



**SIXTH  
FORM**







# Headteacher's Welcome

I am delighted to be able to introduce you to the Y Pant Sixth Form by way of this prospectus.

Y Pant is a vibrant learning community characterised by academic success, outstanding learning experiences and diverse enrichment opportunities. Naturally, we are extremely proud of our excellent results and we constantly strive to achieve the very best educational outcomes for all our students. However, it is the range and breadth of additional experiences - cultural, charitable, sporting, extracurricular, personal guidance and support - which makes the Y Pant experience unique. Our sixth formers very soon become a team and form strong bonds and friendships which last a lifetime.

Most importantly, all of these aspects combine, to ensure our students have the best possible preparation and opportunity to succeed in the wider world. Each sixth former is fully supported in their studies, nurtured to be well-rounded individuals and fully advised on what post 18 options are available to them. Every year they progress to UK and overseas universities, employment and apprenticeships and a significant number of students regularly secure places at Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities.

Choosing Y Pant for your sixth form study means you will have rigour, responsibility, independence and freedom. Here, you are respected as young adults. We will have high expectations for you and of you. In turn, we expect you to have high expectations for and of yourselves and to be role models to our wider school community who will look up to and aspire to be like you. Our dedicated sixth form team, highly skilled and well qualified staff, supportive and inclusive environment and enviable modern accommodation will promise you an enriching and fulfilling sixth form experience.

If you would like to visit us or find out more, please do not hesitate to contact us. I hope you come and join us.

**Bev Cheetham**  
Headteacher



# Why Y Pant?

Our Sixth Form has all the benefits of being small enough to get to know each pupil really well – but big enough for pupils to experience independence and make new friendships. We recognise that the transition to sixth form can feel demanding and daunting and our students are thoroughly and consistently supported by a dedicated team; Assistant Headteacher Ms Lucy Bunce, Head of Sixth Form Mrs Sara Nowell-Hughes and an Assistant Head of Sixth Form.

As students you will build up strong relationships with your sixth form team alongside your teaching staff. Furthermore, you will be guided by your form tutor who will meet with you daily. At Y Pant we will help you to become more independent, at your own pace, in a caring and inclusive environment.

Y Pant Sixth Form is open to all students who live in our catchment area. Alongside our many existing students who choose to continue their education with us post 16, we welcome new pupils to our sixth form from a variety of backgrounds and settings. The sixth form team works tirelessly to ensure all new students are supported academically, socially, pastorally and personally to create a seamless transition.

Finally, parents and carers will be fully informed of progress and attendance throughout the year with regular progress meetings held between the sixth form teams. You will find us approachable and reliable. You can trust us; to guide, support, advise and listen.





# Why Y Pant?

4

“ There are a wide range of opportunities in our sixth form that allow you to be fully immersed in the school community. In year 12, you can join the Sixth Form Committee and get involved with charity events as well as putting forward ideas to help improve the sixth form area. There are also the buddying and paired reading schemes, which are particularly popular, as they give you the chance to interact with younger pupils and mentor them, a useful skill to add to your CV or university application. Furthermore, year 13 presents the perfect opportunity to apply for a leadership role and become a head/deputy head prefect or a head of one of the school parliament ministries. Not only do these roles help you build skills for your future, but they are great ways to become more involved in helping to make decisions about how the sixth form is run and of course, to plan the prom!

**Corey, Evie and Libby**  
- Head Prefects



“ Having previously attended a different school, the prospect of moving for sixth form was particularly daunting. However, I definitely feel as though I made the right, informed, decision in choosing to study my A levels at Y Pant School. I settled in quickly. Fellow pupils and teaching staff were very supportive and welcoming. Also, as well as the fantastic facilities, there have been plenty of amazing opportunities to play a larger role in the school. For example, I am a member of the Sixth Form Committee, which makes me feel as though I have a real voice within the school community.

**Lucy**  
- Year 12 Student



Please see  
[www.ypant.co.uk](http://www.ypant.co.uk)  
for details of the  
dates for this year.








# Post 16

## Admissions Process

We always aim to provide a pathway in to the sixth form that is suited to each student's individual academic ability and interests and as such final entry requirements are at the school's discretion. Our academic entry requirements for the whole sixth form are available on the Y Pant website and will include 5 GCSEs at a C or above plus additional requirements. We will of course consider applications from students who are currently studying outside of Wales who may hold different qualifications. Please contact us to find out more. Students are asked to study three or four AS Levels (or equivalent) plus the Welsh Baccalaureate. Individual subjects will have their own entry requirements and further information can be found in the course descriptions on our website.

- We hold a Sixth Form Open Evening in January/ February which we strongly encourage all prospective students and their families to attend. Details are on the school website for this year. If you cannot attend the Open Evening please email [sixthform@ypant.co.uk](mailto:sixthform@ypant.co.uk) and we can arrange a visit and tour of the school.
- All students, whether currently at Y Pant or elsewhere, are asked to complete an application form. As part of this, we ask you to tell us which subjects you are considering taking – please note, there is no commitment at this stage. We'll then invite you for an informal chat to discuss choices.
- Our final option columns are published on the website during the summer term.
- After GCSE results day we hold a Sixth Form Sign Up Day in late August when we expect you to formally enrol and commit to your subject choices.





At Y Pant  
we take great care  
in preparing you  
for your next step  
beyond school.

# Student Destinations

At Y Pant we take great care in preparing you for your next step beyond school, whether that be applying to university, for an apprenticeship or preparing for employment. The sixth form team will work very closely with you, to support your preparation for application and interview. This will also include specific guidance for early applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities and Medical, Dental and Veterinary Science applicants.

## Year 12

- Information is given about various work experience opportunities and summer schools and we support students with their applications.
- We welcome visitors from various employers and universities to give talks on careers, apprenticeships, university applications and course choices
- A trip to the Cardiff UCAS Convention where students can talk to staff from every university in the UK.
- UCAS workshop at the University of South Wales with an introduction to the application process.
- Talks for students, parents and carers to guide through the process and answer any questions.

## Year 13

- Support and feedback are given with personal statements.
- Additional visits by university staff to give further guidance and support.
- Oxbridge application support.
- Mock interviews held for students who will be having a university interview including mock MMI for medical students.
- Mentoring, guidance and talks from former Y Pant students as part of the Y Pant Alumni.
- Talks on student finance and university life are held.



# Progress and Support

Assessments will be frequent throughout the sixth form in all subjects. Staff will alert the sixth form team with any concerns about effort and progress and they, in turn, will then meet with students and where necessary parents to discuss these concerns and ways they can improve.

We set target grades with all students and then track progress against these every half-term. This helps us to put interventions in early if students are struggling. Regular tests in subjects form the basis of these progress reports so students should ensure they prepare thoroughly for them.

Parents' evenings are held once a year where individual feedback by each teacher is given.

Parents and carers who are concerned about their son's or daughter's progress can contact the year team at any time.

## Pastoral Support

We have a strong pastoral support team a number of pathways should you need support.

- You will meet with your **form tutor** every morning who will be your first port of call with any issues. Your form tutor will also monitor your attendance.
- **Mentoring** and study support is also available to help you with your academic studies.
- The **School Nurse** visits weekly and can answer questions about any mental or physical health issues.
- The Eye-to-Eye **counselling** service is onsite three days a week - students can self-refer or be referred by the Head of Sixth Form.
- The Careers Wales Adviser runs a weekly '**Careers Clinic**' for those who want to discuss options after Sixth Form.
- We have regular visitors during our **enrichment sessions** to talk about career, apprenticeship and university opportunities - many of these visitors are happy to answer questions afterwards.





# Choosing the right Courses

You should consider what you are good at and what you enjoy when choosing your sixth form subjects. You will spend 8 hours a fortnight in timetabled lessons plus a great deal more time in independent study so you need to be interested in what you are learning.

Research what you will be studying and how you will be assessed. If you study History you will be expected to write lengthy essays so will need to be competent in this skill. If you study Physics you will have to be very good at Mathematics but won't have the long prose to tackle.

Also, think about how you work and learn best. In PE and DT you can expect some practical work whereas in English you can expect a great deal of reading.

Think about whether you do better in controlled assessments or in exams. If you are not good at exams, then doing an A Level course with no coursework may not be ideal for you. However, doing a Level 3 Diploma qualification or an A Level with where a large part of the final assessment is a controlled assessment, may suit you more.

If you have already researched what you want to do post-18 then you may be very clear about what courses you want to study. If you haven't then use the UCAS or Careers Wales website to research possible areas of future study or employment. Here you will find what is required and this may help you with your decisions.

Staff will assist you with your choices and can advise on suitable combinations. This will happen throughout the spring term and if necessary, can also take place during and after the publication of GCSE results.

All pupils are required to choose three or four option choices alongside Welsh Baccalaureate. No pupils can drop below three AS Level or equivalents throughout Year 12.

The full list of subjects available at Y Pant is available on our website. The option columns give a guide as to what combinations of subjects can be chosen together but we can be flexible. If your subject combination is not available, talk to us and we'll see what we can do.

## A-Levels or Vocational Subjects

All courses offered at Y Pant 6th form are level 3 courses and have UCAS points associated with them. This means that they can be used for applying to university in the UK. The vocational subjects generally have fewer exams and more coursework and may suit students who prefer coursework. However, all courses offered attract grades from A\* to E and the highest grades in any course are only attained by the hardest working students.

## University Requirements

The right subject choices may be critical for many degree courses. There are thousands of degree courses in the UK and overseas and if you have something specific in mind, you need to check the requirements yourself.

If you know you want to go to university but have no idea what you want to study then picking a couple of subjects from the following list will keep your options open: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths, English, Geography, History, French, Spanish and Welsh.

“Achieving a place in Oxford originally seemed so unattainable that I almost considered not applying. The whole UCAS progress can be a bit daunting for the most of us - especially with that early October 15th deadline. However, it was due to the English department and the support from my UCAS referee that I was able to secure an offer to read English Language and Literature at Oxford in 2019. Not only did the majority of my teachers offer help in regards to my personal statement, written work submissions and entrance exam, but they truly went above and beyond to answer any question and provide me with material they thought I may find useful. This, as well as the mock interviews I had leading up to my interview, all ensured that I had the confidence to perform to the best of my ability.

I can honestly say that thanks to the consistently attentive teachers of Y Pant, I was able to work towards the opportunity of a lifetime.

**Yasmin**

- Year 13 Student and successful Oxford Applicant





## Y Pant

### Bryn Celynnog Consortium

In order to maximise our offer in the sixth form, we work together with Bryn Celynnog School in Beddau. This is a long-standing partnership between two schools who continuously achieve excellent results at this level.

Students registering for 6th Form at Y Pant can choose courses offered by Bryn Celynnog as well.

A minibus operates between sites so that pupils can get around easily and returns pupils to their base school at the end of the day.

Due to the consortium arrangements, our school day for sixth form pupils runs between 8:30 and 3:50.

## Independent Study

One of the big differences between year 11 and year 12 is that you will suddenly find you have a lot of gaps in your timetable. These should not be considered as “free periods” but as study periods. You will have a high workload as a 6th form student and will need to use this study time sensibly in order to keep up with the demands of your subjects.

This is an important step for preparing you for life after school where you will be expected to plan your own time a lot more. Students who are struggling to keep up with their work can have study sessions allocated on their timetable for a period of time.

## Sixth Form Facilities

In 2017 we moved to a new building making our accommodation and facilities amongst the best in the country.

Our designated sixth form area has access to:

- Its own coffee shop - “Caffi Bach”,
- A sixth form lounge for relaxing and socialising with your fellow students.
- A study area equipped with an array of computers.
- A range of quiet working areas.
- Our Learning Resource Centre, open from 8 am throughout the day, accessible directly from the sixth form lounge.
- A lecture hall for guest speakers and designated events.
- If you want to bring your own laptop or tablet to work on we have WiFi available in school.

## Seren Academy

The Welsh Government Seren Programme has been designed to support and encourage the most able students in Wales with applications to top universities. We are part of the RCT and Merthyr Seren Hub and currently, a third of our 6th form students are attending masterclasses and interview workshops run by Seren. The entry criteria are set by the Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Seren Hub each year.





# Enrichment

## Opportunities & Charity

Alongside your commitment to your education, we will encourage you to be involved with the leadership and enrichment opportunities that we offer.

### Leadership

The aim is to build on your confidence in taking on leadership roles to help prepare you for the world of work. In addition to this, the Leadership Prefect roles, Head of House, Sixth Form Committee and Cabinet Leaders for the School Council are important responsibilities that allow you to contribute towards whole school decision making. The school prom is certainly a highlight of the year and planning and fundraising for the big event is organised by the students.

### Charity

Charity events form a large part of the sixth form community and demonstrate the caring and fun aspect of the school. Sixth form students plan and organise a number of events including Children in Need and our Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.

### Buddying

If you are interested in working with younger pupils in the school, you can get involved by volunteering for the Buddy service, reading group and classroom support. All of these can contribute towards your community service for the Welsh Baccalaureate.

### Performing Arts

We have strong Drama and Music departments at Y Pant but recognise that many students stop studying the performing arts post-16. Sixth form students are welcome to participate in school productions, choir or orchestra or to take up peripatetic music lessons whether they are studying Drama or Music or not.

### Sport

We're keen to support all students with their sporting endeavours outside of school. Sixth form students often develop their coaching skills with younger teams and classes in school.



## Costs of Sixth Form Education

Course material is provided by the school, although we may sometimes suggest that you obtain other books to support your course.

Your parents will continue to receive child benefit whilst you are in school. We will also advise students on how they can sign up to receive various student discounts.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

This is an income-assessed allowance of £30 per week which is awarded to eligible students to help with the cost of their study. The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is paid every two weeks directly into the student's bank account provided good attendance and agreed objectives are met. The EMA will not affect any benefits which you as a household may already be in receipt of. You can find out more about the EMA and apply online at [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

## Transport

There is a minibus that transports pupils at several times of day from Y Pant to Bryn Celynnog and vice versa. This a free form of transport for pupils.

Students living within the Y Pant catchment may qualify for free home to school transport. Search for **Home to School Transport** on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk)

We will advise students on how to sign up to receive various student discounts!





# Contact Information

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## Email

sixthform@ypant.co.uk

## Twitter

@YPantSchool and @6thPant

# Further Information

## Latest School Inspection Report

[www.estyn.gov.wales](http://www.estyn.gov.wales)

## Local Education Authority

[www.rct.gov.uk](http://www.rct.gov.uk)

## School Website

[www.ypant.co.uk](http://www.ypant.co.uk)







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