

Ysgol Brynhyfryd
Mold Road
Ruthin
LL15 1EG

10/06/2026

Dear leaders and staff

Interim Visit: May 2026

Thank you for your support during the interim visit to the school on 14th and 15th May 2026. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, your staff and pupils and hear more about the improvement work the school has carried out since the core inspection.

During the visit, we had an opportunity to:

- Hold discussion with leaders and staff about their self-evaluation and improvement work, and their work to improve attendance
- Talk to pupils and listen to their feedback about the school
- Visit a small sample of lessons in subjects across the curriculum
- Scrutinise a sample of pupils' work
- Scrutinise a small sample of relevant documentation
- Undertake work scrutiny activities and lesson observations jointly with leaders and discuss the main findings of these activities

Focus of visit

How effective are the school's self-evaluation processes in identifying strengths and areas for improvement?

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Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

During our visit, it was good to hear about the way leaders have continued to refine self-evaluation processes, which are an important part of the school's work. It was positive to hear about the way in which department and faculty leaders are included fully in the school's self-evaluation processes through lesson observations, scrutiny of books and seeking pupils' opinions. We heard how conducting joint activities supports leaders to identify strengths and areas for improvement in teaching and learning.

The ways in which senior leaders consider data, and analyse and summarise information that results from evaluation activities, were discussed. They then discuss findings jointly in link meetings with middle leaders. Through our discussions, it became clear that there are links between self-evaluation, accountability and improvement planning.

It was good to hear about the opportunities for leaders to discuss the work of their faculties and the ways in which they share good practice with their peers. During our discussions, we heard how staff have access to professional learning that is relevant to their work through a combination of co-operation with senior leaders and external partners.

We believe that it would be beneficial for the school to consider:

- To what extent do evaluations evaluate the effect of teaching on pupils' progress with sufficient detail and accuracy?
- Is there sufficient emphasis on improving specific aspects of teaching, other than written feedback?

How has the school improved attendance processes, including pupils who are eligible for free school meals?

It was interesting to hear that the school is continuing to increase the emphasis on improving and promoting pupils' attendance. We heard from leaders how they have re-organised responsibilities to strengthen work and processes further.

It was good to hear how year leaders contribute to whole-school work on improving attendance by identifying any patterns of absence and targeting the most effective support for individuals. They evaluate the effect of their work on the attendance of groups of pupils regularly. Through our discussions, we understood that these leaders are supported to develop in their roles through purposeful professional learning opportunities.

During our discussions, it was interesting to hear about the various interventions that are in place through the work of the 'Canolfan Fugeiliol', the 'Hwb Dysgu' and the 'Hafan'.

Leaders noted that these developments are beginning to have a positive effect on the attendance of some groups of pupils this year. It was also noted that there has been an increase in the whole-school attendance figures this year. From the discussions held, we agree with leaders that further work needs to be done to improve the attendance of pupils who are eligible for free school meals, which remains below national levels.

We believe that it would be beneficial for the school to consider:

- How suitable and achievable are the attendance targets and how will the school identify year group trends as they move through the school?
- How will leaders evaluate the effect of various strategies to identify clearly which specific aspects are most effective and why?

Thank you once again for all of your support in planning and organising our visit. We wish the school well. The school's most recent core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:

<http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6634031>

Yours sincerely



Lowri Jones

Acting Assistant Director