

# A Pupil's Journey

My journey in an all age school



## Taith Y Plentyn

Fy nhaith mewn ysgol pob-oed



## My journey in an all-age school Fy nhaith mewn ysgol pob-oed

It is an exciting time to be part of Ebbw Fawr Learning Community. We were the first all-age school to open in Wales, in other words a school for children age 3 in Nursery right up to age 16, in Year 11!

There are many benefits to being in an all-age school for all of the children, we all enjoy being part of the learning community that has pupil wellbeing and happiness at the heart of everything we do.



## Transition – Pontio

One of the main reasons that an all-age school is beneficial is that transition between key points is made so much easier. For example moving from Year 6 to Year 7 is usually a REALLY daunting time for young people, but in all-age schools, like Ebbw Fawr, we already feel part of the secondary phase as we wear the same (purple!) uniform, we visit regularly for lessons and know nearly all of the teachers. For example this year we visit the secondary phase each week to do cooking in the catering suite. So far we have made cookies and bread and our teachers from Year 6 come with us to support us.

Learning to achieve together

We already know our way around from our visits so we aren't too worried about getting lost like other Year 7 pupils might be. The teachers on the secondary phase have already taught us for lots of lessons, some of them come to teach us in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6; so they know how we learn and what we are good at, and we know what they expect of us when we come to their classroom in Year 7.

Our parents also know the secondary site really well as we've held our Christmas concerts here and we have after-school master-classes there every term.

"I was really lucky because I came from Ebbw Fawr Primary and I had been to the secondary phase many times, so I already knew my way around the building well when I joined the secondary in Y7"

Will Y7



## Cross-Phase Learning – Dysgu ar Draws Cyfnodau

We also visit the secondary phase from Year 4 onwards to do Science experiments in the laboratories – we can use Bunsen burners and other specialist equipment that we would never get to use if we were in a ‘traditional’ primary school. We are able to reach the highest levels in Science as we are able to access learning that other children get when they are in secondary school.

Our Welsh lessons are taught in our own classroom by Welsh teachers from the secondary phase, they are fluent Welsh speakers so help us develop as confident, accurate speakers as well improving our writing so we are better prepared for GCSE in the secondary phase.

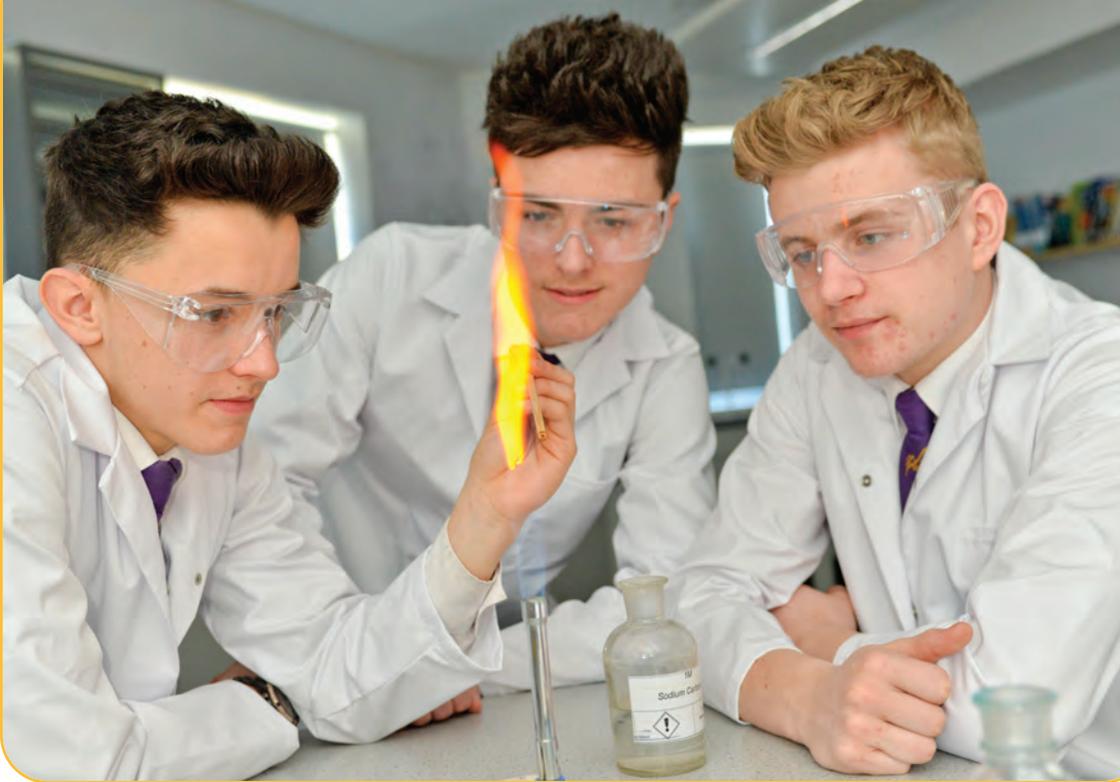
We are so lucky that the Head of Languages from the secondary phase is timetabled to teach us each week and we have lessons in Japanese, French AND Spanish in Year 5 and 6! There is no other school in Wales that this happens and we enjoy our language lessons very much. Learning foreign languages helps us think about future careers and makes us aspire to exciting opportunities both in Wales and abroad. This also means that we will already be achieving national curriculum levels in French and Spanish before we even join the secondary phase- giving us an advantage over other pupils in Year 6.

*"I really enjoy learning Japanese because it is fun and exciting, we're so lucky to be taught Japanese in the primary phase!"*

Nia Y5



Learning to achieve together



At Christmas Years 3 and 4 performed 'The Jungle Book' on the secondary phase, Mr Palmer and Mrs Parry from the Performing Arts department are timetabled to teach in Key Stage 2 every week so we get to learn skills that only children in Years 7, 8 and 9 usually get taught! The production was amazing and we can't wait to be part of the next production that will be 'Grease'. This will be for learners in Years 3 to 11 in the summer term, what an amazing opportunity!



"I loved being part of the Jungle Book, I can't explain how much I loved it, it was just so much fun to be a part of a real production and get to use the special microphones and equipment they have in the secondary phase studio"

Beth Y3

Dysgu I gyflawni gyda'n gilydd



## Continuity in Learning – Parhad yn y Dysgu

All of this cross-phase work helps pupils to transition into Year 7 without experiencing a ‘dip’ in learning that can be common. Staff at the learning community have devised an innovative curriculum map across the school so there is continuity in learning and subject teaching; skills are built on and further developed, rather than repeated, as our teachers are well aware of what has been taught before and which level pupils achieved.



## Role Models – Modelau Rôl

Being in an all-age school means there is ALWAYS someone to look up to! We have lots of leadership opportunities across phases, including our extra-special Anti-Bullying Ambassadors that have been recognised as excellent practice by Estyn and Welsh Government. Key Stage 4 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors train our Year 6 ambassadors every year and we all work together as a team to support each other in combatting bullying and developing as confident, ethical citizens. The ABAs mentor, support and care for other pupils on a daily basis.



## Leadership – Arweinyddiaeth

Key Stage 4 Sports Leaders also work with primary learners to develop sporting skills and teams while also achieving qualifications. Welsh Baccalaureate projects regularly involve Year 10 learners providing support in reading, entrepreneurship or transition activities to younger pupils. All of these opportunities foster a strong sense of community and belonging that we all value and enjoy!

We also have an all-age school Senedd that has representatives from every year group. We make important decisions about the school, such as interviewing new members of staff; presenting to the governing body and we are now becoming reps for different subjects so we can have a say about what we learn and how. Our voice is important and as reps we take our role very seriously! Being part of a school Senedd 3-16 means we know what is going on in different phases of the school and can have an input into how things change based on what we experience and what we want to happen in future years.

"I really enjoy being part of the School Senedd, it is an amazing way to be involved in the way the school is run. We are like a real community as we meet with younger pupils and make decisions that affect all of us in Ebbw Fawr!"  
Nia Y5

Dysgu I gyflawni gyda'n gilydd



**Come and visit us!**  
**Dewch i ymweld â ni!**

If you are interested in being part of our all-age school, or if you'd just like to find out more about us, please contact via our website or Twitter and we'd be delighted to welcome you for a tour to see us in action!

*Learning to achieve together*

## **General information – Gwybodaeth gyffredinol**

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