

CASTELL ALUN HIGH SCHOOL

**GOVERNORS' REPORT
TO PARENTS
2013-14**

**Chair of Governors
Mr. Tom Jones OBE**

**Vice Chair
Rev. Hywel Bellis-Jones**

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body of Castell Alun High School, I am pleased to present to you the Governors' Annual Report for the academic year 2013-14, another highly successful year for the school.

Our role as Governors is to foster the work of the school in all its aspects, to ensure that the widest possible range of opportunities is available to our children, and that the highest possible standards of attainment and behaviour are maintained.

As you will see from the following pages, academic standards continue to be of a very high order, and compare favourably with schools across both the county and Wales as a whole. GCSE results were again impressive, with students achieving highly creditable results in a wide range of subjects; it is particularly pleasing to note the increasing numbers of students achieved 5 or more higher grades including English and Maths. This will stand the students in good stead as they enter the Sixth Form. I am also delighted that the pass rates in English, Mathematics and Science all exceeded 80% at grade C or above this year. In the Upper Sixth, students achieved well at Advanced Level, and we wish them well in their future careers; successful completion of the Welsh Baccalaureate was a deciding factor in acceptance by universities in both Wales and England. Two of our students have gone on to study in Oxford University this year. We congratulate all students and staff on these excellent results.

Over the last few months you will no doubt have read both in the school Newsletters and the local press, students have achieved considerable success particularly in sports and music, and have made their mark in the community through their fund-raising for charity. The Christmas Concert showcased the range and depth of talent of Castell Alun students. The School Council plays an increasing part in shaping the future of the school, and we were pleased to welcome Max Carstensen and Amy Glendenning as Associate Student Governors.

The major event of the year was the musical production: the commitment of large numbers of students and staff ensured that We Will Rock You was a truly memorable spectacle – an experience that will live on for all concerned, reflecting many hours of rehearsal, including at weekends – a shining example of the unique opportunities Castell Alun students enjoy.

The Welsh Government has abolished the requirement for schools to hold an annual Parents' Meeting, putting in its place a right to petition a meeting should a generic issue arise. Individual queries continue to be addressed via the Headteacher, and the ever-popular Parents' Evenings – the opportunity to discuss your child's progress – are held as before for each year group.

I am sure you will agree that Castell Alun is a caring school in which our children have the opportunity to grow and develop their talents in whatever fields they may lie. I extend grateful thanks to the Headteacher and the whole staff, and to my fellow Governors, for their continuing commitment to excellence, and to you as parents and carers, upon whose support the future of the school depends.

Tom Jones

Chairman of Governors

CASTELL ALUN HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNORS 2013-14

	Commencement date
Chairman: Mr Tom Jones	March 2013
Vice-Chairman: Rev Hywel Bellis-Jones	March 2013
Headteacher: Mr Graham Hughes	September 2013
LA Representatives:	
Cllr. S. Jones	June 2011
Cllr. R. Hughes	September 2010
Mrs J. Dennis	March 2013
Mrs S. Blythe	March 2013
Mrs E. Swain	June 2013
Parent Representatives:	
Mr Mark J. Davies	October 2013
Mrs Val Butterworth	May 2014
Mrs Helen Williams	May 2014
Mr Steven Rushforth	February 2013
Mrs Lyn Jones	February 2013
Mrs Niky Baker	March 2014
Teacher Representatives:	
Mr Kevin Davies	March 2012
Mr David Condren	September 2014
Representative of Non teaching Staff:	
Mrs Janice Southwell	March 2014
Community:	
Mr Idris Williams	October 2012
Mr Graham Kelly	March 2014
Mr Gary Griffiths	March 2013
Associate Pupil Governors: for one academic year only	
Max Carstensen	September 2013
Amy Glendenning	September 2013

Clerk : Miss Carys Wynn-Green

The chairman and clerk of the governors can be contacted via the school office.

The next election of Parent Governors will be held in February 2017.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

School policies and procedures are reviewed regularly. Copies of all policies including the school's "Complaints Policy" are available from the school office.

LANGUAGE POLICY

Teaching and learning are through the medium of English at Castell Alun High School. Students study English at all key stages, French in key stage 3 and more able linguists have opportunities to learn French and German as modern foreign languages from Year 9 onwards. Mandarin can also be studied as a GCSE at Key Stage 4.

ESTYN INSPECTION

The school was last inspected in November 2013. A copy of the report is available from the school office, from the school's website or the Estyn website. The school achieved two 'excellent' and eight 'good' grades for the ten Estyn quality indicators. This was one of the very best secondary school inspection performances in Wales during the last academic year.

THE CURRICULUM

Our fundamental aim is to provide students with an enjoyable, relevant and stimulating curriculum.

We support all our students to:

- enjoy learning
- acquire knowledge and skills that are relevant to the world of work
- develop lively and enquiring minds
- be confident to express their opinions
- recognise their own strengths and meet their personal targets
- achieve their true potential
- develop concern for their environment
- respect the religious values, morals and cultures of others.

We are an inclusive school providing equal opportunities for all students.

Year 7 to Year 9: All Key Stage 3 students study :

English, Mathematics, Science, French, Welsh, History, Geography, Religious Education, Design & Technology, Art and Design, Drama, Music, Physical Education, Information and Communication Technology, Personal and Social Education.

Year 10 and 11: Key Stage 4 students study GCSE or equivalent level courses:

Core curriculum

It is compulsory for students to study the following:

English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Biology or Core Science, Religious Education and Welsh.

Additional Curriculum

Students can select 4 from over 25 option subjects.

Year 12 and 13: All Sixth Form students study AS/A level or equivalent courses from well over 20 subject options.

STUDENT NUMBERS

At the start of the academic year there were 1363 students on roll. 216 students joined the school in year 7.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

The Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo), the More Able and Talented Coordinator and the Learning Support Team provide excellent support for students with Additional Learning Needs. There are many extension activities for the More Able and Talented.

Staff monitor progress, support learning and keep in contact with Parents and Carers, in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government Code of Conduct.

LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Castell Alun is a Community Focused School. There is a programme of community learning opportunities, activities and events. The Police Liaison Officer, PC Debbie Barker, works closely with the school to deliver personal and social education sessions.

CHANGES IN THE SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The School Prospectus was revised in September 2014. It includes essential information about the running of the school, including the correct school uniform, the Complaints Procedure and health and safety advice. Copies are available to download from the school's website. Hard copies are available from the school office.

VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents and Carers are welcome to make an appointment to visit the school at any time. We welcome questions and the opportunity to share information about our work with students.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

We provide the best possible facilities for learning. The school site is extensive, well maintained and safe for students. The whole site, including toilet facilities, is inspected regularly by the school Site Manager.

Improvements made to the school site during this academic year:

- Allocation of student seating
- Lighting installation
- 'Dugouts' accommodation/storage area
- Ladies toilets refurbishment
- Redecoration/refurbishment of foyer
- Sixth Form common room new furniture installation
- Replacement floor area in cafeteria
- Painting/decorating/carpet relaying/flooring/blind replacements around school, including;
 - o Youth Club
 - o Concourse division to provide additional classroom for Nurture Group
 - o Classrooms T13 &T13A made into one large classroom
 - o New Expressive Arts office created
 - o Drama room refurbishment
 - o Sixth Form study area (science stools to be recycled for utilisation in this area)

This work has made significant improvements to the school building and teaching environment for all students. The work has mostly been funded from the school's budget.

TOILET FACILITIES

There are sufficient toilet facilities for the number of students at the school. They are cleaned before, during and after the school day.

ACTION TO PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING

The School Cook plans menus in accordance with FCC catering services dietary policies. All food is compliant with current healthy eating standards.

There are no vending machines selling sweets, chocolate or crisps on the school site. Two vending machines sell drinks that are compliant with current FCC policy.

The school will respond to new FCC guidance issued for the next academic year.

STUDENTS' DESTINATIONS: September 2014

Students aged 15 at the start of the school year beginning in September 2013

DESTINATION	Percentage
Return to school	59%
Further Education	30%
Training – work based	6.1%
Employment with training	4.3%
Employment with no training	0
Unemployed	0
Unknown	0.6%

FINANCIAL REPORT 2013-2014

A copy of the schools balance sheet will be made available upon request.

BUDGET HEADING	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2013-2014 £
EXPENDITURE	
Staffing (All employees)	4,438,994
Premises	274,981
Supplies & Services	359,081
Other (eg Prudential borrowing/Music Rem)	86,448
SLA's	62,082
Total Expenditure	5,221,586
Income (inc Grants received at year end)	205,307
Budget (inc balance brought forward)	5,050,492
Net Expenditure	5,016,279
Balance c/f	34,213

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY 2014

Attendance – 95%

Unauthorised absence – 0.1%

END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS SUMMER 2014

KS3 (%5+)	Target (%)	Result (%)	Wales (2014)(%)
Welsh	85	91.4	77.8
English	91	94.1	85.9
Mathematics	92	96.4	84.5
Science	95	97.7	87.8
Core Subject Indicator	89.2	91.9	81.0

KS4	Target (%)	Result (%)	Wales (2014) (%)
% registered for at least one GCSE or equivalent	100	100	99
Level 2 Threshold (5A*-C)	91	87.3	82
Level 1 Threshold (5A*-G)	100	99.1	93.8
Leaving without qualification	0	0	1
Core Subject Indicator	76	75	51.9
Level 2 Threshold + Welsh/Eng & Maths	78	75	55.1
Rate of unauthorised absence	0.1	0.1	

KS5	
Number of students	154
Percentage A*/A grades	24.23
Percentage A*-C grades	76.68
Percentage A*-E grades	98.00

135 pupils passed the Welsh Baccalaureate at Higher level

160 pupils passed the Welsh Baccalaureate at Intermediate level

TERM DATES 2014 - 2015
The term dates are as follows:

Autumn Term 2014		
Training Day	Monday	1/9/2014
Training Day	Tuesday	2/9/2014
School Opens	Wednesday	3/9/2014
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	24/10/2014
School Opens	Monday	3/11/2014
School Closes	Friday	19/12/2014
Spring Term 2015		
Training Day	Monday	05/01/2015
School Opens	Tuesday	06/01/2015
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	13/02/2015
School Opens	Monday	23/02/2015
School Closes (Easter)	Friday	27/03/2015
Summer Term 2015		
School Opens	Monday	13/04/2015
School Closed (May Day)	Monday	04/05/2015
School Closes (Half-term)	Friday	22/05/2015
School Opens	Monday	01/06/2015
School Closes	Friday	17/07/2015
Training Day	Monday	20/07/2015

SESSION TIMES

The school day	
8.45	Warning bell
8.50	Morning Registration
8.55 – 9.30	Period 1
9.30 – 10.05	Period 2
10.05 – 10.40	Period 3
10.40 – 10.55	Break
10.53	Warning bell
10.55 – 11.30	Period 4
11.30 – 12.05	Period 5
12.05 – 12.55	Lunch time
12.53	Warning bell
12.55 – 1.30	Period 6
1.30 – 2.05	Period 7
2.05 – 2.40	Period 8
2.40 – 3.15	Period 9
3.15	End of School Day

SELECTION OF EVENTS AND STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS 2013-2014

SPORTS SUCCESSES, 2013/2014

Hockey

- Bethan Hughes and Joanna Swan of year 13, Izzy Howells, Sally-Ann Butler year 9, Chloe Dean and Lauren Sidebottom, year 10 in the Flintshire Hockey Squad.
- Year 7 won Flintshire play night.
- Year 8 won Flintshire play night & Flintshire Tournament.
- Under 14's won Flintshire Tournament.
- Under 16's won Flintshire Tournament.
- Jack Mears in year 9 plays hockey for North Wales.
- Will Farragher in year 9 plays hockey for North Wales and Wales.

Netball

- Olivia Phillips in year 13, gained a place in the Flintshire, North East Wales and Welsh squad.
- Erin Chadwick, Nia Hughes of year 10, Ellie Price and Alex Walsh of year 9 are now qualified Q umpires.
- Erin Chadwick was chosen as one of the top 20 players in the interclub competition by Welsh Netball.
- Year 10 club netball players won their Flintshire tournament with the non-club players in year 10 coming second (therefore runners up).
- Year 9 girls entered the non-club player Flintshire competition and came first as well as the year 8 girls.
- Sixth Form won the 5x60 netball tournament

Football

- Year 8 boys won Flintshire football league.
- Year 7 boys were Flintshire football league runners up.
- Year 10 boys were Flintshire League football runners up .
- Sam Williams in year 7, Connor Randle in year 8, Jack Atkinson and Scott Mcharrie in year 9 represent Flintshire.
- The sixth form 6 a side football team won the Flintshire tournament.
- Stephanie Dovey-Williams in year 7 plays football for North Wales.

Badminton

- 5X60 badminton competitions - the year 9 & 10 boys won the competition and the year 9 & 10 girls were runners up.
- Year 7 & 8 boys were also runners up in the above competition.
- Nieve Humphreys in year 7 plays for North Wales.
- Ellen Liddle – year 13 – Welsh Squad.
- Kieran Edwards – year 9 – Flintshire squad.

Cross Country

- The year 7 boys and year 7 girls team both won the county championships.
- The following students came in the top ten and gained a place in the Flintshire Cross Country squad: Jess Whitehurst, Sam Williams, Sam Lewis and Jake Johnson of year 7, Rosie Davies, Max Moore and

Connor Randall in year 8, Izzy Howells and Simon Price in year 9 Rebecca Owen in year 10 and Jack Parry in year 11.

- Max Moore, Sam Williams, Sam Lewis & Rosie Davies all in year 8 participated in the North East Wales round of Cross Country.

Athletics

- Junior boys won Flintshire and North East round of Athletics and came sixth overall in the Welsh Championships.
- Year 7 girls won the Flintshire Championships.
- Year 7 boys were runner up in the Flintshire Championships.
- Alex Smith, Laura Hitchin, Nathan Griffiths and Charlotte Parry-Ashcroft in year 10 participated for Flintshire in their events.
- Victor and Victrix Ludorum winners on sports day:
 - In year 7:
Harriet Le Tissier
Stuart McHarrie
 - In year 8:
Katie Antrobus
Oliver Lanceley
 - In year 9:
Sally Ann Butler
Will Farragher
 - In year 10:
Charlotte Parry Ashcroft
Joe Henry

Rugby

- The year 8 rugby team won Flintshire tournament
- The year 9 boys were Flintshire runners-up in the tournament.
- Alex Leigh played for RGC under 16.
- Caine Le Tissier played for RGC under 16.

Cricket

- A mixed year 7, 8 & 9 girls team won the 5x60 girls cricket competition.
- Samantha Short in year 9 is in the Cheshire, North Wales and Welsh cricket squad and Ellie Gallagher in year 8 represented North East Wales and North Wales.

Dance

- The year 11 BTEC dance group recently won the Urdd Eisteddfod Hip Hop Dance competition and competed in the National round.
- S4C produced a television programme about the hip hop dance groups involved in this competition and the S4C filming crew filmed our students for the programme.
- Rachel Gittins & Daisy Howells – year 13, danced for The National Youth Dance for Wales.
- Chloe Hughes – year 12 won the Ballet Championship of Wales for the fourth time.

Basketball

- Sam Affleck in the Welsh Squad.

- Roberto Benavidez – year 13 – Welsh squad.
- Under 14 boys won the wheelchair 5x60 Badminton tournament.

Rounders

- Year 10 Flintshire runners up in the county tournament.

Individual performances:

- Emily Davies in year 11 is in the Welsh squad for kayaking slalom.
- David Hatton in year 11 is in the Welsh kayaking sprint squad and the Great Britain development squad for kayaking marathon.
- Tom Walker in year 13 is in the Welsh performance squad and has been trialling for the Junior Great Britain team in kayaking slalom and is in the Welsh sprint squad for kayaking sprint.
- Ethan Langley in year 7 is competing at a high club level in karting. His personal best for 1 lap is 47 seconds and he has won the winter series championships.
- Adam Bakewell in year 7 has won the North Wales Championships in Tae Kwon-do patterns.
- Simon Price is part of the Marsh Tracks Mountain Biking race team. He has also secured a place in the Welsh Project for 2018.
- Katie Bruce year 9, Gold in the British Gymnastics competition and Welsh Championships in tumbling.
- Nia Johnston plays Squash for Wales.
- Emily Davies and Will Farragher in year 9 won the overall Sports Award for Key Stage 3.

MUSIC

Students – years 7-13 performing in every assembly weekly throughout the year.

Students represented CAHS playing Last Post at Treuddyn Remembrance Day Service.

Jazz Band performed at Treuddyn Village Hall for their community Christmas party.

Sixth Form students provided performances for elderly at local community centre for their Christmas party.

Young Voices choir took part in concert in Phones 4U Arena in Manchester.

Transition singing workshop for feeder primary schools with year 6/7 students.

Jazz Band gained 2nd place in Urdd National Eisteddfod.

Highly successful Christmas and Spring concerts, featuring all school ensembles and a number of soloists.

Successful musical production of We Will Rock You, with high number of Music students in lead and support roles and making up 20 piece pit band.

Large percentage of students, years 7-13; representing CAHS at County, 4 Counties, North Wales and National level.

Students represented CAHS on Flintshire Music Service tour to Krakow, Poland.

Music award winners were:

Musician of the Year – Rhys Jones

Most Promising Musician – Ella Perks

Outstanding Contribution to Music – Matthew Edwards

WORK EXPERIENCE

Years 10 and 12 completed very successful Work Experience Placements in 2014. They enjoyed a wide range of placements from working with a judge for the week at Chester Crown Court to working with the security team at Manchester Airport. Charlotte Parry-Ashcroft worked with the C.I.D. Department at Blacon Police station and the Inspector was so impressed with her he has offered to take any suitable candidate from us in the future.

Employer's Comments;

“Just wanted to let you know what a pleasure it has been to welcome Poppy to our school this week. She has fully embraced all aspects of the work experience visit and has quickly built good working relationships with both staff and students alike. She has been a real credit to herself and Castell Alun High School”

GOOD CAUSES SUPPORTED BY STUDENTS

Macmillan Cancer Support
Royal British Legion
Samaritan's Purse
Children in Need
Breast Cancer Support
Child Line
Save the Children
Marie Curie Cancer Care
Make a Wish
Macmillan Nurses
Catrin's Fund
Sports Relief 2014
Nightingale House Hospice

TRIPS & EXCURSIONS 2013 - 2014

Liverpool Art Galleries – Years 10 and 12
Glyndwr University – Year 13
Caerwrlle Castle – Year 7
Chill Factore – Year 7
Birmingham NEC – Food Technology Sixth Form
Clwyd Theatr Cymru – English and Drama GCSE
Airbus – Technology Years 10 and 11
Manchester United FC – all years
Loggerheads Country Park – Year 9 end of year trip
Toyota – Sixth Form Technology
Caphouse Pit – Year 12 Welsh Bacc
Chester University – Geography Key Stage 3
Trafford Centre – all years
Bangor University – Year 12 P.E.
Liverpool World Museum – Years 10 and 12 Art
Nant BH – Years 7 and 9

Glan Llyn – Years and 12 Welsh
Britannia Stadium – Sixth Form P.E.
MEN Arena – all years
Llandudno Ski Centre – Year 10 Ski Trip participants
Erddig Country Park – Year 10 Geography
Llangollen International Eisteddfod – Year 7
Chester Zoo – Year 12 Geography and Psychology, End of Year 7 trip
Liverpool Playhouse – Year 12 English
CAT Centre, Machynlleth -
Liverpool University – Year 12
Alton Towers – End of Year 10 trip
Albert Dock – Years 10 and 12 Geography
North Wales Coast – Years 10 and 12 Geography
Overseas Study Visits - France & Berlin/Krakow – Year 10 French,
Year 12 History, R.E
Overseas Ski Trip – Austria – Year 10
Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions - Bronze, Silver & Gold –
Years 10 to 13
Oxford University – Year 12
Drayton Manor – End of Year 8 trip
Wrexham FC – various years
Coed Llandegla – various years Mountain biking