Ysgol John Bright

“A good school with outstanding features” Estyn
Welcome

Our aim at Ysgol John Bright is to give all students the best possible start in life.

We strive to reach our aim by creating a climate of high quality teaching, high expectations and exceptional levels of pastoral care.

Ysgol John Bright is a school that encourages all of its students to succeed regardless of their ability; it is a school with traditional values based on respect and high standards. We aim to provide students at the school with a 21st century education that will equip them all with the skills and attributes required to take up their places in a fast moving ever changing world.

We endeavour to encourage ambition and excellence and our ethos is one that believes firmly in the human capacity for improvement. We have a commonly held belief that anything is possible and strive at all times to create the conditions in school where students can achieve and do their very best.

We have an outstanding staff, excellent facilities, supportive parents, a proactive Governing Body and students that we are all proud of. The school is located in the seaside town of Llandudno in an area of outstanding natural beauty. This combination makes Ysgol John Bright a unique place that we think is very special.

Our core purpose is to create within our students a passion and love of learning through the development of a personalised curriculum and a focus on the delivery of outstanding lessons. We encourage our staff to be innovative and to engage with the students through inspired teaching. Relationships between staff and students are excellent and this is a key strength of the school.

The school has a strong tradition in the Arts, Music, Drama and Sport and has a rich varied extra curricula programme. We are very proud of our Welsh Heritage and Ysgol John Bright is a vibrant and exciting place to be. It is our intention to build on the good work of the past and to make the school even better in the future.

W.G. Davies (Head Teacher)
We can accept up to 240 students into our Year 7.

The school’s current Admissions Policy is operated by the Conwy Local Education Authority (LEA) and full details of the Policy can be obtained by phoning the LEA on 01492 575031 or via their website at www.conwy.gov.uk.

If we are oversubscribed preference will be given to children according to the following criteria in the order in which they are listed:
- Residence in the catchment area;
- Sibling connection;
- Proximity of home address to school;
- Medical circumstances or Statement of Educational Needs.

If you have any questions whatsoever or wish to have a tour of the school, please contact Mrs J Pethig (Assistant Headteacher) on 01492 864200.

The first year of secondary school is a particularly important time for our students. We work very closely with our primary partner schools to ensure each student has a positive experience and to ensure that transition is as smooth as possible.

Our Director of Transition visits partner schools to meet new students before they join and runs an introductory programme before the start of term. We also hold Taster Days, an Open evening and various activities to ensure that new students have made new friends and feel part of the community of Ysgol John Bright.
YJB and its staff

All staff are committed to providing our students with the best possible opportunities for personal growth and fulfilment.

Student Support Team

Year 7
- Mrs J Pethig
  Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs C Beattie
  Director of Learning
- Miss S Brough
  Assistant Director of Learning
- Mrs A Davies
  Student Guidance Officer

Years 8 and 9
- Mrs S Lewis-Jones
  Assistant Headteacher
- Mr D Sweet
  Director of Learning
- Mr T Chamberlain
  Assistant Director of Learning
- Mrs L Davies
  Student Guidance Officer

Years 10 and 11
- Mr M P Vickery
  Deputy Headteacher
- Miss J McCabe-Wedlock
  Director of Learning
- Mrs N Whitham
  Assistant Director of Learning
- Mrs D Huzarski
  Student Guidance Officer

Years 12 and 13
- Mr B Williams
  Assistant Headteacher
- Mr C Colbert
  Director of Learning
- Miss S Hancox
  Assistant Director of Learning
- Mrs B Smith
  Student Guidance Officer

The Roles of the Senior Leadership Team

Mr W G Davies
Headteacher
Mr M Vickery
Deputy Headteacher
Mrs S Lewis-Jones
Assistant Headteacher
Mr S G O’Sullivan
Assistant Headteacher
Mr B Williams
Assistant Headteacher
Mrs J Pethig
Assistant Headteacher
Mrs R Davies
Business Manager
The Year 7 curriculum equips students with the 21 skills and attributes they need to succeed as a learner at Ysgol John Bright and beyond as lifelong learners in the 21st Century.

**Key Stage 3**

Our aim is for each student to develop talents and interests to the full, while experiencing a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. The courses enhance learning, attainment and achievement and help students to become:

- successful learners who enjoy learning, achieve and make progress;
- confident and happy individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives;
- responsible people who make a positive contribution to society.

The Year 7 ‘21/7 curriculum’ is designed to place the acquisition of skills at the heart of the learning experience at Ysgol John Bright.

The Year 7’s follow a curriculum that leads to a credited academic award, Essential Skills Wales Level One.

We believe that it is as important for the success of our students that they learn and develop personal skills and attributes alongside specific subject skills.

The Year 7 curriculum highlights personal attributes and skills that we, at Ysgol John Bright, believe must be developed if a student is to be successful - whether at school, as a lifelong learner or in the workplace.

The Curriculum at Key Stage 3 offers a balance of innovation and tradition which provides clear progression for all our students. A traditional subject-based approach remains the backbone of the students’ experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Memory Skills</th>
<th>95%+ Attendance</th>
<th>Punctual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presents work well</td>
<td>Speaks clearly</td>
<td>Confident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organised</td>
<td>Bilingual</td>
<td>Independent Learner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literate</td>
<td>Numerate</td>
<td>IT Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self Controlled</td>
<td>Questioner</td>
<td>Respect for Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows right from wrong</td>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Health Aware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivated to Learn</td>
<td>Team Learner</td>
<td>Listener</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information about specific learning pathways is available in a special booklet produced for Year 9 students and their parents in the Spring Term.

**Curriculum**

In Years 8 and 9 students study subjects included within the framework of the National Curriculum with 30 lessons a week. Students are regularly assessed through the three years of this key stage with Statutory Teacher Assessments in subjects towards the end of Year 9.

On entry to the school students are placed in learning groups. During the year key stage setting is introduced in most subjects to enable students to progress at a rate appropriate to their ability.

In Year 11 we have “Operation Boost” which is a programme of activities for Year 11, to help them achieve their best in the examinations. This programme incorporates:

- extra examination preparation lessons (for parents as well as students)
- individual and whole group support in the run up to examinations
- individual mentoring
- revision school
- grade improvement classes
- ‘Exam Busters’ day

Most students decide to continue with us through our thriving and consistently outstanding Sixth Form. Here, every opportunity is given to continue learning through academic and vocational routes leading to all aspects of further and higher education including places at the most prestigious universities.

We have extremely high expectations of our Sixth Form students to adopt a mature pattern of behaviour and attitude, to transmute by example to younger students.

Sixth Form students contribute fully to the school’s values of excellence in learning and are represented by the Student Leadership Team which is elected annually through a formal election process.

Academic progress is carefully monitored and there are regular reports home. Students are supported and encouraged to use their time in school profitably and wisely. As the year progresses, students are supported to assume more responsibility for their own learning in preparation for Higher Education and employment.
Ysgol John Bright celebrated the prestigious achievement of becoming the first school in Conwy to gain National Inclusion Quality Mark.

This demonstrates the outstanding provision the school provides for all students of all abilities.

Up to 20% of all children have additional learning needs at some time during their school life. The Code of Practice provides a structured approach to addressing these needs and is incorporated into our Additional Learning Needs Policy. Children carrying statements have extra provision built-in to these. For other children whose needs are on “School Action” or “School Action Plus”, we organise a range of provision such as in-class support, short-term withdrawal, extraction for particular skills, specialist help or simplification of the curriculum to enhance basic studies.

Each year one learning group in Year 7 is kept smaller and a classroom assistant is allocated. Students in this learning group are identified from primary school as needing extra support. This support continues in Years 8 and 9 with students moving into and out of the learning group as the need arises.

Paired reading supported by Sixth Form students and a spelling programme negotiated with parents aim to raise standards. A catch-up reading programme is delivered to students who require additional support. Handwriting and spelling guidelines are also prepared by our specialist staff. All subject areas prepare individual educational plans for students assessed as having difficulties. Regular monitoring of progress is then shared with students and parents.

The school also has a resource base provision for children with assessed Moderate Learning Difficulties. Entry to this unit is a shared decision between the LEA and the Headteacher.

In our Learning Support Department students can access extra help or have space and support with homework after school.

The Safeguarding and Welfare of our Students

Local authorities and the governing bodies of all schools have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Child Protection comes within the framework of ‘safeguarding children’. Our designated Child Protection Officer is Mrs E Hughes.

The school recognises its obligation to the safeguarding and welfare of young people and this is reflected in our policies related to the health and safety policy, trips and visits policy, recruitment policy and also in the way we promote a positive ethos of respect and trust. Students know they can seek support from the adults in the school, in particular their Learning Tutors and members of the Key Stage Student Guidance Teams.

Our Designated Looked After Children member of staff is Mrs J Pethig (Assistant Headteacher).
Home Learning forms a normal part of school life and helps young people to work, think and learn independently, in addition to being an essential component of all courses.

We aim to set tasks which genuinely engage and challenge students to achieve independent learning tasks and give them the opportunity to explore ideas and areas of interest incorporating a variety of activities, research, reading for information, collecting evidence, interpreting and analysing, use of different media and evaluation.

At YJB there are a number of homework clubs, revision sessions and facilities to complete homework.

The emphasis in YJB is on encouragement, praise and the display of an active interest in the personal and academic progress of students. We uphold values of respect and pride in both our school and ourselves. Therefore we expect students to address members of staff and each other with courtesy.

We encourage and expect good behaviour. We have established firm boundaries, which students know and understand within the school’s Code of Conduct.

Codes of conduct are issued to all students as an invaluable aid in the smooth and effective running of the school. These rules express our requirements of tolerance for others, good manners, self-discipline, commitment and hard work.

The school has Welsh learner tutor groups where Welsh is used during spoken communication and all students are encouraged to develop their Welsh speaking skills as part of their continuing education for lifelong learning.

The school actively endorses Conwy’s Welsh in Education Policy. Whenever possible parents receive communications bilingually and school policy documents, handbooks and administrative guidelines are available in both English and Welsh.

Whilst Ysgol John Bright is an English medium school, the Welsh culture is evident throughout the school. The Welsh Department plays a key role in ensuring the delivery of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig through its teaching provision but also promotes the language and culture in a number of extracurricular activities. These include the Urdd Club, trips to Glan Llyn Language Centre, participation in the Urdd Eisteddfod and theatre visits.

The use of Welsh language is developing and is used in assemblies and as part of the day-to-day communication within the school. The Cwricwlwm Cymreig is an integral part of the subject specific schemes of work throughout the school with emphasis placed, wherever possible, on Welsh history, culture and Welsh life.

The school has Welsh learner tutor groups where Welsh is used during spoken communication and all students are encouraged to develop their Welsh speaking skills as part of their continuing education for lifelong learning.
Equality

Statutory RE and Collective Worship
We value the opportunity to come together as a community within school and assemblies take place on a daily rota. Senior staff together with visiting speakers, lead these activities on a carefully chosen theme.

When not in a formal assembly, students still have an opportunity to reflect together in tutor time and are encouraged to have confidence in their own beliefs and respect the values and beliefs of others.

Sex and Relationships Education
The school’s policy regarding Sex Education has been approved by the Governing Body and follows the Framework Guidance laid down by the Curriculum Council for Wales. It is part of the programme of Personal and Social Education timetabled for every year group. The content is delivered by specialist staff augmented by visiting experts where it is felt necessary. The aims are to provide students with accurate information, to help them clarify their own values, to help them practise skills in communication and decision making, which in turn will enable them to make informed choices.

Careers Education
Careers Education is a continuous guidance process throughout a student’s school career which is delivered through tutor time, personal and social education together with special events.

Careers Guidance interviews and a range of software enable students to carry our independent research into a wide variety of careers and further/higher education courses. Careers Wales, colleges of further and higher education together with other training facilitators, provide the school with additional expertise and help to ensure successful transition.

A highly successful programme of work experience has long been established at Ysgol John Bright. Students in Year 10 and 12 carry out a period of career based placements. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in a range of exercises and activities that are designed to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the world of work.

House System
The school has four houses with an elected House Captain and Vice Captain. Regular inter-house competitions are held during the year in a variety of sports and activities and all students can get involved.

An inter-house Eisteddfod and Sports Day are held each year. Our house system brings together children of all ages under the leadership of house staff and senior students and gives great enjoyment and a strong sense of cohesion throughout the school. The House Coordinator is Mr S O’Sullivan.
Creating Opportunities and developing skills

Students can choose from a range of activities on offer after school and, by doing so, are encouraged to develop lifelong skills and interests.

Numerous school visits feature on the calendar, both in the UK and abroad, including cultural visits to other European countries, America, field trips and theatre trips. Visits to cultural, political and religious centres allow students to broaden their horizons and widen their thinking.

There are music concerts and sell-out shows which are held in Llandudno’s Venue Cymru.

In-house programmes help develop rounded individuals, enhanced by links to the local community. Success with projects, completion of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme, participating in work experience or mentoring younger students can all create memorable experiences, as well as developing leadership skills and encouraging independence. The PE Department runs many school teams, enjoying considerable success in local and national competitions.

Elected members of the Student Voice debate aspects of school life, so making a constructive contribution to the running of the school.
Students strive to achieve their best in practical and theoretical learning environments. Personal skills are enhanced such as co-operation, self-reliance, self-discipline, sharing, confidence and leadership. Students learn the importance and benefits of an active healthy lifestyle and are encouraged to regard physical education and sport as long-term life skills.

Work within the Physical Education Department is designed to support, contribute and complement the objectives of the school. We aim to provide an enjoyable, satisfying and balanced programme with opportunities for all students to develop physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively. We encourage active involvement by all as performers, observers and officials.

Students plan, practise and improve their performance so that they can enjoy being able to perform consistently well. Students will take part in activities that become technically more demanding. They will learn the benefits of working with others and understand that engaging in activity is beneficial to health and fitness.

These processes are achieved in curriculum time through experience and development in games (striking and fielding, net and invasion games) dance, gymnastics, athletics, outdoor and adventure activities.

Many students achieve district, county and national honours, both individually and in teams whilst representing the school.
Facilities

Facilities at YJB offer our students a wealth of opportunities inside and outside the classroom in our modern state of the art school.

We have an impressive range of specialist areas and use the most up-to-date technology to teach our students, including a 3D learning suite. We have a science block with 12 laboratories, a technology suite which includes provision for workshops, specialist textile rooms, commercial standard catering provision, art/design areas, pottery and a photographic dark room.

Our Sports and Recreation area includes a sports hall, gymnasium, squash courts, spinning room, dance studio with 20 acres of playing fields with hockey, football, rugby and cricket pitches as well as 2 floodlit astroturf pitches.

Provision for the Disabled

The school meets all requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. A lift enables access to all parts of the building which also has colour schemes to assist with those students with visual impairments.

There are toilet facilities for students in each block. Male and female toilets are open daily in C and D block. Disabled facilities are also available on each floor. There are separate toilets for KS3 and KS4 students. All toilets are cleaned twice daily. A Sodexo employed cleaner is on hand throughout the day to call upon for any emergency cleaning.

Support Network

We believe that the pastoral care for each individual in the school community is of the greatest importance. Therefore we have a highly developed pastoral system to ensure that every student’s progress is closely monitored.

Students respond well to praise and encouragement, and are key factors in our teaching and learning.

Our treatment of the students will be positive and sensitive but with a clear understanding of the code of behaviour expected of everyone. We make it our mission to foster a sense of self worth and the capacity to work as contributing members of a team or community and we are committed to offering equal opportunities for all.

We encourage parents to be involved in the life of the school and the progress of their child. Through a programme of regular reports and parent consultation evenings. We are committed to keeping in close contact and working in partnership with parents and guardians of YJB students.

“The quality of care, support and guidance which students receive is a significant strength of the school. Relationships between students and staff are exemplary. Students consider the staff to be supportive and approachable.”

“Estyn: The purpose built accommodation provides an outstanding setting for learning in all parts of the curriculum.”
We expect our students to take pride in themselves and the school by wearing the full uniform. We ask that parents take responsibility for ensuring that their son/daughter is in correct uniform each day.

High standards of appearance reflect a positive image of our school and one which creates a learning community we can be proud to be identified with.

Our uniform:

- Ysgol John Bright navy v-necked jumper with school logo
- Light blue shirt - must have a top button which fastens (either short or long sleeved)
- Black trousers or knee length skirt
- Plain socks (black or white for girls, black or grey for boys) or plain black tights for girls
- Black shoes - not more than 2 inch heel, no boots, no trainers, leisure shoes or any logo.

Hair should not be cropped, patterned, shaved (less than grade 3), dyed an unnatural colour, braided and should always be tied back for practical lessons.

Jewellery - for health and safety reasons the only acceptable items of jewellery are - a wristwatch, one pair of small plain stud type earrings, one plain signet ring.

Nail varnish should not be worn.

No tattoos or body piercings are allowed.

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### The School Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.45</td>
<td>Ready to Learn bell</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>Form Time</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.15</td>
<td>Lesson 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.05</td>
<td>Lesson 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.55</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.10</td>
<td>Lesson 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>Lesson 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Lesson 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>Lesson 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Free School Meals Eligibility**

Some students may be entitled to free dinners. Free School Meals can only be awarded if you or your partner are claiming either:

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance - income based
- Employment and Support Allowance - income related
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit

*(Information correct at time of going to print)*

Contact the Free School Meals Team on 01492 576491 to find out if you qualify and for an application form.

**Charging Policy**

The School’s charging policy complies with current regulations and a detailed copy of these can be obtained from the school.

**Attendance Figures 2011/2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorised</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unauthorised</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Complaints Procedures**

In the first instance, parents are expected to contact the Headteacher to discuss any complaints.

The Headteacher also holds two drop-in sessions a week where parents are welcome to discuss any issues of concern.

Any unresolved matter can be referred onto our Chair of Governors, Mr D Rowley through the school or, in exceptional circumstances, the Local Education Authority, which has an established procedure. The procedure is outlined in a bilingual document, available at the school.

**Contacting the School**

For any further information about our school or to arrange a tour of the school, please contact

Mrs J Pethig, Assistant Head Admissions at:
Ysgol John Bright, Maesdu Road, Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 1LF

Tel: 01492 864200

E-mail general@johnbright.conwy.sch.uk
www.johnbright.conwy.sch.uk
Ethos

- We want all students to feel safe and happy;
- We want all our students to enjoy school;
- We want all our students to be ambitious;
- We want all our students to achieve their potential;
- We want all our students to make a positive contribution;
- We want all our students to develop into good citizens;
- We want all our students to be successful and to leave YJB with the life skills and qualifications that will give them the best possible start in life.

‘Students adopt very positive attitudes towards learning and enjoy very good relationships with staff’

Estyn 2009

High Expectations

- At Ysgol John Bright we have a culture of high expectations this is central to our commitment to ensuring achievement for all;
- We expect our students to have positive attitudes to learning;
- We expect our students to have excellent attendance and punctuality;
- We expect our students to have respect for each other;
- We expect our students to have respect for adults;
- We expect our students to have respect for themselves;
- We expect our students to have respect for the environment;
- We expect our students to participate in the life and work of the school;
- We expect our students to believe that anything is possible;
- We expect our students to be determined to succeed.
To be the best - making our best better

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