

Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig  
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This letter is also available in Welsh

17/07/2026

Dear leaders and staff

### **Interim Visit: July 2026**

Thank you for your support during the interim visit to the school on 1st and 2nd July 2026. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, your staff and pupils and hear more about the improvement work the school has undertaken since the core inspection.

During the visit, we had an opportunity to:

- Hold discussions with leaders and staff about their self-evaluation and improvement work, and their work to develop pupils' extended writing skills
- 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 school documentation
- Conduct lesson observations jointly with leaders and discuss the main findings of these activities

### **Focus of visit**

#### **How effective are self-evaluation and improvement planning processes?**

During the visit, it was interesting to understand how leaders have approached developing an open culture of self-evaluation and continuous improvement. We heard from staff how establishing clear and structured processes has helped everyone to better

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understand expectations and their roles. It appears that leaders gather first-hand evidence from a variety of quality assurance activities. We saw beneficial examples of how leaders summarise the main findings of quality assurance activities to share with staff and governors. It was positive to see how leaders give appropriate consideration to their evaluations to set suitable priorities for improvement.

It was good to see how work to develop the pedagogical model has become embedded and ensured consistency in teaching across the school. We heard from staff how they appreciate the variety of professional development opportunities. This includes developing the leadership skills of middle leaders through a coaching scheme and evaluating the school's work jointly.

It would be useful for leaders to consider:

- To what extent do leaders' evaluations focus on what pupils achieve and the progress they make, rather than on the provision itself?
- How will leaders use this information to plan in more detail to improve the main areas for development?

### **How has the school developed pupils' extended writing skills?**

During the visit, it was useful to hear how specific attention has been given to developing pupils' extended writing skills. Teachers are encouraged to plan purposefully so that pupils are given a variety of opportunities in relevant subjects. We heard how teachers have benefitted from internal training, which offers specific strategies to support pupils to develop these skills. Use of the agreed writing principles is beginning to have a positive effect on extended writing in subjects beyond Welsh and English.

Priorities in this area have been identified based on leaders' findings from quality assurance activities, where there has been a specific focus on provision for literacy. Leaders also work with other schools to moderate and validate findings from quality assurance activities. As a result, leaders have adapted the literacy marking code to be used across the subjects.

It was interesting to hear about the way in which the additional learning needs (ALN) team identifies pupils who need support with their writing skills at an early stage. They provide literacy interventions, including to improve the spelling of common words. The ALN team has also developed Welsh and English toolkits for teaching assistants. These include simplified writing forms to help them support pupils.

It would be useful for the school to consider:

- How well do teachers across the curriculum plan suitable activities which focus on developing pupils' extended writing skills?
- How well do teachers assess pupils' progress in writing skills?

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/6674048>

Yours sincerely



**Lowri Jones**

Acting Assistant Director