

Learning together
Working together
Succeeding together



The Governors' Annual Report to Parents

for the Year 2023 - 2024

SUMMARY

**"Learning together, working together,
succeeding together"**

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Dear Parent/Carer

In my fifteenth year as a Governors at Argoed High School, it is with immense pride and great pleasure that I present the Governors' Report to Parents for this academic year. As always, I am deeply impressed by the dedication, resilience and achievements of our teachers, staff, and pupils. The collective effort of this exceptional school community continues to inspire me and it has been a privilege to witness the incredible progress made throughout the year.

This year was especially significant as we welcomed Estyn inspectors to our school. Their feedback affirmed what we, as governors, staff, and parents, already know: Argoed High School is a place of excellence. The positive Estyn report was a testament to the hard work, passion and commitment of everyone involved.

Our achievements extended beyond the classroom as well. At the Excell Teaching Awards, we were thrilled to celebrate the exceptional accomplishments of our school, culminating in the prestigious recognition of being named the Best Secondary School in Flintshire. This honour reflects the extraordinary dedication of our staff and the exceptional outcomes they deliver for our pupils.

In addition to academic success, we have continued to provide enriching opportunities for our students, including trips abroad such as skiing adventures, visits to the West End theatres, and other cultural experiences. These moments not only enhance learning but also create lifelong memories for our pupils, for which we are incredibly grateful to the staff who volunteer their time to make these activities possible.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the progress of our new school building, which is well on its way to completion. This marks a new chapter for Argoed High School and we eagerly anticipate the opportunities this state-of-the-art facility will bring for future generations.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our diverse and dedicated Governing Body. Each member brings invaluable expertise and works tirelessly as a volunteer to secure the future of our school. Their support, along with the unwavering commitment of our Headteacher, Mr. Paul Smith and the efforts of our entire staff, pupils and parents, makes Argoed High School the thriving community it is today.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making the Argoed a happy successful school.

With gratitude

Nikki Pearce
Chair of Governors



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Staffing Structure 2024 - 2025

Headteacher	Mr P Smith
Assistant Headteacher	Mrs K Edwards
Assistant Headteacher	Mr H Goodson
Assistant Headteacher	Mrs M Kincaid
Assistant Headteacher	Mr M Lofts
Business Manager	Mrs A Perrett

Heads of Year	Mrs S Williams – Year 7
	Mrs S Goodwin – Year 8
	Miss A Williams – Year 9
	Mrs J Bellis – Year 10
	Miss C Jones (Miss J Bennett on maternity) – Year 11

Additional Learning Needs

ALNCO	Mrs M Kincaid
Social Communications Resource	Mrs Z Norwood-Lofts
Speech & Language	Mrs H Smith

English

Mrs N Wynne (CL)
Mrs R Jones
Mr M Lofts
Miss S Pritchard (KS3)
Mrs H Smith
Mr N Hughes

Mathematics

Mrs S Hughes (CL)
Miss C Jones
Mrs L Moccia
Miss C Green
Miss B Wellington

Science

Mrs G Perrin (CL)
Mr H Goodson
Mrs F Jones
Miss H Cadman
Mrs M Kincaid
Mrs L Gillespie
Mrs K Edwards

Humanities

Mrs S Hanson (CL)
Mr L Southgate (History)
Mrs S Williams (Geog)
Mrs S Goodwin (RE)
Mrs H Jones

Expressive Arts

Miss S Pritchard (Drama)
(Head of Faculty)
Mr C Millard (Music)
Mrs K Over (Art)

Physical Education

Mr M Hanson (CL)
Mrs J Bellis
Mrs N Szehofner (Miss J Bennett)

Welsh

Mrs N Smith (CL)
Miss A Williams

Design Technology

Mrs R Griffin (CL)
Mrs T Sheard
Mrs H Craughwell

Modern Foreign Languages

Mrs G Butler (CL)
Miss I Cumper (Miss C Blunt)

IT/Business

Mrs C Greasley (CL)
Mr J Andrews

The Governing Body 2024/25

Parent Governors

Mr Martyn Dodd	Expires July 2025
Mr Jon Hutchinson	March 2026
Mrs Julie Lewis	November 2028
Mrs Danielle McDonald	November 2028
Mr Adam Walker	September 2028

LEA Representatives

Cllr Mared Eastwood	October 2026
Mr Michael Griffiths (Vice Chair)	March 2028
Mrs Alison Marsh	June 2028
Cllr H McGuill	June 2028

Teacher Governors

Mrs Gini Butler	June 2026
Miss Catherine Green	June 2026

Staff Governor

Mr Matthew Morton	March 2026
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Community Governors

Mrs Sharon Eagleton	March 2028
Mrs Laura Heywood	July 2027
Mr Tudor Hughes	November 2028
Mrs Nikki Pearce (Chair)	March 2026

Sub Committees

Finance & Premises	- Chair Mr Martyn Dodd
Curriculum & Standards	- Chair Mr Michael Griffiths
ALN, Safeguarding & Wellbeing	- Chair Mrs Laura Heywood

Members of the Governing Body can be contacted via the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Davies at the school either by telephone 01352 756414 or email Governors.Clerk@argodhs.co.uk

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Term Dates for 2024 - 2025

Autumn Term 2023

Staff Training Day	Monday 2 September 2024
Staff Training Day	Tuesday 3 September 2024
School opens	Wednesday 4 September 2024
School closes	Friday 25 October 2024
School opens	Monday 4 November 2024
School closes	Thursday 20 December 2024

Spring Term 2024

Staff Training Day	Monday 6 January 2025
School opens	Tuesday 7 January 2025
School closes	Thursday 21 February 2025
Staff Training Day	Friday 22 February 2025
School opens	Monday 3 March 2025
School closes	Friday 11 April 2025

Summer Term 2024

School opens	Monday 28 April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5 May 2025
School closes	Friday 23 May 2025
School opens	Monday 2 June 2025
Buckley Jubilee	Tuesday 8 July 2025
School closes	Friday 18 July 2025

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Full Governor meetings were held on the 20 September 2023, 13 December 2023, 20 March 2023, 26 June 2024

Agenda items included:

Head Teacher's Report

Action

Each term the Head Teacher's report was presented for discussion and questions on all aspects of school management.

- School Improvement Plan

Action

A revised edition was presented to the Governors. Regular progress reports were presented to monitor improvements.

- Governor Training

Action

Governors attended various workshops/courses.

- Exams

Action

Return to pupils sitting exams.

- Student Numbers

Action

Students on roll and predicted intake were discussed.

- School Buildings and Maintenance

Action

The new school build has been a constant topic of discussion this year.

- Governor Departmental Links

Action

Governors met with their department links throughout the year and reported back to each meeting.

- Headteacher's Targets

Action

The Chair met regularly with the Headteacher to discuss targets and reported back to Governors.

- School Policy Review

Action

Governors discussed and agreed updated and revised school policies.

SCHOOL FUND

The School Fund Accounts for 2023/24 have been completed and audited. At the end of the financial year the total value of the School Fund was £44,877.73 which includes payments for school trips, equipment, etc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023-24

	Budget	Actual	Variance	
Total Budget	3,880,101	3,703,349	176,752	
Opening Balance	325,429	0	325,429	
Employee Costs	2,594,895	3,629,242	-1,044,347	
Premises	340,215	224,715	115,500	
Transport	0	8,608	-8,608	
Supplies	525,956	266,574	259,382	
Total Agency	0	1,630	-1,630	
Support Payments	93,606	81,891	11,715	
Total Capital Financing	0	0	0	
Total Income	0	-519,312	519,312	
Total balance c/f			176,752	

ATTENDANCE

	2023 - 2024
Authorised Absence	10.1%
Unauthorised Absence	2.0%
Missing marks	0%
Whole School Attendance	91.2%

EXAM RESULTS SUMMARY

Per. Measure	Year 11 results
Capped 9	376.12
Av. Points Literacy	40.46
Av. Points Numeracy	34.97
Av. Points Science	38.42
Av. Points Skills	36.68
Level 2	73.7%
Level 2 +	45.45%
5 A*-A	11.11%
Levels of Progress	2.78

STAFF AND PUPIL NUMBERS

School Numbers:	September 2023
Full Time Teachers	35
Part Time Teachers	5
Support Staff	35
Pupil Numbers	544
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	1:14

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Parents have the opportunity of meeting teachers face to face, at pastoral evenings and via the Teams online forum for parents' evening consultations and by mutually convenient appointment times during the school year. We encourage parents to attend these meetings which are intended to help support them and the pupils.

Tutors/Heads of Years and Assistant Headteachers are available to meet with parents and appointments should be arranged via the School Office.

Parents of prospective pupils currently in Yr6 were invited to an Open Evening on the 28th September for a Presentation by the Headteacher and tour of the School with an opportunity to visit various departments and speak with staff and pupils.

Parents who wish to meet with the Headteacher should contact Mrs B Davies to arrange an appointment.



School Development Plan Summary 2022 - 2025

Three Year Priorities

A happy and successful school where our students:

- Achieve Excellent Progress in their Learning through...
- Positive Attitudes to Learning with...
- Outstanding Care, Support, Provision and Guidance and...
- Inspirational Teaching and Leadership that promotes the...
- Wellbeing of the Whole School Community

Annual Priorities 2023 – 2024

- Evaluating and refining our Curriculum Offer so that all pupils have a better opportunity to achieve, progress and excel.
- Evaluating and refining our Personal Development Offer so that all pupils feel happy, prepared for learning and believe that they can succeed.
- Evaluating and refining our Professional Development Offer so that all pupils experience high quality teaching in the school.
- Evaluating and refining our Cultural Offer so that all members of the school community can aspire, feel supported and can thrive.
- Evaluating and refining our Leadership Development Offer so that stakeholders have a clear vision for excellence at Argoed High School and leaders at all levels are involved in the evaluation of progress towards this vision.

Destinations of Year 11 Leavers – Summer 2024

Continuing in full-time education – School	15.74%
Continuing in full-time education – College	69.44%
Continuing in part-time education	2.78%
Entering employment outside WBYP	2.78%
Entering WBYP (employed status)	1.85%
Entering WBYP (without employed status)	1.16%
Unable or not ready to enter Emp, Ed or WBYP	0.93%
Known to have left the area	0.93%
Not responding to follow-up, therefore unknown	4.39%
Total	100%

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPORT 2023 – 2024

GCSE Success

Our students continue to achieve excellent results at GCSE. A standout achievement came from **Henry Eagleton**, who secured an **A***, dropping only four marks in his GCSE theory paper—an outstanding accomplishment.

Trips and Enrichment

The department organised a variety of trips, both locally and further afield, all of which were hugely successful. Highlights included:

- A **Netball trip** to watch Manchester Thunder in action.
- Attending the **U20s Six Nations** match between Wales and Ireland.
- A ski trip to Italy, which was a memorable experience for all involved

Extra-Curricular Activities

We continue to run a full programme of extra-curricular activities, with clubs available every school night. A wide range of sports is offered through Aura coaching staff as well as our own PE team. Key Stage 3 students have shown particular enthusiasm, with excellent attendance across the various clubs.

Community Links

Our relationships with local sports organisations have continued to grow:

- We maintain strong ties with Mynydd Isa Football Club, working collaboratively to expand sporting opportunities for young people in the area.
- A new partnership with Buckley Ju Jitsu Club has been established, with the club now running a weekly after-school session in our gym.

Set for Success Programme

The Youth Sport Trust's 'Set for Success' programme was a major highlight last year. A group of current Year 10 students successfully planned and delivered a football tournament at Mynydd Isa Football Club, hosting over 100 Year 5/6 pupils. Two of our students were later recognised for their achievements at a National Event at Wimbledon—a fantastic achievement! We are now entering our second year in the programme, with another group of students taking part.

Football

Every eligible year group participated in the Welsh Cup last year, with several notable achievements:

- Our current Year 10 team advanced to the National round, where they put in a strong performance before being knocked out by a talented Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen side.
- For the first time, we fielded a girls' team, who impressively won their first three matches in the competition.
- This year, we have expanded further, entering five teams in the Welsh Cup, including a Year 10 girls' team due to increased interest.

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- We also launched the BE.Football programme, involving six current Year 8 girls to promote and develop girls' football within the school and local community.

Netball

Netball remains the most popular extra-curricular club in school. Last year, we entered a team from every year group into the Flintshire competitions, achieving great success across the board.

Cricket

Interest in cricket continues to grow, and last year, we had enough students to form a team and compete in fixtures—an encouraging development for the sport.

Gymnastics & Badminton

Both gymnastics and badminton saw participation in competitions last year, marking steady growth in these areas.

Athletics

We had a strong showing in athletics, with multiple individuals and teams competing in various events. Several students progressed through different stages of their competitions, highlighting the depth of talent within the school.

I would like to thank all the staff who have given up their time to coach and train our students, parents for their ongoing support and our students for their commitment to sport.

M Hanson

What Next ?

The School is a community and we work together for individual and joint success.

If you have any questions or ideas please complete the reply slip below and return it to Mrs Beverley Davies, Clerk to the Governors, at the school.

I would like to ask the Governors the following questions:

1.

2.

3.

Signed : _____ Parent of : _____

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