trainers.

OUTDOORS

Boys

Black and amber Rugby shirt, black shorts, black and amber socks, football boots and trainers.

Black tracksuit bottoms during the winter term.

The above can be purchased through the PE department.



How will my child get to school?

Our school attracts students from all areas, far and wide, and while school buses do not run directly from each location, public transport is usually available and is accessible to/from the school.

Transport is provided for students along the coast road through Tal-y-Bont and Llandygai to Bangor. Buses also run through Hirael and Maesgeirchen and pick up at the town clock.

As always, we expect a high standard of behaviour at all times from our students. They represent our school at all times and must adhere to our values on the journey to and from school.

We welcome students from far and wide

Ysgol Friars is an immensely popular school, and we are proud to welcome students from as far afield as the north of Anglesey and the Llyn Peninsula.

As long as there is space for a student, there is **no limit** to where they can seek admission from.





What equipment does my child need to bring to school?

A pupil's basic school equipment includes pens, pencils, a ruler, protractor, compass, coloured pencils and/or fibre tip pens and a calculator for Mathematics and Science lessons.

A basic calculator will be adequate for the first two years of secondary education but beyond that most pupils will need a scientific one. Both types are relatively inexpensive and so it may be wise to buy a scientific calculator on the assumption that it will be suitable for the five compulsory years of secondary school.

We do not expect you to buy exercise books or text books. These are provided by the school. However, we do expect pupils to pay for any school property lost, damaged or defaced.

A more advanced type of calculator (the graphic calculator) is now widely available and may be used in some GCSE examinations. At present these calculators are relatively expensive and it is unlikely that we will recommend their purchase to pupils other than those studying Advanced Level mathematics, at least in the foreseeable future. The school holds its own stock of such calculators for use in lessons.



Organisation and Curriculum

YEARS

7 8 9

Subjects Offered

Welsh

English

Mathematics

French

Information Technology

Art

Geography

History

Religious Education

Science

Design Technology

Physical Education

Expressive Arts incl. Music & Drama

Health & Well-being





Development of Basic Skills

Development of Basic Skills Basic Skills support is targeted at those who can most benefit from the additional help.

The help is provided via the Learning Support team. Parents are consulted before students join these programmes.

The school operates homework clubs at lunchtime and after school.

Education for those with ALN

As discussed earlier, the provision of teaching for ALN is an integrated part of mainstream education. There is one teaching group where additional student support is provided as specified in the school policy on providing for additional special educational needs.

The size of this group is restricted to provide maximum individual attention. The group is taught by one teacher for much of the time to allow for a more thematic approach to their learning.

The Curriculum 11 - 16

Where possible, the school will provide a curriculum that ensures a balance between the 11 curriculum areas as suggested by the National Curriculum, and those cross-curricular elements such as Personal and Social Education. Support is provided, within the resources of the school, for those who have learning difficulties.

Curriculum Pattern

Outlined below is the curriculum pattern operated within this school:

Year 8 - Curriculum for Wales		Year 9	
Language	33.3%	Language	30.0%
Personal Core	3.3%	Personal Core	3.3%
Technology/Design/Creative/ICT/ Physical	23.3%	Technology/Design/Creative/ICT/ Physical	23.3%
Humanities (including Religious Education)	13.3%	Humanities (including Religious Education)	16.7%
Mathematics	13.3%	Mathematics	13.3%
Science	13.3%	Science	13.3%

10 & 11 YEARS



Key Stage 4/ National Curriculum

As your child reaches the end of Year 9, they will be allowed to choose a combination of subjects to study throughout Y10-11, which will lead to accreditation.

Students will be fully supported and advised by teaching staff, as well as yourselves, with consultations and open evenings to ensure they choose the right subjects to study. Please note that course admissions depend on student uptake, the individual's ability, potential, and previous efforts, as well as on the school's resources to meet the demands.

The Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenges are covered within relevant subject areas and through collapsed timetable days. The vast majority will sit GCSE examinations, but a few pupils will sit the BTEC, Entry Level Qualification (ELQ) exam, or NVQ.

Some vocational courses are offered in partnership with Grwp Llandrillo-Menai. The decision as to which course a student follows is taken in line with academic attainment and vocational pathway.

14 - 19 Learning Pathways

Our students remain at the heart of everything we do, which is why we have invested heavily in developing and establishing a broad, innovative and engaging curriculum that meets their needs and aspirations, and consequently, responds to the 14-19 Pathways agenda. Some of the alternative/vocational pathways are provided through partnership arrangements with other local educational establishments.

Provision includes:

Catering I.C.T. Sociology Computer Science Business Hair and Beauty Construction Outdoor Activities	Duke of Edinburgh Award Health and Social Care Performance and Dance Art French Spanish, Information Technology Engineering	Performing Engineering Catering Hospitality Product Design Media Studies Psychology History Geography
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At different times during the five years, the Core will include the Welsh Baccalaureate, Religious Education/ Moral/Counselling/Careers/Health Education/Sex Education/Leisure and Physical Education/ Experience of Business and Enterprise/Care of Home and Family/Community and Environmental Awareness/Study Skills and all the other areas, which are appropriate to the Personal/Social Field.

The skills developed in certain areas are used to reinforce other areas of experience. For instance, the personal/moral elements in the fields of Language and Humanities are emphasised, and Fine Art and Design make a valuable contribution to ensure effective technology teaching.

12 THE SIXTH FORM 13



It is important that Years 7-11 form a basis not only for “AS/A2” level courses but also for specific vocational courses such as Level 3 Certificate and Diploma and Welsh | Baccalaureate courses.

Once more, in Years 12 and 13, the personal core is important and shows the progression from Years 7-11, giving opportunities to develop essential skills and for counselling. It also provides an opportunity to link more academic courses with courses containing a vocational or cross-curricular element.

During Year 11, students are informed of the advanced-level courses which will be available in Year 12. The provision in September 2023 is as follows:

Advanced Level / Level 3 courses:

Art & Design	Psychology	Sociology
Geography	Business Studies (AS and A2)	Music
History	Cymraeg Ail Iaith A2	Further Mathematics
Biology	Medical Science Level 3	Mathematics with Statistics & Mechanics
Physics	Tourism Level 3	Design & Technology
Chemistry	LIBF Financial Studies Level 3	Drama & Theatre Studies
English Literature	BTEC Sports Science Level 3	English Literature & Language
Religious Studies	French	A level Spanish

A-level/Level 3 Courses offered through partner schools and colleges:

BTEC Creative Media (TV and Film)	Sociology
BTEC Creative Media (Games)	German
BTEC Mechanical Engineering	Physical Education
BTEC Civil Engineering (Construction)	First Language Welsh

KS4 Options Process

There is a dedicated section on our school website, which displays the Year 9 Options process.

Relationships and Sexual Education is supported by the school's wider curriculum for Health and Well-being. In this way Friars tries to ensure that pupils:

- Receive their sex education in the wider context of relationships;
- Are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Further information about the programme can be found on the Government website

gov.wales

curriculum-for-wales-relationships-sexuality-education-code.pdf

Qualifications Offered

This school prepares pupils for the following qualifications:

At 16 years of age

General Certificate of Secondary Education - GCSE
Entry Level Qualification - (ELQ)

Vocational GCSE Courses - Foundation and Intermediate Levels.
BTEC - Level 1 and 2
NVQ - Level 1 and 2
Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate

At 16+

General Certificate of Education - AS and A2
WJEC Level 3 Certificate and Diploma qualifications
BTEC Level 3
Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate
Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

The following specific subjects are offered at this school at KS4:

English Language
English Literature
Welsh (First Language)
Welsh (Second Language)
Mathematics
Mathematics - Numeracy
Chemistry
Double Award Science
Biology
Double Award Applied Science
Physics





A commitment to Sport

All KS3 and KS4 students are timetabled for statutory lessons in physical education.

P.E. is offered as a subject at GCSE and BTEC Level 3 Sport in KS5.
Extra-curricular sporting activities have included:

Dance Club
Gymnastics
Hockey
Netball
Rounders

Athletics
Rugby (Boys and Girls)
Football (Boys and Girls)
Cross Country Running
Swimming

Cheerleading
Handball
Kickboxing
Circuit training
Yoga

The school provides students with the opportunity to participate in other activities outside of the school curriculum, such as water polo, trampolining, dodgeball, basketball, ice skating, kayaking, cricket, rowing, and running. These activities have been available to all year groups during lunchtime and after school.

- The school offers a wide variety of trips such as Glan Llyn, Wales rugby, Alton Towers, Harry Potter World, Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City, Real Madrid, and PSV Eindhoven.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Team and Expedition Group offers expedition training and outdoor pursuits in Snowdonia.
- We offer a range of inter-house activities that allow students an opportunity to play against others in a competitive environment.
- Health and Wellbeing Week allows students an opportunity to try new sports and activities such as lacrosse, Gaelic football, and mindfulness.
- We enter all school competitions ranging from football to kayaking.

A bright future

Careers & the world of work

In today's world, considerable emphasis is placed on the correlation between studying and the world of work. At Ysgol Friars, careers education is included as part of the Personal and Social Education Programme.

In Years 7, 8, and 9, there is discrete provision, and awareness is raised in Health and Wellbeing lessons. In Years 9, 10, and 11, Careers as a subject are taught as modules of work.

Students are actively supported by the schools' careers coordinator throughout the option process during Year 9 and their transition into Year 10. As part of the Partnership Learning Agreement with Careers Wales, a formal Careers interview can be held with a member of the Careers Wales staff.

Year 13 students are guided through their UCAS application and apply through the school's online system. UCAS/Careers conventions and presentations are held in school and at Bangor University.

Local employers take an active part in discussing work opportunities available in the area, during Career Module presentations. 'Mock' interviews are arranged by the school's Careers Co-ordinator for students applying for university courses that will require the student to attend an interview as part of the application process.

The school MAT coordinator works with the Sixth Form Leadership Team to help students prepare for university entrance examinations, interviews, and the preparation of personal statements. The Head of Sixth Form and/or the MAT Co-ordinator registers more able students with the potential to proceed onto high tariff universities with the Gwynedd and Mon Seren Network.

Careers Wales holds Enterprise Activity Days with Years 10 and 12.

The Local Authority has the policy to secure a high-quality industrial education programme, and the school has extended and developed this policy by strengthening its links with employers and the business community, and has benefited from their contribution to the curriculum.



School Security

The school takes its security and welfare extremely seriously.

The most recent inspection commended the school's productive and orderly environment, and a firm line is taken on bullying.

Students in Years 7 to 11 are not allowed off the premises during the school day unless going home (or the home of an adult relative for lunch).

Students who go home for lunch are given a lunchtime pass.

The site is patrolled by staff at break-time and lunchtime and the security of the school is kept under review by the Senior Management Team.

Entrance to the site is controlled by magnetically secured gates to prevent unauthorized access.

All visitors must enter through the school reception and sign in and out.

Medical and Emergency Contact

Please remember that a child's medical record is a confidential document, and its contents are not divulged to the school.

Therefore, parents are expected to inform the school of any medical or clinical condition that could affect a child while they are in the care of the school.

Occasionally, children fall ill at school, or they may have accidents. At such times, we may need to arrange expert professional help without delay and at the same time, parents or a designated responsible adult must be informed as quickly as possible. Please arrange, therefore, to give your child's Head of Year the telephone number(s) of someone who can be contacted in an emergency if you are unavailable.

The School Office should be notified of any change of address/telephone contact numbers immediately so that our information system can be updated.

Please help us to help your child.



Religious Education

The School has no connection with any specific religious denomination and religious education is provided according to the Agreed Syllabus for pupils up to 16 years of age.

If a parent wishes to exercise their right to object to his or her child receiving religious education or attending the act of collective worship during, a written request should be given to the Headteacher of the school to enable them to make suitable arrangements for the pupil to be supervised during such times.

Collective Worship

There are acts of collective worship for year groups on a rota basis. Worship is of a broadly Christian nature but with contributions from other faiths.

Every Group Tutor has access to 'Thought for the Day' to use with his/her form.

The school may, in agreement with parents, provide alternative arrangements for worship for one or more pupils that are excused, but is not obliged to do so.



Language Policy

The Gwynedd Education Authority operates a bilingual policy throughout all Gwynedd schools and this is reflected in Ysgol Friars.

The aim is to develop the ability of pupils to become bilingual in order to enable them to participate fully in the bilingual society in which they live. However, no pupil will be put into a teaching group where he or she could not cope with the language of instruction.

According to its resources, Ysgol Friars will seek to reflect and support the county language policy in its administration, its social life and pastoral organisation as well as in its academic provision.

The Gwynedd Language Policy Document shows that Ysgol Friars is in the category of T2 transitional, and fuller details are to be found in the document regarding the demands upon the school and its aims.

The daily administration of the school is bilingual.

Welsh as a subject

All pupils will take lessons in the Welsh Department up to the end of Year 11.

Bilingual Teaching

During Years 7-9 we will seek to provide support for the work of the Welsh Department.

This will entail seeking to strengthen the Welsh of all learners by providing opportunities for discussion in Welsh and communication in Welsh with teachers, and seeking to offer some subjects through bilingual teaching for the most fluent pupils e.g. History, RE, Art, Music, Technology and PSE



Charging for Educational Activities

The Governing Body has adopted a Policy of charging pupils for:

- Board and lodging costs on educational visits
- Activities outside school hours
- External examinations for which the school has not prepared the pupil during that school year
- Examinations when the pupil fails to complete the requirements or misses the examination without proper reason
- Intentional damage to school property or for losing school property
- A voluntary contribution is requested from parents when it is not possible to charge for an activity, but no pupils will be excluded from taking part when their parents cannot contribute.
- It is possible that some activities will not be held without sufficient voluntary contributions.

Policy on Examination Entries and Payments of Fees

The school will pay fees for and grant every reasonable opportunity for pupils to sit external examinations under the guidance of the Headteacher and staff.

The cut-off date for the submission of the school's entry list to the examination board is mid-February. All pupils with a reasonable prospect of success will be expected to complete the course and sit the examination. The ultimate decision on entry rests with the Headteacher and their decision will be final. These arrangements are subject to the following conditions:

A Head of Department will have the discretion not to enter pupils for an external examination if they have failed to fulfil all of the following conditions

Attendance of the mock examinations. If the pupil is absent for justified medical reasons, a mock examination may be administered when the pupil is fit to resume schooling

Attendance of the relevant examination course for at least 85% of the number of sessions possible at this school or another. Absences which are the result of genuine illness or injury and which are supported by written evidence shall not count against this figure

Coursework Controlled Assessment or Practical Examinations must have been completed to the satisfaction of the Head of Department.

If the school refuses to pay fees and enter a pupil, parents or guardians will be allowed to enter a pupil privately, paying the appropriate fees via the school to the examination board. The pupil will be allowed to use the school as an examination centre. The school will only finance a pupil to enter an individual module on two occasions.

The standard procedure for non-entry of students for AS or A2 qualifications is that it should only be done following prior discussion and agreement with the Director of Sixth Form Studies. Any late entry fees resulting from not following this procedure will be charged to the curriculum area concerned.

AS certification will take place in August.

In the event of any misconduct during an external examination, the school will make a report to the examination board. The First Committee of the Governing Body will receive a copy of the report. Misconduct may lead to the cancellation of a pupil's examination paper and/or a pupil may be required to sit remaining examination papers at an alternative centre.

Pupils are expected to attend the examination suitably prepared and equipped, it may not be possible for the school to lend pupils items of equipment which they have neglected to bring themselves.

Pupils are expected to attend in full uniform.
Pupils who do not comply may be sent home to change.



The school will provide pupils with all the information regarding external examinations. Thereafter it will be the pupils' responsibility to follow the information in detail.

If a pupil is absent from an external examination without a medical note, the fee for the examination must be repaid to the school. The school reserves the right to take any necessary steps to recover wasted examinations fees.

The school's decision as to which tier the pupil will be entered for or which paper the pupil will sit will be final.

Students will be required to pay the appropriate fees for re-marking examination scripts unless the process has the support of the relevant Head of Department or Teacher in Charge of Subject. Re-marks are not available for some examination components for individual students e.g. coursework. In exceptional circumstances the school might request the re-moderation of an entire sample that has been submitted to an examination board. Students and parents should note that the marks awarded for remarked scripts can either increase or decrease.

The school will administer a charge of £10 to retrieve examination certificates which have not been claimed within one calendar year of the candidates' date of leaving. This charge will cover the administration, postage and packing involved in retrieving certificates.

Note: Heads of Department must inform parents in writing if a pupil is to be withdrawn from an examination.

Summary of Ysgol Friars Additional Learning Needs Policy

A COPY OF THE FULL POLICY IS AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Rationale

Ysgol Friars is committed to a whole-school approach with every department undertaking its responsibility to make the curriculum accessible to all.

Definition

A child with additional learning needs is any pupil who requires support or additional preparation because his/her general level of academic attainment is significantly above or below that of his/her peers. Some may also have a specified learning difficulty, poor social skills, emotional and/or behavioural difficulties or a physical/sensory disability.

Aim

To establish a system which fulfils the needs of the 1981, 1988 and 1993 Education Acts and the National Curriculum in order to enable children with additional learning needs to demonstrate fully what they know, understand and can do.

Objectives

To give every child equal opportunity to develop and partake of a curriculum that is relevant, broad, balanced and differentiated whatever his/her educational needs.

To identify children with additional learning needs and to ensure that they are stimulated and extended.

To achieve functional and social integration within a supportive environment.

To encourage parents/guardians to play a key role in the process of educating children with additional learning needs

To continue to foster our liaison with external agencies, both statutory and voluntary

N.B. The school has pupils with a range of disabilities. The school has lifts in some buildings, provides modified furniture and, in conjunction with the LA, learning support assistants for designated pupils.

Admissions Policy

The School applies the LEA's Policy on Admission to Schools. You can get a copy of this from the Director of Education.

ALN Specialism and Building Adaptations

Lifts are available in three buildings.

Arrangements for Co-ordinating Additional Learning Provision and Resources

Learning Support Assistants are normally provided by the LEA. They provide a range of support for individual pupils or small teaching groups who have additional learning needs. Occasionally numbers of pupils with additional learning needs fluctuate and the school cannot guarantee this provision for all pupils, particularly those who are admitted at times other than the start of the academic year. Provision identified in a statement, is met by the Authority.

There will be one representative from every faculty/department on the cross curricular ALN Co-ordinating Panel, chaired by the ALNCO (Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator).

Identification/Assessment/Review

The school will make full use of the information provided in pupil transfer records or meetings. Individual pupil screening will also be provided upon admission - a procedure which is responsive to parental concerns.

The whole-school Assessment Policy will apply to all pupils with additional needs. In addition, their progress will be closely monitored by the ALNCO at the ALN Panel meetings. A close link with parents is encouraged. The pupils are also consulted and encouraged to take an active role.

An annual review of statemented pupils will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Special Needs Code of Practice Wales 2002.

The Governing Body

The names of all the Governors are listed below.
The Governing Body meets at least once a term.

Gwynedd Council		
Dafydd Meurig (Vice-Chair)	Dr Elin Jones	Gareth Mark Parry
Dr. C. Swatridge		
Parents		
Ms. C. Houston	Mr M Harrington	Dr V Ponalagappan
Dr. E. Wood	Ms. P. Masterson-Algar	Ms A Pelling
Staff		
Dawn Davey	Laura Roberts	Robert Bridle
Community		
Mr B Jones (Chair)	Dr M Hoerger	Ms Kathryn Sion



Any problems?

We're here to help.

If you have an issue and need further support, we're here for you. If for any reason you are unsatisfied with the outcome, you can contact our complaints officer to try and resolve this accordingly.

We will always try to treat issues impartially and resolve them in the correct manner.

WE HAVE A COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE, A COPY OF WHICH IS ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.

Holidays

HALF TERM
28/10/23 - 01/11/23

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
23/12/23 - 03/01/25

HALF TERM
24/02/25 - 28/02/25

EASTER HOLIDAYS
14/03/25 - 25/04/25

MAY DAY
05/05/25

HALF TERM
26/05/25 - 30/05/25

SUMMER HOLIDAY
22/07/25 - 29/08/25

School re-open for teachers
Monday, 2 September, 2024

School re-open pupils
Tuesday, 4 September, 2024

Awaiting confirmation

School Holiday Dates 2024-2025

Schools will re-open for teachers only on Monday 2nd September 2024 (training day).

There are 4 other training days to be taken during 2024-25.
These will be published to Parents and Carers in advance.

Term

Autumn 2024	4 September 2024	21 December 2024
Spring 2025	6 January 2025	11 April 2025
Summer 2025	28 April 2025	18 July 2025
Pupils will return to school on Wednesday, 4th September 2024		







Ysgol Friars

BANGOR, GWYNEDD, NORTH WALES. LL57 2LN

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