

# Dylan Thomas Community School

## School Prospectus

“Living, learning and achieving as a community”







# Welcome from the Headteacher

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the Dylan Thomas Community School prospectus. Here, you will be able to read about the school's aims as well as the vision and values of the school. I have been the Headteacher of this wonderful school since 2018 and worked in the community for 22 years. In that time I have developed strong links with many of you, your children and even grandchildren and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together. I will do everything within my powers to ensure that your children will get the very best education.

Dylan Thomas Community School is a thriving community focused school that serves a considerable area in and around Swansea. Our school is a happy, safe and caring learning environment where all pupils are welcome, valued and respected. The school recognises and celebrates the achievements of all pupils. I am extremely privileged to be the headteacher of Dylan Thomas Community School and lead a school that continues to provide the best level of education for all of our young people.

We aim to instil in our pupils the traditional values that have inspired education in Wales – respect, a sense of justice and personal responsibility. At the same time, our school constantly adapts to the demands of an ever changing world. We believe these values can only be developed in an orderly and settled school environment consequently we expect the highest standards of politeness, conduct and personal appearance.

We aspire for all of our pupils to leave us with the best qualifications that they are capable of achieving with the values, to lead successful lives and also with the skills required for life and employment in global society.

If you have not visited the school's new facilities, I would invite you to pay us a visit. Alternatively, if it has been some time since your last visit I would encourage a revisit, you will see a great deal has changed over the last few years. Please do contact the school and arrange a visit, we will be happy to make suitable arrangements for you to do so.

We look forward to welcoming you and your children to join the Dylan Thomas family and to working closely with you over the next few years. Together we can achieve the success and wellbeing of each and every child.

Yours faithfully

**Mr Paul J Davies**

**Headteacher**



# Our School Aims

- Providing a pleasant, safe and attractive learning environment.
- Equipping your children with a love of learning, knowledge of how to learn and how to improve their learning.
- Ensuring that your children receive a high quality education so that they will achieve their full potential.
- Treating your children as individuals so that they gain confidence in themselves and enjoy being part of the school community.

Time	Event
8:40am – 9:00am	AM Registration
9:00am – 10:00am	Lesson 1
10:00am – 11:00am	Lesson 2
11:00am – 11:20am	Break
11:20am – 12:20pm	Lesson 3
12:20pm – 1:20pm	Lesson 4
1:20pm – 2:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Lesson 5 PM Registration

The pupils and staff of the school work under the guidance of three overarching rules:

**Be Safe**

**Be Respectful**

**Be Ready  
to Learn**

## Admissions

The LEA is the admitting authority for all pupils in the City and County of Swansea. Each pupil about to transfer from Primary to Secondary Education will be invited to apply for a place at their catchment school. Parents must now apply electronically for the catchment school or express a preference for an alternative school. Admissions for pupils in other year groups can be arranged at any time. Parents or carers are asked to contact the school for an appointment with the Deputy Headteacher responsible for pupil wellbeing (Mr Payne). We welcome any parent or child wishing to discuss a preferred placement.

## Pupil Places

The maximum numbers of pupils admitted for each year group are listed below.

Year 7	148
Year 8	148
Year 9	148
Year 10	148
Year 11	148
<b>Total</b>	<b>740</b>

Learning at Dylan Thomas Community School is an exciting journey of discovery, brought to life with innovative teaching and an imaginative use of resources. We expect all of our pupils to work hard and perform to the best of their ability. This ensures that they are active learners and find being in lessons a rewarding experience.

Our main aim is to provide a broad, balanced and bespoke curriculum for our pupils:

- Meeting all the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and embedding the new curriculum for Wales commencing from September 2022 for our new Year 7 pupils.
- Developing a range of skills based upon the Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence Frameworks.
- Nurturing positive attitudes in every individual enabling him/her to adapt in a flexible manner to new ideas and situations.
- Encouraging pupils to work both independently and in teams to solve problems and to decide upon appropriate ways to accomplish tasks.
- Supporting pupils to develop personal standards which exhibit sensitivity towards other peoples' needs and to become caring and responsible adults.
- Motivating each individual to reach his/her full potential, by actively involving pupils in the process of self-evaluation and action planning to make further progress.
- Embracing the opportunities outlined in the new curriculum.
- Promoting equal opportunity and the principle of respecting every individual who is a member of the school community and the extended community.
- Promoting Welshness and the Curriculum Cymreig and fostering an awareness of the nation's heritage and culture as well as an understanding and respect towards other cultures.
- Promoting a world wide awareness of environmental and sustainability issues.
- Promoting an awareness of healthy living and eating healthily.
- Developing an understanding of the expectations and requirements of the world of work and offer an opportunity to follow vocational courses.
- Ensuring progression and continuation between key stages.
- Ensuring a wide range of informal learning experiences in addition to timetabled classes.

### KS3 - Years 7/8/9

English, Mathematics, Science, Information Technology, Technology, History, Geography, Religious Education, Welsh, Spanish, Art, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Personal and Social Education.

### KS4 - Years 10/11

Core: English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh Baccalaureate, Welsh, Physical Education, Personal and Social Education, Religious Education.

Options: Triple Science, Health and Social Care, Built Environment, Digital Technology (ICT), History, Art, Media Studies, Food and Nutrition, Geography, Spanish, Textiles, PE, Drama, Design and Technology (Engineering Design), Creative Media - Performing Arts, Countryside and Environment, Essential Digital Literacy Skills, Teamwork and Personal Development (Public Services), Work Skills, Sport, Spanish Global Business Communication, Engineering, Prince's Trust

During Year 9 pupils will have the opportunity to select some of the subjects that they would like to follow in key stage 4, Years 10 and 11 options subjects (see above).

In addition to the timetabled lessons, communication in Welsh is encouraged in and around the school. The school also has several whole school community projects and initiatives to teach pupils the value of contributing to the wider community and society as a whole.

These innovative curriculum arrangements serve to ensure that pupils have the maximum opportunity to succeed in their attainment.

# Primary Partnerships & Transition

At Dylan Thomas Community School we are proud of the care we provide for our current pupils and future pupils who have yet to enrol at the school. We aim to ensure that their transition process is as smooth as possible with a wide programme of visits and activities.

Pupils from our partner primaries will take advantage of our transition programme during Years 5 and 6 for a range of activities and subjects from Science and Physical Education to Spanish and Humanities, as well as offsite trips. During the summer term of Year 6 they will participate in a timetable in which they will have an opportunity to meet their form tutors for September as well as their fellow classmates.

In recent years, there has been a collaborative Dylan Thomas Proms concert at which our partner primary school's pupils have participated and performed.

During transition week (summer term), parents are invited to an open evening to meet with the Senior Leadership Team of the school and gather vital information for their child's next chapter.

Here, parents will receive information about the curriculum, uniform and the cashless catering system that the school subscribes to. It also provides parents with an opportunity to ask questions and allay any worries for the forthcoming term.

## Safeguarding

Dylan Thomas Community School believes that the health and safety of all children is paramount. We aim to provide the safest and most secure environment possible, where children can achieve their full potential. We recognise that every child matters and that each child has the right to:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well-being



A copy of the school Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website ([www.dylanthomas.school](http://www.dylanthomas.school)). As in most schools, there are children who will experience issues outside of our school environment that could be classed as Child Protection (CP) concerns. All our staff receive training in identifying those concerns and when these matters are identified we follow the procedure that the Local Authority (LA) has advised.

The designated Safeguarding officer for the school is Mr A Payne (Deputy Headteacher).



## More Able and Talented

The school prides itself on the individualised curriculum it provides for each and every pupil.

We acknowledge that pupils are individuals and as such their aspirations, interests, strengths and challenges will differ.

There are a wide range of More Able and Talented (MAT) initiatives on offer to your children. Some take place at school, but we collaborate with partner organisations including Swansea University, Oxford University, Gower College and the Dylan Thomas Centre .

We have a designated member of staff who leads the MAT programme within Dylan Thomas Community School. MAT pupils get the opportunity to sit additional qualifications.



## Pupils with Additional Learning Needs

Dylan Thomas Community School is an inclusive school that encourages all pupils to access a broad and balanced curriculum adapted to meet the needs of pupils. In 2017/2018 there were 61 pupils on roll with a statement of special educational need as well as over 50% of our pupils who were identified as needing additional support. All Year 11 ALN pupils gained a range of Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications.

The Wellbeing Team and Raising Standards Team work closely to assess and identify the appropriate support for our pupils which includes additional literacy and numeracy support, Derbyshire Positive Play programme, nurture and social skills groups.

The responsibility for the provision of pupils with ALN has been delegated to Mr Payne (Deputy Headteacher) and Ms Heinrich (ALNCo). The school has two Specialist Teaching Facilities (STF), one which provides support for pupils with Moderate to Severe Learning Difficulties (MLD/SLD) and the Dereck Roberts Centre which provides support for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

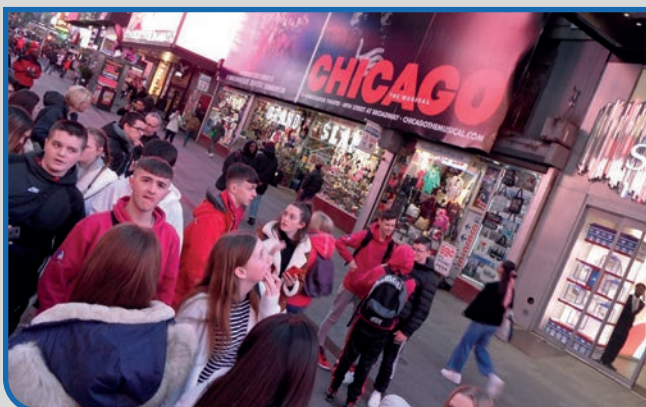
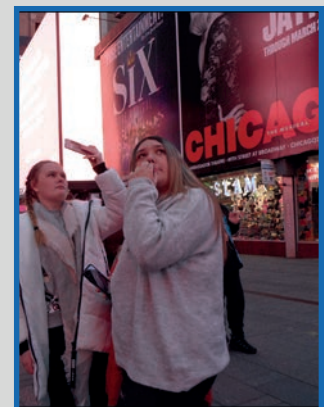
The school's Wellbeing Team adopts a Person Centred Approach and works closely with pupils, parents, partner schools and other agencies to ensure a smooth transition into school and also onto Further Education.





# Trips & Visits

New York (USA)

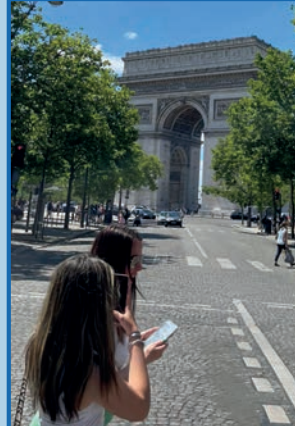




## Ohio (USA)



## Paris (France)

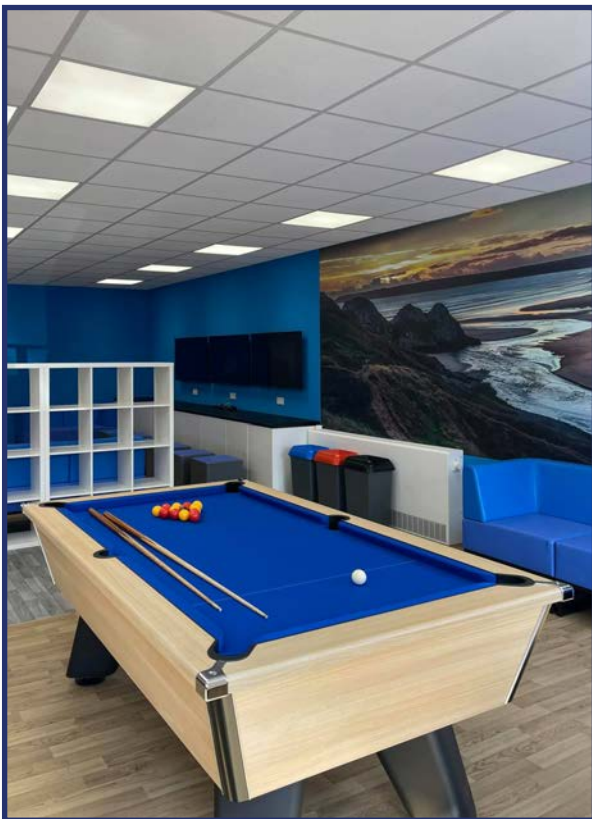




# First Class Pupil Facilities













## SCHOOL APP



To further improve parental and pupil engagement in all aspects of school life we are pleased to announce that we have invested in the Class Charts system. This program is designed to help pupils track their own progress, attendance, and behaviour; allowing them to monitor and improve all aspects of their schooling.

Along with the pupil app there is also a parent app that all parents are required to obtain. The parent App can be used for the following functions:

<b>Attendance</b>	reporting absences and monitoring
<b>Timetable</b>	track what lessons your child has
<b>Behaviour</b>	track all positive and negative behaviour
<b>Homework</b>	See what homework your child has been set
<b>Announcements</b>	receive essential information about school activities
<b>Messaging</b>	directly message all your child's teachers
<b>Detentions</b>	find out when and why your child has been given detention

## Being Welsh and the Welsh Language

The incidental use of Welsh is consistently encouraged. As a school we work to instil in our staff and pupils a sense of pride in our national and local heritage as well as our national language.

The school runs a 'Tocyn Iaith' initiative which has created healthy competition among all staff to use the Welsh language in our community.

The teaching and use of Welsh as a second language forms a very important part of the curriculum of the school. All pupils study Welsh throughout their school career at Dylan Thomas Community School.

## Religious Education

Religious Education is taught throughout the school and follows the syllabus that is agreed through the Local Education Standing Advisory Committee (SACRE). Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE and Assemblies and should contact the Headteacher should they wish to do so for theological reasons.

Assemblies and Collective Worship play an important role in developing the personal, social, moral and spiritual qualities of our pupils and we, therefore, plan them with due care. Whole School and Year Assemblies are planned into our annual cycle and our themes are chosen with sensitivity to the cultures and faiths that are represented in our school.

A school prayer has been composed by pupils at our school which is understood by our pupils and staff. The School is not affiliated to any particular religion or religious denomination.

## Pastoral Care and Pupil Wellbeing

The underlying aim of the pastoral care system is to ensure that every individual receives the attention that is necessary for his/her wellbeing and happiness while at school. The Form Tutor is in daily contact with the children in his/her form and is therefore a key person in this process. We believe it to be important that every child has someone in school in whom he/she can trust and with whom any school-related matters or personal problems can be discussed. As part of the pastoral care each pupil has specific and regular personal discussion time with the Form Tutor. This makes it possible to discuss any problems or difficulties which may arise and which are causing concern to the pupil.

The work of the Form Tutor is reinforced by the Key Stage Coordinator, Deputy Headteacher and the Headteacher. The Pastoral Support Officers (PSOs) and the School Counsellor. The designated Child Protection Officer is Mr. A Payne (Deputy Headteacher).

We have embraced a national and international strategy called Restorative Practice. The aim of this strategy is to nurture a positive approach to misbehaviour and to make pupils feel better about themselves within the school community. This is partly achieved by weekly opportunities during morning pastoral sessions where young people and the form tutor share feelings and opinions.

The school has a specific pastoral curriculum and time is set aside for it. It provides an opportunity to discuss all topics related to the pupils' personal lives, including relationships with others, health education, careers, study skills and communication. An important and natural part of these lessons is sex education.



## Specific Aims of Sex Education:

- To introduce and to deal with matters connected with sex in a sensitive and caring manner.
- To give the pupils an opportunity to receive factual information about their bodies and processes connected with sex, such as puberty, contraception, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases.
- To do this within the context of caring and loving relationships, of personal responsibility and of respect for oneself and others.

## Some Specific Sex Education Themes:

- Starting my life
- Conception, growth and birth of a baby
- Physical changes
- Forming relationships
- Peer pressure
- Caring for friends and lovers
- Contraception
- Cancer – breast, cervical and testicular
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Being a parent

## Dylan's Voice

We have a strong and developing pupil voice at Dylan Thomas Community School. The School Council and Form Representatives meet regularly to discuss issues that directly affect pupil, staff and the community.

Pupils are increasingly having a real say in the strategic direction that the school is taking including presenting to the governing body. The school also has a group for our LGBTQ+ and BAME pupils.

We have a designated member of staff who leads the Pupil Voice programme within Dylan Thomas Community School.



# Careers Guidance And Advice

Dylan Thomas Community School has very experienced careers staff offering the very best advice to our pupils.

A full range of services to include advice and guidance as well as practical help is available to all our pupils. A programme of formal interviews in Years 10 and 11 is in place. As parents/carers, you are most welcome to contact the school in order to arrange a careers appointment at an appropriate time in your child's school career.

Careers education and guidance is an essential part of the curriculum. The careers guidance programme starts in Year 8 and becomes more focused in Year 9 when your child draws up an action plan before choosing KS4 options. The core of Careers Education and Guidance is delivered through modules within the PSE lessons.

At KS3, the emphasis is on raising awareness of the opportunities offered by the world of work and includes a job simulation. It is reassessed in Year 10 when each pupil participates in a programme which analyses preferences and matches choices with career suggestions. All pupils in Year 10 also experience work related learning which provides an opportunity to sample areas of interest and is a valuable addition to their personal and social development.

Careers Wales work very closely with our pupils and personal interviews are arranged during Years 9, 10 and 11 with our on-site Careers Adviser who will offer vocational guidance interviews and an excellent placement service. A flexible learning programme in Year 11 enables pupils to develop job searching skills such as letter writing, completing application forms, writing 'curriculum vitae' and interview techniques. This work is also reinforced by the skills aspect of the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Arrangements for college open evening visits and interviews are arranged. The school also liaises with local sixth form centres to ensure our pupils benefit from a breadth of advice to make their choices.

Further advice and guidance is provided by form tutors during the completion of the common application process for post 16 education. This enables pupils to make well informed choices and assist them to manage the transition to new roles and situations. It is also designed to help pupils develop the skills, attitudes and abilities that will enable them to be effective in a variety of adult working or training roles.

## Breakfast Club

We operate a very successful FREE daily Breakfast Club from 8.00am open to all pupils. This allows children to arrive at school at 8.00am to socialise with friends in a safe, supervised environment, as well as enjoying a nutritious breakfast.

Some of the activities available during Breakfast Club:

- Pool tables
- Fussball tables
- Xbox and Playstations

This club provides assistance to busy parents who can drop their children off early at our school knowing they will be safe and looked after.





# Pastoral Support Team



**Mr A Payne**  
Deputy Headteacher  
Designated Child Protection Officer



**Mr R Cannon**  
Assistant Head and  
Tide Manager



**Ms G Heinrich**  
ALNCo



**Mrs H Waters**  
Key Stage Coordinator  
Years 6-8



**Miss K Morgan**  
Key Stage Coordinator  
Years 9-11



**Mrs E Scott**  
School Nurse



**Mrs K Morgan**  
PSO



**Miss R Ridler**  
PSO



**Mr P Legg**  
PSO



**Mrs E Charles**  
PSO



# Extra Curricular Activities

Extra Curriculum Activities are an important feature of pupils' personal and educational development. Pupils are encouraged to socialise and develop further skills whilst also experiencing personal success and achievement. We encourage every pupil to actively participate in and contribute to as many extra curricular activities as possible.

This may include

- Sporting clubs, events and competitions including 5X60 sessions
- Performing arts
- Choir
- Homework club
- Minecraft club
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Linguistics club

In addition, trips to theatres, cinemas, exhibitions and a wealth of other activities are arranged throughout the academic year. Staff and pupils have enjoyed successful, international trips to Barcelona, Paris, Cleveland and New York where pupils had the opportunity to meet pupils from other countries, engage in international sporting events and cultural visits.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme presents an opportunity for pupils to develop new skills whilst volunteering with various agencies and enjoying varied and challenging activities.

The Headteacher believes that the provision of educational trips and visits is an important part of the work of the school to develop well rounded young people who will serve their community and have successful personal outcomes.





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[www.theschooluniformshop.com](http://www.theschooluniformshop.com)

Get Free Delivery when you  
spend over £20 online.

# Uniform

Uniform is compulsory for our pupils

- White shirt
- Dylan Thomas Community School tie and school sweatshirt
- Black trousers or black skirt
- Black shoes (no colour or markings)
- No jewellery except for one pair of stud earrings
- School PE t-shirt

Our School Uniform supplier is J&S Products and can be found at:

J&S Products, 74 Tycoch Road  
Swansea SA2 9EQ

Tel: 01792 206658

Email: sales@js-products.co.uk



# Dylan Thomas Community School

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Website: **www.dylanthomas.school**

Headteacher (Acting): **Mr Paul Davies**

Chairman of Governing Body: **Mr Dereck Roberts**

Secondary School