



CASTELL ALUN HIGH SCHOOL

**GOVERNORS' REPORT
TO PARENTS
2015-2016**

**Chair of Governors
Mr. Idris Williams**

**Vice Chair
(Vacant)**

**Headteacher
Mr. Graham Hughes**

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 2015-2016, 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 I am sure you are aware, Cllr. T.W. Jones OBE passed away earlier this year. Cllr. Jones was a hugely supportive and influential Chair of Governors at Castell Alun for over four decades, and his contribution to our school has been exceptional. Whilst in many ways Cllr. Jones is irreplaceable you can be certain that our Governing Body is totally committed to continuing his good work as we look forward once again.

As you will see from the following pages, academic standards continue to be of a very high order, and compare extremely well with schools across both the county and Wales as a whole. GCSE results were again impressive, with 97% of students achieving five or more grades at C or above and 76% achieving this benchmark including English and Mathematics. The average of each of our students' best eight GCSE results (called the 'capped points score') is equal to the highest it has ever been and places us as one of the very highest achieving schools in Wales again this year. This will stand the students in good stead as they enter the Sixth Form. 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 for the majority of students in acceptance by universities in both Wales and England. 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 that 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 Simon Morris and Maisie Eccleston-Tuohy as Associate Student Governors.

The school's financial position continues to cause concern against a back-drop of increasing costs and real terms budget cuts each year. We recognise that this is both a local and a national issue. You can be assured that Governors will continue to do all they can to support the Headteacher in ensuring that our students receive the best possible learning environment and experiences.

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. These evenings present the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and are held, as always, for each year group at an appropriate time in the school year.

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 these may lie. I extend grateful thanks to the Headteacher, 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.

Mr. Idris Williams

Chair of Governors

CASTELL ALUN HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNORS 2015-2016

	Expiry date
Chair: Mr. Idris Williams	October 2020
Vice-Chair: Vacancy	
Headteacher: Mr. Graham Hughes	
LA Representatives:	
Cllr. D. Healey	June 2018
Cllr. R. Hughes	September 2018
Mrs. J. Dennis	March 2017
Mr. G. Griffiths	March 2019
Mrs. E. Swain	June 2017
Parent Representatives:	
Mr. M. Davies	October 2017
Mrs. V. Butterworth	May 2018
Mrs. H. Williams	May 2018
Mr. S. Rushforth	February 2017
Mrs. L. Jones	February 2017
Mrs. N. Baker	March 2018
Teacher Representatives:	
Mr. K. Davies	March 2020
Mr. D. Condren	September 2018
Representative of Non teaching Staff:	
Mrs. J. Southwell	March 2018
Community:	
Mr. I. Williams	October 2020
Mr. G. Kelly	March 2018
Rev. A. Pawley	December 2019
Associate Pupil Governors: for one academic year only	
Maisie Eccleston-Tuohy	
Simon Morris	

Clerk : Mrs. S. White

The Chair 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 and Welsh at all key stages, French in Year 7 and more able linguists have opportunities to learn both French and German as modern foreign languages from the last half term of Year 8 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 that 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. Literacy and Numeracy are both embedded in the English, Mathematics and wider curriculum.

Nurture Group: Students who need some extra support when transferring to Year 7 can benefit from our Nurture Group provision. This is now in its third year and has proved to be extremely valuable both educationally and socially for a number of students.

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

Core curriculum at Key Stage 4

It is compulsory for students to study the following:

English Language, Mathematics, Numeracy, Chemistry, Physics and Biology or Double Science, Religious Education, Welsh and the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

Additional Curriculum

Students can select 3 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 in addition to completing the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

STUDENT NUMBERS

At the start of the academic year there were 1370 students on roll. 212 students joined the school in Year 7.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

The Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) 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 is revised every September. 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 aim to 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.

TOILET FACILITIES

We manage well with the limited toilet facilities given the number of students at the school. They are cleaned before, during and after the school day. The Local Authority is aware that additional toilet facilities are required and will include these in any future building programme at the school.

ACTION TO PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING

The School Cook plans menus in accordance with Flintshire County Council 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 Flintshire County Council policy.

The school will respond to new Flintshire County Council guidance issued for the next academic year.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 12 students completed their Work Experience during the summer. The placements attended ranged from local industry, retail and education, to the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay and working in the legal department with Liverpool City Council.

Judging by the feedback received, the students gained a positive look at the world of work and were a credit to themselves and the school. Some of the comments received so far:

"It has been a pleasure having Georgia working in our office for a week. She would be welcome anytime."

"Jack demonstrated how mature he is and how interested in the placement he was. You could really tell how enthusiastic he is about a career in law."

"Robyn was a real pleasure to work with and her enthusiasm was a breath of fresh air."

One international company, based in Wrexham, was so impressed with a student working with them in July, they invited him back during the school holidays!

The school is pleased to be able to help the students facilitate these opportunities but it would not be possible without the support and willingness of so many local establishments who give their time and expertise to encourage these young adults on their journey into future employment.

STUDENTS' DESTINATIONS: September 2016

Students aged 15 at the start of the school year beginning in September 2015

DESTINATION	Percentage
Return to school	60%
Further Education	29%
Training – work based	6%
Employment with training	3%
Employment with no training	0
Unemployed	0
Unknown	2%

FINANCIAL REPORT 2015-2016

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

BUDGET HEADING	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2015-2016 £
EXPENDITURE	
Staffing (All employees)	4,551,506
Premises	218,915
Supplies & Services	395,738
Other (eg Prudential borrowing/Music Rem)	136,384
SLA's	62,227
Total Expenditure	5,364,771
Income (inc Grants received at year end)	266,109
Budget (inc balance brought forward)	5,170,475
Net Expenditure	5,098,661
Balance c/f	71,813

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Attendance – 95.3%

Unauthorised absence – 0.2%

Governors are concerned about the number of holidays that are taken during term time. Parents are encouraged to consider carefully the educational impact before removing their child from school. Any request for a holiday for longer than three school days will require parents and students to work with senior staff to put in place a plan to catch up on missed work.

END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS SUMMER 2016

KS3 (%5+)	Aspirational Target (%)	Result (%)	Wales (2016)(%)
Welsh	91	91.3	81.9
English	97	91.8	89.2
Mathematics	96	96.6	90.1
Science	100	94.7	92.8
Core Subject Indicator	96	90.9	85.9

KS4	Aspirational Target (%)	Result (%)	Flintshire (%)	Wales (2015) (%)
% registered for at least one GCSE or equivalent	100	100	100	99
Level 2 Threshold (5A*-C)	95.5	95	81	84
Level 1 Threshold (5A*-G)	99.5	99	95	95
Leaving without qualification	0	0	0	1
Core Subject Indicator	73.2	70	59	58
Level 2 Threshold + Welsh/Eng & Maths	75	76.1	61	60
Rate of unauthorised absence	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.3

KS5	
Number of students	129
Percentage A*/A grades	16.72
Percentage A*-C grades	75.41
Percentage A*-E grades	98.03

125 students passed the Welsh Baccaulaureate at Higher level.

191 students passed the Welsh Baccaulaureate at Intermediate level.

TERM DATES 2016-17

The term dates are as follows:

Autumn Term 2016		
Training Days	Monday and Tuesday	1st and 2nd September 2016
School Opens	Monday	5 th September 2016
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	21 st October 2016
School Opens	Monday	31 st October 2016
School Closes	Friday	16 th December 2016
Spring Term 2017		
Training Day	Tuesday	3rd January 2017
School Opens	Wednesday	4 th January 2017
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	17 th February 2017
School Opens	Monday	27 th February 2017
School Closes (Easter)	Friday	7 th April 2017
Summer Term 2017		
School Opens	Monday	24 th April 2017
School Closed (May Day)	Monday	1 st May 2017
School Closes (Half-term)	Friday	26 th May 2017
School Opens	Monday	5 th June 2017
School Closes	Wednesday	19 th July 2017
Training Day	Thursday	20th July 2017
Training Day	Friday	21st July 2017

SESSION TIMES

The school day	
8.50am	Registration/Pastoral
9.15-10.15am	Period 1
10.15-10.30am	Break
10.30-11.30am	Period 2
11.30-12.30pm	Period 3
12.30-1.15pm	Lunch
1.15-2.15pm	Period 4
2.15-3.15pm	Period 5
3.15pm	End of School Day

GOOD CAUSES SUPPORTED BY STUDENTS

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning
Royal British Legion
Jeans for Genes Day
Children in Need
Breast Cancer Care
Save the Children
NSPCC (Childline)
Marie Curie Cancer Care
Hospice of the Good Shepherd
Hope House
Sport Relief
Urdd National Eisteddfod
SOS Africa

TRIPS & EXCURSIONS 2015-2016

Liverpool Art Galleries – Years 10 and 12
Glyndwr University – Politics, Teen Tech Event
Chill Factore – Year 7 and Year 8
Birmingham NEC BBC Good Food Show – Food Technology Sixth Form
Clwyd Theatr Cymru – English and Drama GCSE
Airbus – Technology Years 10 and 11
Nant BH – Year 7
Glan Llyn – Years 8 and 10
Llandudno Ski Centre – Year 10 Ski Trip participants
Llangollen International Eisteddfod – Year 7
Chester Zoo – Year 12 Geography and Psychology, End of Year 7 trip
North Wales Coast – Years 10 and 12 Geography
Overseas Study Visits - Berlin/Krakow – Year 12 History, R.E
Overseas Ski Trip – Austria – Year 10
Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions - Bronze, Silver & Gold – Years 10 to 13
Coed Llandegla – various years Mountain biking/ OAA activities
Clwyd Theatr Cymru – Drama students
Chestnut House – Health and Social Care students
Airbus/JCB – EESW students, Space Cadets
Focus Wales Concert – School Choir
MUFC - English
Geography World Wise Quiz – Year 12
Tesco Broughton, Nurture Group
London Theatre – Globe Theatre, English
Oxbridge seminar
Techniquist – Nurture group students
Delamere Forest – OAA activities
National Space Centre – Astronomy students
Army Work Experience
Print Centre Wrexham, Art
Dangerpoint – Nurture Group
Cardiff – Geography
Flintshire Council Chambers – Year 13 Politics
Plas Power – Year 8
Salters Institute - Chemistry