



Ysgol
Rhydygors
School

Believe, persevere, succeed

I am very proud to welcome you to our school.

Our precious children and young people deserve nothing less than excellence and our dedicated staff team seek to provide this in everything they do. We will leave no stone unturned in our mission to secure progression, independence and employability for all our students. At Ysgol Rhydygors, we put children first.

We believe that everyone has unique talents and is capable of leading and making contributions to our school, local community, Wales and the wider world. We therefore seek to develop a dynamic, varied curriculum that ensures progression in traditional subjects as well as many creative and more practical-based opportunities for our students and staff to explore our beautiful world and the diverse people who inhabit it.

Literacy, numeracy and wider skills development feature greatly within our curriculum and learning. We understand the need to support our students become all-rounded so that they can enter further education, employment or training with confidence, able to start out on their chosen pathway. Through education, skills and personal development, we dream that all our students will have choice, freedom and a good standard of living.

We have the highest expectations of ourselves. We encourage kindness and understanding as we support our children and young people develop self-regulation and self-reflection and the emotional resilience they will need to grow into independent, confident contributors to the world around them. We do not judge, we do not control; we give the space and time for self-exploration and deeper self-awareness. We accept people for their distinctness and their unique starting points.

Success breeds success. We will always focus on the positives, we will always recognise the individual contributions and successes of our students and staff as we encourage greater self-worth, leadership and responsibility. Our positive, encouraging culture and ethos carries us all along on a wave of ambition and excitement. Everyone feels valued and knows the difference they make.

Please explore this prospectus and please do get in touch should you wish to come and see us.

With the warmest of wishes,

Ian Berryman
Headteacher

*Working together
with high
expectations*



Ysgol Rhydygors is a residential special school in Carmarthen. Our children and young people deserve nothing less than excellence.

- Excellence in standards of care
- Excellence in teaching
- Excellence in support, intervention and extra-curricular provision
- Excellence in leadership
- Excellence in progress, personal development and attainment

Admissions to Rhydygors School

All admissions are managed centrally by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Local Authority will only admit students who are referred through the county Inclusion Panel. Students must have an IDP / statement (or one must be forthcoming) and the Local Authority must evidence that the profile of the student's needs can be met by the resources of the school.



Rhydygors School is not a correctional facility. The school is a progressive establishment which seeks to support vulnerable children and young people with moderate social, emotional and mental health needs to make better than expected progress in learning, skills, socially and emotionally.

Rhydygors school can offer small group pastoral support and tuition for ages 7 to 16- it cannot offer clinical or therapeutic services or input.

WHAT RHYDYGORS SCHOOL CAN PROVIDE:

1. Small group pastoral care and emotional coaching support for children and young people with moderate social, emotional and mental health needs
2. Small group tuition for most subjects with no more than 8 students in a class with an average staffing ratio of 1:3
3. A progressive, compassionate ethos and culture which seeks to nurture and understand; not control and punish
4. A tailor-made school environment and structured day which encourages: respect, achievement, involvement in learning, self-awareness and effort
5. A relevant curriculum with a core entitlement and an offer of enrichment and skills-based learning

WHAT RHYDYGORS SCHOOL CANNOT PROVIDE:

1. Services for children and young people with profound mental health needs
2. On-site therapeutic input or on-site mental health services
3. On-site clinical psychologist support
4. 1-2-1 tuition support
5. Outreach support or services for students educated elsewhere or at their own home
6. The same extensive curriculum offer that is typical of mainstream schooling

BASELINING FOR SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

On entry, all our students are profiled using the SDQ (strengths and difficulties questionnaire). This provides the school with a solid baseline for a child's emotional state. We use this for planning interventions and tracking emotional progress.

ACADEMIC BASELINING

On entry, all our students sit the ACCESS Maths & ACCESS Reading assessments. These essential tests provide baseline data from which teachers are expected to plan lessons and interventions.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

We expect our teachers to enable better than expected progress in learning, skills, socially and emotionally. This means supporting and challenging our students to go beyond minimum.

CARING

All our staff aspire to provide a prime carer relationship. We do not judge, we coach, we accept and we show unconditional positive regard.

EMOTIONAL COACHING

All our staff are trained to provide emotion coaching. We coach all our students to a greater degree of self-awareness.

POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

Our 24 hour curriculum aspires to develop the whole person, enabling progress in social, emotional and self-regulation skills.

Rhydygors school can offer a more patient, nurturing environment that is not easily replicated in the mainstream sector. We are an attachment aware school and an emotion coaching school - this means that we seek to prevent aggression, anger and outbursts from occurring in the first place by providing clear expectations through building strong, positive relationships and repairing them when they break down.

If a child is allocated a place at the school, key school staff will provide parents / carers with a pack of information outlining our expectations and what information we need to gather before an admission date is offered.

In some cases, students might be offered a placement on a trial basis to assess if the environment is appropriate to meet their needs.



THE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM



Ian Berryman

Headteacher



Lea Reed

Chair of Governors



Karen Draper

Challenge Advisor



Debbie Payne

**Assistant
Headteacher**



Katherine Pope

Care Manager



Heidi Holland

**Leader of Health,
Wellbeing &
Engagement**



Sarah Clarke

**Senior Admin &
Systems Officer**



Our School Vision and Mission

Ysgol Rhydygors will be a an emotion coaching, attachment aware school where all children make better than expected progress in learning, skills, socially and emotionally so that they experience:

Progression
Independence
Employability

.. and lead lives with choice, freedom and have a good standard of living.

We will enable our children and young people to become:

Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.

Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.

Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

As a learning community, we value:

Safety
Teamwork
Empathy
Effort
Relationships

To be the best we can be in everything we do, we all need to:

Believe in ourselves and each other and in the future we want

Persevere with the things we find challenging to get the rewards we deserve

Succeed in learning, skills and personally in our own time and in our own way

Our Curriculum

When planning our curriculum we believe that children learn best when they are at the centre of learning and that there is consistency and continuity in our approach. It is important that our pupils receive a broad and balanced curriculum and our practice should provide an integrated, holistic approach which supports the individual learning needs of everyone we work with. We aim to ensure our pupils make progress in a wide variety of ways, including their skills, knowledge and understanding of the world, but our ultimate aim is to ensure the transition of meaningful skills into a range of situations that prepare our pupils for life in the 21st century.

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OUR EXPECTATIONS

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THE FOUR 'ALL-WALES' PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM:

Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.

Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.

Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Our Curriculum Design and Structure

We have three progression phases at Rhydygors School:

Progress First - Years 4-6

We offer a Foundation Phase developmental curriculum model which is rich in basic skills and includes:

- Emotional Literacy through the PATHS Programme ©
- Positive Play and Outdoor Learning
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Competence
- Life Curriculum (Humanities, Welsh, PSE)
- Science
- Technology
- Arts
- Physical Education

Progress Plus - Years 7-9

We offer a skills-rich curriculum which builds on from Progress First, enabling greater independence in learning and includes:

- Maths
- Science
- Technology
- Integrated Life Curriculum (English, Literacy, Humanities and Welsh)
- Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- Arts
- Physical Education
- Dedicated Enrichment Time

PROGRESSION

We want all our students to make better than expected progress in learning, skills, socially and emotionally.

INDEPENDENCE

We want to empower all our students to take ownership of their lives.

EMPLOYABILITY

We want all our students to have the right blend of qualifications, skills and personal qualities to be able to access the world of work successfully.

Progress Ahead Curriculum - Years 10 & 11

In Years 10 and 11, we focus on enabling a more in-depth learning experience for our students and expect them to be more independent and resilient in their approach to learning; taking on even more ownership of their progress and personal development.

The core entitlement is:

- Maths
- English
- Science
- Personal Development (CoPE Award)
- Employability Award (including Welsh)
- Physical Education

Students then choose from a menu of option subjects; 2 per year. We allow enough time each week for an option to be studied in enough depth for it to be completed within a year. Some students can then choose two additional subjects in Year 11.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS DELIVERED BY ALL TEACHERS

All teachers are expected to deliver the following skills across the curriculum and all lessons:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Competence
- Welsh Language Skills
- Communication, Thinking and Problem-solving skills

PROGRESS AHEAD OPTION CHOICES

TWO OPTION
SUBJECTS
CHOSEN FOR
YEAR 10 and
YEAR 11

A CORE
ENTITLEMENT
OF 5
PRINCIPAL
SUBJECTS

THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO ACCESS
ENTRY LEVEL
UP TO GCSE A-
C

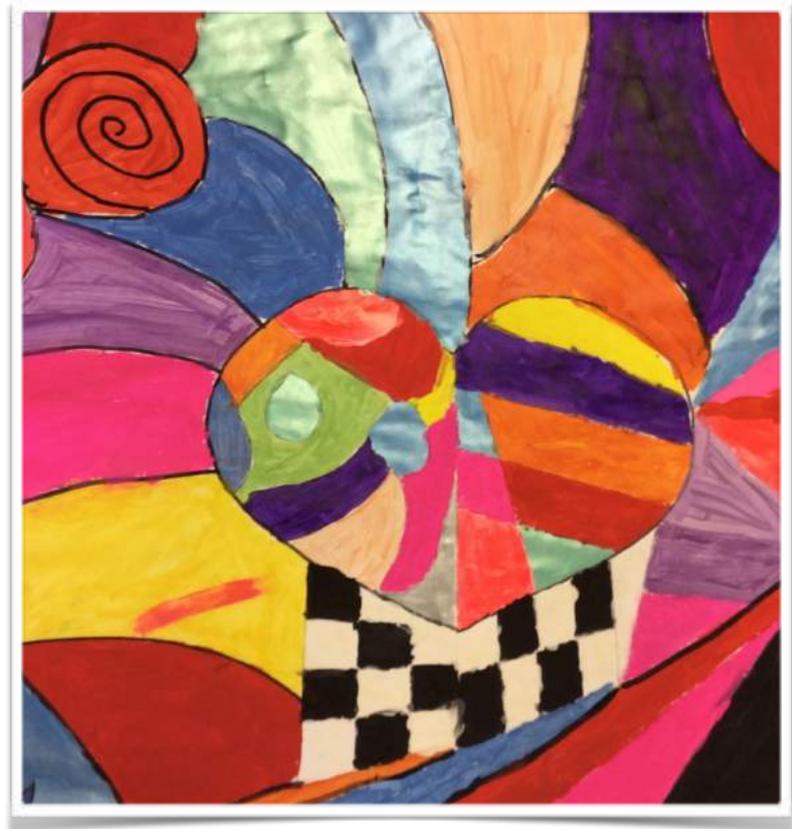
UP TO 9
DIFFERENT
QUALIFICATIONS
CAN BE
ACHIEVED BY BY
THE END OF
YEAR 11

A
GUARANTEED
ROUTE TO
FURTHER
EDUCATION



Our student's work

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Our approach to encouraging positive relationships, high standards of behaviour and engagement

RESPECT

We expect all our students to meet our **RAISE** expectations by being:

-READY FOR WORK

-READY TO BE RESPECTED

ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS

-READY TO BE SAFE

INVOLVEMENT IN LEARNING

Every day, Form Tutors meet with students and set Personal Goals for engagement and conduct. Students can win up to 45 points a day if they work hard to meet our expectations.

Meeting expectations and achieving 80% or more of points can earn students:

-A sweet treat at morning break

-A privilege during the lunch break

-A Golden Ticket at the end of the school day

-The opportunity to win £10 and £5 vouchers every week

-The opportunity to win a free day out every half term

EFFORT



Some key information and policies

Mobile phones:

We reserve the right to confiscate a personal electronic device if we feel it is being used inappropriately on the school site. We expect students to keep their phones on silent and out of sight during lessons. If they do not meet this expectation, they do not win RAISE points and miss out on treats.

School Uniform:

ANY MIXTURE OF THE FOLLOWING, as long as it is plain **with OR without** school logo - no other logos or markings are allowed on any item of clothing, except for the school logo:

- Plain light blue polo shirt
- Plain light blue t-shirt
- Plain white shirt
- School tie
- Plain navy blue round-neck jumper
- Plain navy blue hoodie
- Plain navy blue cardigan
- Plain black school trousers / knee-length skirt
- Plain black jogging bottoms
- Plain black sports bottoms
- Plain black footwear (with no logos, branding or markings)
- Plain black socks

Attendance at school:

We expect all students to attend school every single day. Please contact the school office as soon as possible if there is a good reason why your child cannot attend. Birthdays, shopping, minor illnesses and family events are not appropriate excuses for a child not to be at school. We track school attendance and work with Social Services to support students to improve.

We do not authorise holidays during term time as we value education. You can find a request form on our school website for exceptional circumstances.

The School Day



Our school day has been designed to ensure that all our students benefit from effective, timely pastoral and emotional support from consistent members of staff.

8.45 - Students arrive and are greeted by staff who offer them breakfast

9.00 - Form Time and personal goal setting time

9.10 - Lesson One

9.55 - Lesson Two

10.40 - Morning Break

11.00 - Lesson Three

11.45 - Lesson Four

12.30 - Lunch

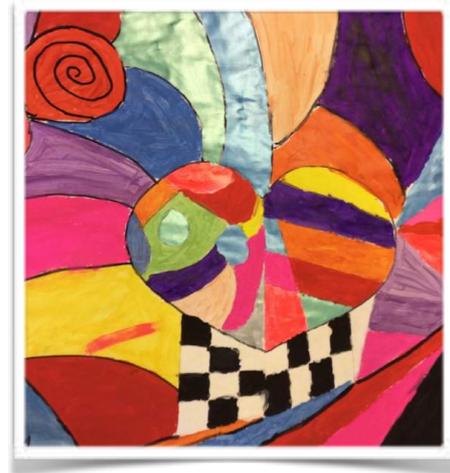
1.00 - Activities and personal coaching time

1.15 - Lesson Five

2.00 - Lesson Six / Enrichment Time

2.50 - Form Time and progress check

3.00 - Day pupils leave / Residential students go to their rooms with Care Team



WHAT TO DO IF

You want to let us know something:

CONTACT the school office on: 01267 231171 OR admin@rhydygors.ysgolccc.org.uk

You want get in touch with the Residential Care Team:

CONTACT: Katherine Pope on: 01267 231171 OR kpope@rhydygors.ysgolccc.org.uk

You want to pass on a compliment:

CONTACT the school office on: 01267 231171 OR admin@rhydygors.ysgolccc.org.uk

You want to raise a concern or make a complaint about the school or a member of staff: in

the first instance CONTACT the Headteacher through **Mrs Sarah Clarke** on 01267 231171 OR sclarke@ysgolccc.org.uk

Working in partnership

We know that we cannot achieve everything we want to and to the high standard we expect without the support of parents, carers and all the partners that support our children and young people.

We work with a variety of supporting agencies to provide an exceptional service to the children and young people in our care:

-Carmarthenshire Specialist Services

-Educational Psychologists

-Children's Services

-Drugs and Alcohol Awareness charities

-The Youth Service



KEY CONTACT DETAILS

The Local Authority: 01267 234567 OR direct@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Child Protection Services: 01267 246531

Getting FREE SCHOOL MEAL STATUS for your child: 01267 246521 OR FreeSchoolMeals@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

CCISW Care Inspectorate: 0300 7900 126

School Transport Team: 01267 228 325 or 01267 228 326

Chair Of Governors: make contact with Mrs Sarah Clarke (Clerk to Governing Body) on 01267 231171



Effective Pastoral & Emotional Support

All our students receive pastoral and emotional support during their time at Rhydygors School.

Students are placed into an Emotional Support Group (House) with all-aged students. These Groups for 2017-18 are:

- **TRELEW**
- **DOLAVON**
- **TREVELIN**
- **PUERTO MADRYN**
- **RAWSON**



These groups meet every Monday morning and Friday afternoon for between 20 minutes and an hour for circle time and to discuss successes and concerns from the week before and plans for the week ahead. These ESGs are the foundation for rewards, consequences, competitions and motivating our students into being as successful as possible.

Any concerns staff have about a student are passed directly back to the House Leader (Form Tutor) and are discussed daily during Form Time. Any successes also go back to the House Leader where students get daily praise and through the collection of RAISE points, they can win a daily GOLDEN TICKET which allows them access to £10, £5 vouchers and other rewards.

When students need more intensive support, our Health, Wellbeing & Engagement Team can provide 1-2-1 emotional support, other interventions and time out. This team is led by **Heidi Holland**, our **Leader of Health, Wellbeing & Engagement**.

If you are concerned about the wellbeing of your child, you can contact Heidi Holland at the school on: 01267 231171.



Residential Care Team

Students who are offered a Residential Placement at the school are allocated a private bed space in a dormitory. The dormitories are gender-specific and age-specific.

Students are also allocated a Key Worker who supports them during the evening and also discusses any concerns relating to the school day. The Key Workers led by the Care Manager; Katherine Pope, provide an ongoing connection between the day aspects of schooling and the residential aspects, making sure we can offer the highest standards of care and encouragement.

The Care Team offer students a variety of activities during the evening; some on-site, some off-site. The activities are designed to work on **Social, Physical, Intellectual, Communication and Emotional (SPICE)** aspects of a student's personal development.

Activities include:

- Cooking
- Shopping
- Swimming
- Trampolining

**Making contact with the
Care Manager, Katherine
Pope:**

01267 231171

kpope@rhydygors.ysgolccc.org.uk



YSGOL RHYDYGORS

CARMARTHEN

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