



CASTELL ALUN HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS 2018-2019

   www.castellalun.com

Chair of Governors - Mr Idris Williams

Vice Chair - Mrs Helen Williams

Headteacher Mr Graham Hughes

(Sept 2018—April 2019)

Mrs Paula Williams (May 2019—onwards)



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 2018-2019, 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 are of a very high order, and are amongst the very best in North Wales. 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. We continue to build on our successes year on year and are pleased to report that following the positive Estyn inspection in September 2017, we continue to be a 'green' category school this year.

Over the last few months you will no doubt have read on the school website, Headteachers' Blog, social media and in 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 School Council continues to play an important role in shaping the future of the school, and we were pleased to welcome Kaya and David as Associate Student Governors. These students are invited to participate in the full Governors' meetings which are held once a term. In addition to the full Governors' meetings, there are committees which include: Community and Buildings and Sports Centre, Personnel, Health and Safety, Finance, Pay Policy and Curriculum. These committees allow for robust conversations and decision making, with outcomes reported back to Full Governors' meetings for ratification.

The school's financial position is a continuing concern with increased pressure on the school budget and cost increases which create a real terms budget cut 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. However, we are not complacent regarding this matter and are in close regular contact with Flintshire County Council.

We are looking forward to our new extension which will provide improved learning opportunities for our students as well as fabulous new learning areas. It is hoped that following a successful planning application building will begin during 2019/20.

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

ESTYN INSPECTION

The school was inspected in September 2017. 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 three 'good' grades for the five Estyn quality indicators. Furthermore, we hosted two Estyn thematic days during the academic year on the themes of The Social Studies and Engagement with Employers, both of which were used to inform documents used to share good practice by the inspectorate across the country.



THE CURRICULUM

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

OUR STUDENTS

At the start of the academic year there were 1347 students on roll. 211 students joined the school in Year 7.

Year 7 to Year 9: All Key Stage 3 students study: English, Mathematics, Science, French, Welsh, Geography, Religious Education, Design & Technology, Art and Design, Music, Physical Education, Information and Communication Technology, Drama (Year 9), Personal and Social Education. Literacy and Numeracy are both embedded in the English, Mathematics and wider curriculum.

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, P.E., Welsh and Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification. 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.

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 fourth year and has proved to be extremely valuable both educa-

tionally and socially for a number of students.

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

THE SIXTH FORM

All Sixth Form students study AS/A level or equivalent courses from well over 20 subject options in addition to many completing the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

"The Sixth Form continues to have about 300 students who are members of Years 12 and 13. We are delighted with the destinations of our Year 13 students this year, whether it be going to university (112 students) the length and breadth of the UK or into prestigious employment such as Higher Apprenticeships. Our Alumni programme continues to thrive and many ex-students visited the school

last year to tell us about their 'life story' to date. Sixth Form students continue to involve themselves in the life of the school through their community work, this could be helping with Numeracy and Literacy, coaching in the Physical Education department or helping with Musical, Dance and Drama productions.

The Sixth Form 'Student Voice' is an integral and valued part of Sixth

Form life and students regularly cooperate with the Governing Body. Raising money for Charity continues to be something the students throw themselves wholeheartedly into! Last year the Sixth Form supported Breast Cancer Charities, Mental Health Charities and Save the Children."

Mr Kevin Davies,

Head of The Sixth Form



WORK EXPERIENCE



Once again the majority of our Year 12 students successfully completed their Work Experience during the summer term. The range and standard of the placements that the students sought and secured for themselves was fantastic. The company that we use to carry out both health and safety and vetting procedures in order to enable our students to attend these placements safely, always receive a positive reaction when visiting Castell Alun students.

The written feedback has been a pleasure to receive. Our students have displayed dedication, maturity and professionalism during their placements.

Once again this year, students

have proved to be excellent ambassadors for Castell Alun, with employers citing keen attitudes, enthusiasm and great employability skills.

Castell Alun is pleased to be able to help our 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.

SPORTS REPORT



Netball: It has been a very successful year for netball at Castell Alun. We have had lots of interschool fixtures with some excellent netball being played across the year groups. Lily of Year 11 represented the U16 North East Wales Squad. Ruby of Year 7 and Poppy of Year 9 were also selected for the U14 North East Wales Squad, with Ruby also winning Player of the Tournament. Sophie and Lily also represented the North region in the U17 Wales Hub event with Miss Roberts as coach.

Cheerleading: The KS3 Girls won the Interschool Cheerleading Competition to progress onto the National Schools Finals, where they were placed third, winning the 'Good Spirit Award' also.

Cricket: Our Year 7 Girls' Cricket Team competed in the Lady Taverners Cricket Tournament in Deeside in March and had a great day, learning a lot through this new experience.

Hockey: Elin (Year 10) was selected to play for the Wales U16 Hockey Team.

Rugby: Girls' rugby has been a big success this year with KS3 Girls en-

joying the after school club in any weather. Jessica of Year 11 has been a role model to these girls by helping out Miss Gittins with the coaching sessions after school. Jessica also made the RGC women's U18 squad this season and has played against high level teams such as the Ospreys and Cardiff Blues. Evie, Megan and Mia also represented us at U13 level in the Valkeries Rugby Hub this year. The Year 8 Boys' Rugby Team had a fantastic season getting through to the NE Wales Final where they lost to Ysgol Caereinion to come overall runners up.

Football: A number of our girls have had a fantastic experience of playing the Flintshire Girls' FA team. They have had many fixtures and travelled across Wales to play them.

Swimming: Holly of Year 9 swam 5k for charity. She completed her swim in 1 hour 17 minutes and 22 seconds.

Squash: Josh (Year 9) has had a very successful season. His most recent selection for the Wales team will allow him to play in the European Championships in May in Eindhoven, in the Netherlands. Kieran (Year 8) won the Gwynedd Junior Open Squash Championships in the U15/ U17 select.

Golf: Matthew (Year 11) was selected to play for Wales U16 in a quadrangular tournament in Troon. He was also selected for the Wales team in the Boys' European Championships in Poland and again in the European Masters in the Czech Republic in July. Poppy (Year 9), Annabelle (Year 8) were part of the Girls'

Schools' Golf Team participating in Llandudno who were placed 2nd overall.

Gymnastics: We competed successfully in the 5x60 Gymnastics Competition held in Flint. Theo (Year 7) won Bronze for his vault and overall performance, with Olivia (Year 7) winning the Silver and Lauren (Year 7) taking Gold on Vault.

Tennis: The Boys' Tennis Team was crowned Champions of North Wales, and progressed onto the National Championships where they came 4th overall.

Athletics: In the Inter Schools Athletics Competition, our Year 7 Girls came 3rd and the Boys were placed 2nd. The Boys went to Brecon to compete for North East Wales in the Welsh Schools Finals. Our Year 8/9 Boys' Team were crowned champions with the Year 10 Boys coming runners up.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Governors' are extremely proud of students' participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. During this academic year 36 students achieved their Bronze Award with another 46 still working towards their awards and 20 students gained their Silver award with another 12 still working towards gaining the qualification. Castell Alun had the highest number of awards achieved for both Silver and Bronze at the recent Flintshire Awards Ceremony. This year, 9 participants from Castell Alun received their Gold Award at the Flintshire award ceremony, this is 9 times the number from the rest of Flintshire combined. There are currently 39 learners working towards their Gold Award in the Sixth Form. The award is achieved through the demonstration of student excellence in life skills, physical activity and commitment to volunteering, with students taking part in at least two expeditions during the course of each award. Our thanks go to Mr. Andrew Duffy for running this valuable scheme in school, often in partnership with Wildside Expeditions.



MUSIC PROVISION



At Castell Alun we are extremely fortunate to have many talented students. This is particularly evident in our Music Department with over 100 students receiving instrumental or vocal lessons in school provided by the Flintshire Music Service. Extra-curricular ensembles that are delivered by both our music staff and the Music Service include vocal groups, wind band, percussion ensemble, flute group, saxophone ensemble and guitar ensemble. These ensembles then feed into County groups where Castell Alun High School is very well represented, as well as in the 4 counties, North Wales and National ensembles. The work that goes on during lessons, as well as the weekly ensemble rehearsals, is then showcased during our two main concerts during the year (Christmas and Spring) as well as many other opportunities for performance during the year, including musical productions, weekly assemblies, open evenings, presentation and leaving ceremonies and visits into the community.

GOOD CAUSES SUPPORTED BY STUDENTS

Royal British Legion
Children in Need
Breast Cancer Care
Save the Children
Hope House
Cancer Research UK

Welsh Hearts
Macmillan Cancer Support
Book Aid International
Comic Relief
Just Like Us
UNICEF



TRIPS & EXCURSIONS 2018/19



Glyndwr University –MAT Activity/
Careers Talk/ Writing Workshop/
Health and Social care Workshops/
Sports Science Day/ Psychology Taster Day

Theatre Clwyd—MAT Activity/ Performing Arts/ Dance Workshop/ Justice in a Day/ Dance Careers Day/ Year 7 Panto trip/ English

Myddleton College –MAT Activity

St Richard Gwyn High School—MAT Activity

Aura Swimming Pool, Buckley

Oxford University—Linguistics/ 6th Form University Visit

Chill Factore—Year 7/Year 10 Overseas Skiing Practice

Deeside Leisure Centre—5x60 Acitivity

Catrin Finch Centre—MAT Activity

Heulwen Community Centre—Dementia Awareness

Eirias Park—Welsh Language & Culture Visit

Ruthin Craft Centre—Art & Design Research

Conwy Business Centre—Maths Competition

Chester Zoo—Biology/ Business Studies/ Year 7 Summer Trip

County Hall—WBQ Award Ceremony

Ysgol Eirias—English Language Lectures

Storyhouse Theatre—English/ Performing Arts

Crosby Beach & Liverpool Galleries—Art Research

Zip World—Business Studies

Chester University—Geography Competition

Techniquest—Nurture Group

Deeside Toyota Plant—Careers Fair

Bangor University—MFL & Business Challenge Day

Palace Theatre, Manchester—Drama

Holiday Inn, A55—Anti-Bullying Conference

Village Bakery, Wrexham—Food Tech Product Development

Ysgol Maes Garmon—Maths Competition

Deeside Leisure Centre—Careers Fair

Everyman Theatre, Liverpool—Drama

Alun School—Welsh Language Workshop

The Lowry Theatre—English

Park in the Past—WBQ Community Project

Liverpool Echo Arena—Netball World Cup/UCAS Fair

Wimbledon

Brymbo Tennis Club—Umpiring



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 Stuart Reeves, works closely with the school to deliver personal and social education sessions.

The successful collaboration between the school and Hope Community Library continues with the Library celebrating its second anniversary in May. The Library is run by a group of volunteers, 'Friends of Hope Community Library', and is the home to the local heritage archive. A number of community activities took

place during the year including Roald Dahl celebration, World Book Day story telling, evening craft sessions, Halloween events, a book club and Christmas film screening. The library also hosts bilingual rhyme time sessions once a month and holds a summer reading scheme during the holidays.

The Governors of Castell Alun have thanked the volunteers for their dedication and hard work and recognise that the school takes up the management and upkeep of the building.

We work closely in partnership with AURA, who take over the Leisure fa-

cilities after school hours to provide a comprehensive range of sports facilities. Unfortunately, our 'Astroturf' has been out of action for the past year, owing to the playing surface being unsafe. This has had a significant impact on the Physical Education department and the after school hiring possibilities.

It is planned to refurbish this facility as part of the 'new build' programme in 2020/21.

ACTION TO PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING

The School Cook plans menus in accordance with Newydd 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 Newydd Catering guidance issued for the next academic year.

The school has a SNAG (school nutrition action group) working party consists of a panel of students from each year group including Sixth Form. The group meet every half term to discuss new initiatives and to share ideas to promote healthy eating. The group takes part in taste testing new products and gives feedback to the school cook to encourage students to have a balanced diet.



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 and each half term with the Headteacher and School Council Representatives.

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 Complaint Produce and health and safety advice. Copies are available to download from the school's website. Hard copies are available from the school office.

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 as well as the school website.

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Attendance—94.3%

Unauthorised absence—0.3%

Governors are concerned about the number of holidays that are taken during term time. Parents are encouraged to carefully consider the educational impact before removing their child from school. Any request for a holiday 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.

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 the future building programme at the school.

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.

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.



STUDENTS' DESTINATIONS: SEPTEMBER 2019

Students aged 15 at the start of the school year beginning in September 2018

DESTINATION	Percentage
Return to school	57%
Further Education	31%
Training – work based	6%
Employment with training	3%
Employment with no training	1%
Unemployed	1%
Unknown	1%

TERM DATES 2019 –2020

The term dates are as follows:

Autumn Term 2019		
Training Day	Monday	2nd September 2019
Training Day	Tuesday	3 th September 2019
School Opens	Wednesday	4 th September 2019
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	25 th October 2019
School Opens	Monday	4 th November 2019
School Closes	Friday	20 st December 2019
Spring Term 2020		
Training Day	Monday	6th January 2020
School Opens	Tuesday	7 th January 2020
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	14 th February 2020
School Opens	Monday	24 th February 2020
School Closes (Easter)	Friday	3 rd April 2020
Summer Term 2020		
School Opens	Monday	20 th April 2020
School Closed (May Day)	Monday	8 th May 2020
School Closes (Half-term)	Friday	22 nd May 2020
School Opens	Monday	1st June 2020
School Closes	Wednesday	15 th July 2020
Training Day	Thursday	16 th July 2020
Training Day	Friday	17 th July 2020
Training Day	Monday	20th July 2020

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

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018-2019

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

BUDGET HEADING	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2018—2019 £
EXPENDITURE	
Staffing (All employees)	5,137,431
Premises	250,461
Supplies & Services	337,038
Other (eg Prudential borrowing/Music Rem)	151,509
SLA's	67,686
Total Expenditure	5,944,125
Income (Inc Grants received at year end)	374,441
Budget (inc balance bought forward)	5,561,010
Net Expenditure	5,569,684
Balance c/f	-8,674

CASTELL ALUN HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNORS 2018-2019

	Expiry date
Chair: Mr. Idris Williams	October 2020
Vice-Chair: Mrs. Helen Williams	June 2022
Headteacher: Mr. Graham Hughes (until 30th April 2019) Paula Williams (from 1st May 2019)	
LA Representatives:	
Cllr. D. Healey	June 2023
Cllr. G. Healey	September 2022
Mrs. J. Dennis	May 2021
Mr. G. Griffiths	June 2023
Mrs. E. Swain	June 2021
Parent Representatives:	
Mr. M. Davies	December 2021
Mrs. C. Fletcher	June 2022
Mrs. H. Williams	June 2022
Mrs. P. Williams	March 2021
Mrs. S. Bakewell	March 2021
Mrs. B. Jones	June 2022
Teacher Representatives:	
Mr. K. Davies	March 2020
Mr. D. Condren	September 2022
Representative of Non teaching Staff:	
Mrs. J. Southwell	March 2022
Community:	
Mr. I. Williams	October 2020
Mr. G. Kelly	March 2022
Rev. A. Pawley	December 2023
Mrs. B. Ellis	December 2020
Mr. S. Vaughan	December 2020
Associate Pupil Governors: for one academic year only	
David Jones	
Kaya Lloyd-Martin	

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 March 2021