



CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL
YSGOL UWCHRADD CATHAYS
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL
CYFLEOEDD I BAWB

Welcome to Cathays High School

Thank you for taking an interest in our school.

We are a multicultural, multi-ethnic, multi-faith community and we are all committed to working together to create an inclusive, positive and vibrant learning environment.

We are all driven to ensure that everyone reaches their full potential and that there is no ceiling to achieving the highest standards.

Our Aims

- To treat everyone fairly and respectfully
- To build confidence, leadership and independence
- To help everyone succeed and reach their goals
- To ensure every child leaves with the skills they need for the future

Our Ethos

- Is one of inclusion, diversity and opportunities for all, where mutual respect, collaboration, openness, trust and empathy prevail.

At Cathays High we strive to achieve excellent sustainable outcomes for all, through our energy, enthusiasm and hope.

"The opportunities that both my children had in Cathays have shaped them into ambitious, confident and independent learners who actively seek out new experiences. Without the extra effort of many members of staff, I know they would not have done so well. Whatever the future brings we are proud that our girls went to Cathays. It is a school, that as teaching gets ever harder and demanding, still believes in the individual child."

Parent



The Transition from Primary School

The school has a peer support system which assists in the smooth transition from primary to secondary school.

Valuing the parents' role starts when we visit the primary schools and talk to them about Cathays High. Parents of Year 6 students are invited to Cathays High in July to meet their child's new Head of Year and Form Tutor. The school's Open Evening each autumn attracts many parents from all over Cardiff. Parents of Year 7 students are also invited to experience what school life is like for their children by participating in lessons during our "Bring a Parent to School day". Visitors comment on the warmth of the welcome, the openness of staff and students, as well as the reputation for good standards of behaviour, tolerance and education. Throughout the year parents are involved in Parent-Teacher meetings, which gives us the chance to gather parental views and respond to their suggestions.



"All of the teachers in the school have been extremely supportive throughout my time here. They all have taken time to listen to my problems and help in any way they can."

Year 7 Student



"Bring a parent to school day"



We Believe in Opportunities For All

All members of Cathays High School are expected to show respect and care for one another at all times.

All members of our school community are valued as individuals and each individual plays an important role in helping our school to develop and grow.

Our school values

- Be prepared and focused for learning
- Show respect for all students, staff and the environment
- Show pride in ourselves and our environment



"It is a really friendly school where people communicate well with each other and learn a lot of things. The teachers are really helpful. They help the students to develop their skills."

Year 13 Student



Supporting our Students

Cathays High benefits from a hard-working, well-qualified and dedicated team of teachers and support staff. We are proud to be a diverse, multi-cultural school and we are fortunate to have vibrant, conscientious students and very supportive parents.

As a school we aspire to high standards and excellence from our students in all that they do. We aim to ensure that students feel happy and safe at school as they work towards their future academic and personal success. We value all our members equally, regardless of gender, colour, creed, ability, class, or age.

Cathays High is first and foremost a place of work, but we believe our school is about more than academic success. It is about being part of a wider community; giving and taking opportunities; being involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities that broaden educational experience, and preparing our students for life in the 21st century.

Our extensive and highly skilled inclusion and well-being team provide the very highest standards of care, support and guidance for all students. Our most recent Estyn inspection recognised this as an excellent feature of our school. All of our staff work hard to help our students overcome any barriers and challenges to learning to ensure the best outcomes for all.



"The teachers are helpful and everyone is friendly and you get a lot of help. It's good to meet people from different cultures because you can learn more about others. It's not just an education at Cathays High School. It's a full cultural experience."

Year 13 Student

"Teachers at Cathays helped me to achieve a fantastic set of exam results across a wide range of subjects, teaching me the value of hard work in order to reach my goals and I am sure they will do the same with countless other students for many years to come."

Ex-Student studying at
Jesus College, Cambridge

Students



Opportunities for ALL

"Cathays is not only a school but an educational hub with its own unique community, comprised of various cultures from all walks of life. It brings success to those who work and hope to those who need it."

Year 13 Student

"Cathays High School is a diverse environment where you walk out with lasting friends it is a unique experience."

Year 10 Student



Teaching and Learning for All

Our curriculum is centred on the needs of every individual in each curriculum area.

All lessons in our school are taught through the medium of English. Our teachers use assessment information and individualised teaching methods to ensure that all of our students make progress. This allows us to monitor progress to ensure everyone gets the teaching and support to fulfil their potential.

The school has many links with partners in the community, including several universities. Cardiff University runs projects such as a creative writing club and workshops for Sixth Form students. Many students have gained places in prestigious universities such as Oxford, Cambridge and Cardiff.

"I like the teachers because they help you. I've made some really good friends in school and I always like to come into school each day."

Year 10 Student



Health and Wellbeing through Sport

Cathays High has a long tradition of sporting success. Teams and individuals continue to compete regularly, gaining success at local, county and national levels.

We believe that all students should participate in sporting activities. The school has an innovative partnership with Maindy Sports Centre, which includes a refurbished Sports Hall, a purpose built Dance Studio, a Fitness Suite and a dedicated Sports Studies teaching area.

A well-established link with the Table Tennis Academy gives access to a full time professional coach. It is highly popular and successful, with students playing in national tournaments.

Our Sports Officer works closely with the Community Learning Co-ordinator and PE staff to provide a wide range of physical activities for our pupils as part of the out-of-school hours programme. Our very active Student Sports Council provides the lead in the development of sport at Cathays High.

Cathays High School's Basket Ball Academy is thriving. All year groups can participate from Year 7 to Year 13, including sessions for our partner primary schools.



"The school has opportunities for all people wishing to join in. There are darts, chess, cricket, athletics, football and much more."

Year 7 Student



Preparing our Students for their Future

Cathays High School has a successful and lively Sixth Form which aims to develop students both socially and academically.

Our Sixth Form meets the needs of all students aged 16-19 regardless of prior achievement. Students are supported to achieve success at the very highest academic standards and in their own unique learning pathways.

The Sixth Form aims to bridge the gap between compulsory education and the world of work or higher education by allowing students independence, whilst maintaining a high level of care and rigorous academic monitoring.

The value of independent study is encouraged and promoted. Cathays High has a number of well equipped and purpose built facilities to allow collaborative and quiet study to take place. Students are encouraged to lead activities around the school, such as organising charitable events, greeting visitors and addressing pupils and parents at school events.



“Here everyone knows you and knows what you can do and you get to leave your mark.”
Year 13 Student



Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our Community Learning Co-ordinator arranges a wide range of activities for pupils, their families and members of the community. Courses are provided for pupils to help develop personal, social, learning and leadership skills.

The Learning Resource Centre is open early morning, lunch time and after school with staff on hand to offer guidance and advice.

Trained staff deliver the Duke of Edinburgh programme which helps students to learn new skills, help others and experience adventure, as well as giving those participating a great sense of achievement.

There are many school trips that support the curriculum. These include theatre visits, Geography field work, residential outdoor activity weeks and cultural exchanges. Our innovative summer timetable ensures an exciting and action-packed end to the school year, enriching the lives of students and staff. This ensures all students access enrichment activities without missing out on their subject-specific learning.

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