



CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL

YSGOL UWCHRADD CATHAYS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

CYFLEOEDD I BAWB

Annual Governors' Report 2023-24

Foreword from the Chair of Governors

I am delighted to introduce the Cathays High School Annual Governors' Report to Parents. This is an important document which gives parents information about some of what the school achieved through the 2023-24 academic year. I trust that our report will give you an idea of the ways in which the multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-lingual community of Cathays High School attempts to fulfil our mission of ensuring "Opportunities for All". It is our overarching aim that all of our young people have the opportunities to learn important knowledge, develop new skills, encounter a variety of experiences and, equally as important, enjoy their time at secondary school.

It is clear from the report that our school achieved many notable successes across a wide range of fields including academically, culturally and in the sporting arena. We are particularly proud of our Year 9 girls' basketball team on becoming Welsh National champions last year for the second year in a row.

The school put on a very successful production of *Grease* in the summer term and our ended with the always hugely popular Culture and Languages Day which allows all members of our community to celebrate their home cultures and what is important to them. However, just as vital to our school ethos and philosophy was that many young people from years 7 to

13 enjoyed a wide-ranging programme of sporting, cultural and intellectual opportunities that furthered their skills and experiences. This is such an important part of the ethos of Cathays High School to ensure that young people are happy and enjoy their time at Cathays High School.

Also, our young people in Years 10 to 13 who sat GCSE, A-Level and ESOL qualifications performed admirably in the national context of results being brought down to the last "normal" examination results of 2019. Our young people achieved close to or even exceeded the outcomes of 2023 across a number of key performance indicators, especially at GCSE where almost a quarter of Year 11 students achieved five or more A* and As. These results demonstrate the excellent standard of teaching and learning at Cathays High School, the strong systems of support for young people and the hard-work and determination of our students.

It gives me huge encouragement for the future of Cardiff, Wales and the wider world to see the resilience of these young people to overcome the additional challenges they have faced with such positivity.

The most recent Estyn report from May 2022 was outstanding (the report can

Chair of Governors

Cllr. P. Wong,

Prifathro / Headteacher: Mr.

Stuart Davies
BA (Hons), MA. Ed, NPQH

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Chair of Governors

Cllr. P. Wong

Headteacher

Mr. S. Davies

Deputy Headteacher

Mr. H. Picken

Mr J Taylor

Assistant Headteachers

Mrs. K. Harrington

Miss. N. Jones

Mr. G Taylor

be found on the Estyn or school website). It is clear that the Governors, staff and students have not rested on their laurels since the inspection visit. There is a commitment to ensuring continued improvement and development and the willingness to undertake rigorous and honest self-evaluation is in evidence every day.

I would like to thank the Governing Body for their dedication during the last school year and praise their readiness to support and challenge school leaders in a robust and appropriate manner. Stuart and I are

very grateful for their commitment to the Cathays High community demonstrated in their willingness to give up their free time to support the school.

The Governing Body would also like to thank the teaching and support staff of Cathays High School for their professionalism and determination in supporting our young people. The staff have shown great commitment and dedication to the children and families.

I also extend my thanks to parents and families for your support. It is clear that

partnerships between Governors, school staff, families and pupils are vital for a successful school and we are fortunate to have such strong partnerships in our wonderfully diverse and inclusive community.

Cllr. Peter Wong
Chair of Governors

Headteacher's review

The last academic year was a hugely successful one in many aspects of school life. Cathays High School's accomplishments are built around a clear vision underpinned by our mission to provide "Opportunities for All". This means that we want all members of our community, and especially our young people, to feel that they can make progress, learn new skills and enjoy rich experiences as part of their curricular and extra-curricular programmes. That clarity around our aims means that governors, staff, pupils and their families are able to work together in strong partnerships to do the best for every student.

It was a joy to share the success of so many learners in years 10-13 on examination results days. Students worked very hard and remained focused throughout the last academic year. They listened to and acted upon the advice of their teachers and teaching assistants to have the best chances of success. Our outcomes at GCSE and A-Level were very strong and compared very well to 2023 outcomes which is a significant achievement when nationally grades were being deflated so that they returned to 2019 levels. It makes me extremely proud of our students, and the staff who support them, when they achieve these kinds of outcomes through their hard-work and perseverance.

A school is about more than just academic success though and last year we had a very full programme of extra-curricular opportunities. It is a vital part of a young person's education to belong to club or team where they can learn to develop skills and responsibilities outside of the formal learning that takes place in classrooms. These opportunities allow them to develop friendships and a sense of pride in, and belonging to, their community which we believe is a vital ingredient in the success of our school. There were a great many successes in a number of areas and a flavour of that is contained within the report.

I am very pleased to be able to welcome students for the start of the 2024-25 academic year and it is great to see record numbers of Year 7 students join us for the seventh year in a row. I look forward to working with everyone this year to ensure that the school fulfils its mission of ensuring "Opportunities for All".

Suart Davies
Headteacher

Key Facts 2024

Pupils on roll PLASC 1421

Number of Teaching Staff 74

Number of Support Staff 53

Pupils from minority backgrounds 85.15%

First language other than English 67.21%

Eligible for FSM 43.0%

Mobility 15%

Information for Parents on Standards

ATTENDANCE

2021 – 2022 There is no data , due to the pandemic

2022-2023 - 88%

Vision, Aims and Values

VISION

Our vision for Cathays High School is summed up by our mission of “Opportunities for All”. This means that we add value to the lives of pupils, families, colleagues and the community who are all happy and proud to be part of Cathays High School.

We are a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith community. We are committed to creating an inclusive, positive environment where everyone is valued and treated with respect and fairness.

Our primary role is to support the development of our students, ensuring they have a strong grounding in the three key behaviours of being prepared, showing respect and having pride in themselves, the school and their community.

AIMS

By instilling these key behaviours, and pursuing our vision, we can support our young people to:

- Become healthy, confident and resilient citizens- able to manage their own wellbeing;
- Have the skills and qualifications to be ambitious, capable, creative and enterprising young people- taking control of their learning, lives and careers
- Be the future leaders of Cardiff, Wales and the world - impacting positively on society and ensuring they have high expectations of themselves and others.

VALUES (these are the shared, common beliefs on which our vision is built) “Opportunities for All”:

- Inclusive school for all young people, families & colleagues
- Mutual respect, trust and empathy between all students and colleagues
- Everyone can make excellent progress from their starting points
- High expectations of behaviour, achievement, progress and effort from all members of our community
- Committed to being a learning organisation seeking continual improvement for all
- Celebrating our diversity and the unique features of our community
- Enthusiastic about the common elements of our identity as citizens of Cardiff & Wales (cynefin)
- 3 key values: Prepared, Respect & Pride (pupils)
- 3 key values: Collaboration, Ownership & Team-first (staff)

Membership of Governors

	Name	Term of Office Ends
LA Governors	Cllr P. Wong (Chair) Ms J. Setchfield Cllr N.Mackie Cllr C. Weaver Mr Emlyn Pratt	April 2025 May 2025 September 2027 June 2025 November 2026
Community Governors	Ms K. A. Slade Mr A. Bhagat Mr S.Kielthy Mr I. Hassan Vacancy	October 2024 October 2027 November 2024 November 2024 November 2024
Parent Governors	Dr. A Ahmed Dr Bakhsh Ms G Wiegand Mrs Anna Bell Dr Muhith Mrs Adewuyi Titlayo	November 2025 October 2026 October 2026 October 2026 November 2026 November 2026
Headteacher	Mr S. Davies	
Teacher Governors	Miss B Churches Mr N. Salter	September 2028 November 2027
Non-Teacher Governor	Mr D. Fergusson	October 2025

The Chair of the Governors is Cllr. Peter Wong.

Cllr Wong can be contacted via the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs P Benincasa at Cathays High School, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3XG .

Telephone: 029 2054 4426

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The Deputy Headteacher and the Assistant Headteachers attend full Governors meetings as observers and are also observers on various committees.

The Governing Body has continued to support the school's ongoing plans for school improvement. The professionalism, hard work and dedication of both staff and students at the school has been rewarded by very strong results being obtained in August at GCSE and A Level and in other qualifications.

The school's relationship with its partner schools continues to be strong and details are given under community links. Senior staff are co-opted to primary school Governing Bodies:

Mr. S. Davies: Allensbank Primary School

Mrs. K Harrington: Albany Primary School

Mr. J. Taylor: Gladstone Primary School

Mrs N Jones : Roath Park Primary School

Finance and Staffing Committee

The membership of this committee for 2023/24 was as follows:

Cllr. P. Wong (Chair) Ms. KA. Slade (Vice Chair) Mr. S. Davies
Cllr. C. Weaver Mr I Hassan Mr E Pratt
Mrs. J. Setchfield Mr. A. Bhagat Dr J Muhith

The committee's main task is to set and monitor the budget for the financial year and agree and monitor staffing levels within the budget, giving due consideration to the School Development Plan.

The committee approved the following policies:

- Human Resources Policy
- Whole School Pay Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Appointments
- CCTV Policy

As well as the annual policies: Charging and Remissions, Gifts and Hospitality, Jubilee fund, Travel Expenses Payment

Curriculum, Standards and Student Matters Committee

The membership of this committee for 2023/24 was as follows:

Mrs. J. Setchfield (Chair) Ms. G. Wiegand (Vice Chair) Mr. S. Davies
Cllr. P. Wong Mrs T Adewuyi
Miss. B Churches Dr T Bakhsh
Dr. A. Ahmed Mr N Salter

The committee meets each term to monitor and evaluate standards, and learning in the school, and received presentations on a wide range of aspects of school policy and curriculum.

The committee approved the following policies:

- Child looked after Spiritual and Moral Education ICT
- Positive relationships for learning Educational Visits Online Safety
- Child looked after Cymraeg Cathays
- Positive relationships for learning Numeracy
- Quality Assurance Personal and Social Education

Premises and Community Matters Committee

The membership of this committee for 2023/24 was as follows:

Mr.S. Kielthy(Chair)	Cllr. N. Mackie M (Vice Chair)
Mr. S. Davies	Mr. D. Fergusson
Mr. I. Hassan	Mr.E Pratt
Mrs A Bell	Vacancy

The committee meets each term to oversee changes and improvements to the school building and environment, including all health and safety issues. The committee also monitors all matters related to the school as a community and the school in the community.

The committee approved the following policies

- Health and Safety Building and Maintenance
- Bomb Threat Health and Safety

*(*The charts below follow the Welsh Governments guidelines on layout of data)*

Key Stage 4 Achievement

	2024	2023	2019
5A/A*	22.9%	21.7%	21.1%
L2+	58.8%	57.3%	48.9%
L2	64.1%	68.2%	59.4%
L1	100%	100%	100%
CSI	51.6%	49.7%	40.6%
Capped 9 score	377.5	383.8	377.3

Gender – No significant difference in the performance of boys and girls in key performance indicators apart from :

Significant gap in favour of boys (A*-C Best Maths)

Significant gap in favour of girls (5A*-A)

Performance of pupils eligible to free school meals -

Performance of pupils eligible for free school meals is strong in comparison to the national averages for pupils eligible for free school meals in all key performance indicators. However, eFSM performance is lower than that for pupils who are not eligible for free school meals

ALN - 100% achieved Level 1, 33% achieved L2, 11% achieved 5A*-A

KS4 Analysis 2024

Key Stage 4 Analysis 2024

Indicator	2018	2019**	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Diff on 2023	Diff on 2019
5 A*-A	17.50 %	21.1%	24.8%	31.7%	23.8%	22.3%	22.9%	+0.6pp	+1.9pp
L2+ (Lang only)	44.7%	41.4%	59.8%	56.8%	55.1%	54.8%	55.6%	+0.8pp	+14.2pp
L2+ (Lit & Lang)		48.9%	59.8%	56.8%	56.5%	58%	58.8%	+0.8pp	+10.1pp
L2	60.2%	59.4%	82.1%	78.4%	71.4%	68.2%	64.1%	-4.1pp	+4.7pp
L1	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.7%	100%	100%	0	0
CSI	43.7%	40.6%	54.7%	48.9%	52.4%	50.3%	51.6%	+1.3pp	+11pp
Capped 9	379.9	377.3	393.6	405.7	381.7	383.9	377.7	-6.2p	+0.4p
Pupils leaving without qualifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Best English A*-C	51.46 %	61.65%	79%	69%	67%	73%	64%	-9pp	+2.35pp
APS Eng		38.1	42.5	43.5	39.5	41.4	41.1	-0.3p	+3p
Best Maths A*-C	57.28 %	54.1%	67%	65%	61%	63%	69%	+6pp	+14.9pp
APS Maths		35.80	39.4	41.0	40.9	39	39.3	+0.3p	+3.5p
Best Science A*-C	51.46 %	55.6%	57%		61%	57%	59%	+2pp	+3.4pp
APS Sci		33.7	37.2	38.3	35.6	36.1	37.5	+1.4p	+3.8p
WBQ F&N	96.1%	91.9%	99.1%	97.8%	93.9%	95.4%	91.5%	-3.9pp	-0.4pp
WBQ N	44.7%	41.3%	59.8%	55.4%	53.7%	54.8%	45.8%	-9pp	+4.5pp
SCC F&N	100%	99.26%	99.1%	100%	99%	97.5%	97.4%	-0.1pp	-1.86pp
SCC N	83.50 %	91.73%	99.1%	89%	83%	83%	78.43%	-4.57pp	-13.3pp
APS SCC		43.1	43.0	42.9	41.6	41.8	40.9	-0.9p	-2.2p

KS5 Achievement

AS

Strengths

- A - 9% - Higher than 2023 but lower than 2019
- A - B - 19% - Higher than 2023 but lower than 2019
- C+ - 38% - Higher than 2023 but lower than 2019
- E+ - 81% - Higher than 2019 and 2023

Red Subjects

- Art
- Maths

Areas for development

- Improve Alps QI score (2024 - 0.87 grade 7) Grade 3- 2019 and Grade 8 - 2023.
- Reduction in U Grades
- Improve C+ outcomes
- Improve PPG accuracy

Grades	2024	2023	2019
A	9%	5.40%	17.54%
A-B	19%	18.01%	29.82%
A-C	38%	32.42%	43.86%
A-E	81%	60.34%	61.4%

A Level

Strengths

- QI Score - 0.98 (grade 3)
 - Top 25% (top 25% since 2015)
- Red subjects (top 25%)
- History
 - Maths
 - Physics
 - WBQ
 - A*-E higher than 2019 and 2023
 - (100%) secured first choice University
 - 67% successful Russell Group applications
 - 1 for medicine at Cardiff Uni

Areas for development

- Improve outcomes at A*-A, A*-B and A*-C
- Improve outcomes in Chemistry, Health and Social Care, Psychology and Sociology (All Blue subjects)
- Improve PPG accuracy

Grades	2024	2023	2019
A*/A	18%	35.70%	33%
A*-B	51%	54.46%	65.71%
A*-C	72%	80.35%	82.86%
A*-E	97%	96.42%	94.29%

Fixtures & competitions:

- ❖ Since the start of September we have run around 112 boys and girls sports fixtures to date. Information from the HWB fixture list.
- ❖ These include fixtures, tournaments and sports trips.
- ❖ The Year 9 girls won the Welsh Schools basketball tournament for the second year in a row!



Upcoming trips, events & opportunities:

- ❖ **Cricket opportunity** - 20 girls to take part in a softball tournament and watch the women's game, Western Storm v Thunder, in Sophia Gardens tomorrow.
- ❖ **Cricket tournaments** - Multischool girls cricket tournaments for U13s and U15s at the end of June.
- ❖ **Medical PACE event** - One day on campus (Heath site) summer school for pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 on Tuesday 25th June 2024. The summer school will introduce pupils to a university teaching environment through a taster of case-based learning.
- ❖ **Year 9&10 girls and year 7&8 boys futsal tournaments** - 5-a-side futsal tournaments over the next month at Cardiff City House of Sport.
- ❖ **Languages trip to Barcelona in July** - 2-5th July a group of pupils from Year 7-10 will be going to Barcelona for 3 nights.
- ❖ **Summer Trips Day on Friday 12th July** - Pupils from Year 7-10 will go to either Oakwood, the cinema, Brecon Beacons or play sport at Talybont for their summer trips day.
- ❖ **School Sports Day on Wednesday 17th July** - Sports Day will be held across Cardiff Met and Talybont again this year.
- ❖ **Languages and Culture Day on Friday 19th July** - A day for pupils to celebrate their cultures through clothing, food, music and games.



Non sports clubs

NON-SPORT CLUBS		
Days	Lunchtime clubs	After school clubs
Mon	Homework club (D&T3) EW	KS4 Science revision club (Cathays library) 4-5pm
	Art drop in every lunch (37)	
	Year 7&8 Film club (27) SJohn	
	Minecraft available in 32 & 36	
Tue	Homework club (D&T3) EW	GCSE Art drop in
	Art drop in every lunch (37)	
	Chess club (Y5) MS	
	Minecraft available in 32 & 36	
	Arabic GCSE Club (Y6) AG	
Wed	Homework club (D&T3) EW	GCSE Geography drop in (Y1)
	Art drop in every lunch (37)	Community languages club (CON1) 3:30-4pm CR
	Tabletop club (26) RAL & DK2	
	Science club (Room 15) 1pm SH1	Year 7&8 Film club on selected dates (27) SJohn
	Minecraft available in 32 & 36	
	Greek mythology & language club (33) NJ2 & HE2	
	Digital Leaders (32) LW & MM	
Thur	Homework club (D&T3) EW	GCSE Art drop in
	Art drop in every lunch (37)	GCSE Geography drop in (Y2)
	Minecraft available in 32 & 36	Mandarin club (10) CU student
	Handwriting club (42) 1-1:25pm MD	GCSE History Coursework catch up (Y14) GT
	Latin language club (33) NJ2 & HE2	
	Arabic GCSE Club (Y6) AG	
Fri	Homework club (D&T3) EW	
	Art drop in every lunch (37)	
	Minecraft available in 32 & 36	
	DnD club (10) RAL	
	Welsh club (Room 10) ND	



Eisteddfod

The Cathays Eisteddfod was held on the 9th of February this year. Pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 took part and were lively, respectful but most importantly had fun. The talent this year was excellent and we had some amazing entries in the variety of class competitions as well as an array of on-stage talent. A huge congratulations to Zazar Khan 9VAC from Glyndwr for writing an excellent poem about Wales and winning the Chair. The Eisteddfod was yet again a huge success and the winning house for 2024 was Llewelyn.





School Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Start of Term: Monday 2nd September

Half Term:

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November

End of Term: Friday 20th December

Number of School Days: 70

Spring Term 2025

Start of Term: Monday 6th January

Half Term:

Monday 24th February- 28th February

End of Term: Friday 11th April

Number of School Days: 65

Summer Term 2025

Start of Term: Monday 28th April

Half Term:

Monday 26th May – 30th May

End of Term: Monday 21st July

Number of School Days:56

Inset days 24/25

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Friday 8th November 2024

Monday 6th January 2025

Monday 10th March 2025

Monday 31st March 2025

ART

Year11/12 exhibited their artwork at the annual Creative School at Cardiff Met. Cathays has participated in this event since 2021 with over 30 other schools. This was the biggest submission of work to date.



ART WORK FOR CARDIFF MET

Some examples of work

