

YSGOL  
MAESTEG



# PROSPECTUS



*#motivatedtostrive*



## MAESTEG SCHOOL

# HEAD'S WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to Maesteg School. We are a vibrant, popular school, committed to providing an outstanding education for all our students. We, like you, want the very best for the children in our care. This is why we work in partnership with our parents to provide a learning environment where every child has the opportunity to succeed and thrive as an individual.

Our simple motto is 'Motivated to Strive'. This means that we place significant emphasis on creating a disciplined learning environment where everyone is expected to work hard and make a contribution to Maesteg School Life. We expect our students to work hard at school and at home. We want them to acquire a love of learning, deep knowledge and skills that will equip them to survive and succeed in life after school. We expect our students to explore ideas, to question concepts and debate opinions.

We want to develop students who are confident communicators who can speak in front of others and write competently for a range of audiences and purposes. Our students will aspire to be resilient problem solvers who will accept that failure is an essential part of the learning process. They will be numerate and digitally competent and they will celebrate cultural diversity alongside their Welsh identity.

**"OUR HOUSE STRUCTURE AND SUPERB PASTORAL SYSTEMS, ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD IS VALUED AND THAT WELLBEING IS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO."**

Our curriculum ensures that every student is offered a wide range of subjects and opportunities to succeed. Although we value academic achievements, equally important to us are the wider aspects of school life such as sport, music, drama and creative arts. All our students are encouraged to participate in our extensive after school programme which encourages them to explore and make the most of their talents.

Maesteg School is a highly inclusive school where we pride ourselves on knowing each and every child as an individual. Our House structure and superb pastoral systems, ensure that every child is valued and that Wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. Our school is a warm, caring community with excellent relationships between students and staff. We aim to develop ambitious, optimistic young people who leave our establishment proud of their achievements, proud of their community and proud of themselves.



Headteacher  
Mrs Helen Jones



Our 6th form is highly successful with students pursuing Higher education courses, apprenticeships and careers which include medicine, law, journalism, computing and engineering. Those students who aspire to Oxbridge are supported through the rigorous selection process via a bespoke support programme to ensure that they are thoroughly prepared for the challenges ahead.

This prospectus should provide you with a flavour of our exciting, vibrant learning community, but the best way for you to gain a feel for our school is to see us in action.

I feel honoured and privileged to lead Maesteg School and I am proud of the many and varied achievements of our staff and students. I am confident that should you choose to visit us, you too will want your child to become part of our ambitious and successful school.

Mrs Helen Jones



## MAESTEG SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

# "MOTIVATED TO STRIVE"

Maesteg School is committed to providing an outstanding education where all students are motivated to strive for success. Our visionary and challenging curriculum aims to raise aspirations and self-esteem to enable our students to grow into resilient, responsible, honest citizens who have the confidence and desire to flourish.

### OUR AIMS

- To develop a sense of self and raise self-esteem so that all are happy, confident and motivated to succeed
- To develop a culture of respect, resilience, resourcefulness and responsibility in order to achieve our goals
- To develop a physically and emotionally safe and secure environment that promotes learning for all
- To develop the whole person through education that values and develops all aspects of the individual
- To stimulate and encourage pupils to become better learners in order to reach their potential and achieve success.



# MAESTEG SCHOOL

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### ***RATIONALE***

Our School Motto 'Motivated to Strive' demonstrates our commitment to raising the aspirations of all our students. We have high expectations and set ambitious targets for our students regardless of their background or prior attainment. Our relentless focus on Growth Mindset ensures that pupils believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work which creates a love of learning and resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Our pupils find learning at Maesteg School exciting, challenging and enjoyable.

We provide rich, diverse and inspiring learning experiences to enable them to achieve academic success; to develop independence; to think for themselves; to challenge the views of others; to be creative thinkers and confident communicators.



### ***OUR PRACTICE***

Our staff are dynamic, forward thinking, innovative teachers who care about each and every student. They are inspirational role models who show true passion for their subject and for ensuring that each child reaches their potential. Our teachers know how to bring the curriculum to life and to motivate, help individuals to engage with their subject and capture their imagination. They are committed to delivering high quality learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. They undertake ongoing professional development to ensure they enable our children to achieve the highest standards.

'Teachers have high expectations of pupils. In these lessons effective planning means that all pupils are able to improve their own learning and make good progress. Well-designed and executed learning activities sustain pupil interest throughout the lesson. Pupils are challenged to think for themselves and work collaboratively with others' (Estyn report)



Teachers and students work in partnership to create stimulating and successful environments in which learning and achievement can flourish and all forms of effort are celebrated. We operate as a research-based community which strives relentlessly to adopt excellence in all aspects of pedagogy.



## MAESTEG SCHOOL

# TEACHING AND LEARNING

### ***MORE ABLE LEARNERS***

More able students are identified through information from their primary school, an assessment upon entry and through our tracking and reporting systems. These students are developed through a bespoke programme led by our MAaT co-ordinator. This includes specific extension tasks, opportunities to pursue additional qualifications, preparation for Oxbridge applications as well as a variety of enrichment opportunities to stimulate their intellectual development.

### ***STRIVING FOR SUCCESS***

We know that students respond best to clear guidance from our teachers and high expectations of their performance. At Maesteg School, we set challenging targets, regularly track and monitor each child's development and set work that enables them to make the rapid progress we expect. Parents and students are provided with regular feedback on how they are progressing.



## THE CURRICULUM

We are proud to have been identified as a Pioneer School, following the most significant review of Curriculum since 1988. This means that we are regarded as having a crucial role in developing a new Curriculum for the whole of Wales, to be taught from 2021. This demonstrates our absolute commitment to providing the most appropriate and innovative experience of education for the young people of Maesteg.

We launched our Challenge Curriculum to Year 7 pupils in 2016. Each Challenge aims to provide a seamless transition from primary school, allowing for a context-based experience in which each learner continues to improve their literacy and numeracy skills towards a real-life outcome. Alongside this tailor-made Curriculum for Maesteg School, all students also receive lessons in English, French, Games/Health & Wellbeing, Mathematics and Welsh. Our extension curriculum also allows pupils to pursue an additional foreign language, extra Science and computer science lessons.

In Year 8 and Year 9, all students will follow a range of subjects: Art; Drama; Design and Technology; French; Games; Geography; History; English; I.T; Mathematics; Music; Religious Education; Science and Welsh.

Over the course of Year 9, students are guided to choose the very best subjects for them to study in Years 10 and 11.

Each student is supported to be aspirational in their choice of subjects for more detailed study at Key Stage 4. Alongside the compulsory subjects of English Language, Mathematics, Numeracy, Religious Education, Science, Welsh and Welsh Baccalaureate, students are given a wide range of subjects to choose from. We encourage our students to maintain as broad and rich a Curriculum as possible, selecting subjects from Business Studies, Computing, the Creative Arts, Humanities, P.E., Technology and Triple Science. For details on our post-16 Curriculum, please see the section 'About the Sixth Form'.



# MAESTEG SCHOOL

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A Maesteg School education focuses on the development of the whole child. This is why we offer a wealth of opportunities beyond the classroom. Our unique enrichment programme ensures that our students take part in activities that broaden their experience, build on the individual aptitudes and develop a range of skills.

### These enrichment activities include:

Team and individual sport; instrumental lessons; drama and annual whole school productions and performances. Each child is expected to build a portfolio of enrichment activities which can lead to additional qualifications. We thoroughly support pupils who participate in clubs and activities outside of the school environment and have a strong tradition of supporting our local rugby, netball, dance, tumbling and musical performance groups. We believe that if children contribute to wider aspects of whole school life, they develop their self-esteem and self-respect both essential elements of their overall well-being and happiness.

We also believe in developing our children as leaders of the future. We make them aware of the importance of self-expression, self-direction, effective communication and strong leadership. Our peer-elected school council and House Leaders provide excellent forums to develop these skills. Additional leadership opportunities also include: Young Sports Leaders, Sports Captains and House Captains; Prefects.

Maesteg School is enriched by regular inter-house competitions, theatre trips, visiting guest speakers, reward trips, visits to universities and other schools. A wide range of educational trips broaden the students' understanding of the world including trips to Prague, Iceland and even India.

## CARE, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Outstanding pastoral care is at the heart of everything we do at Maesteg School. We are extremely proud of the reputation we have established as a caring school where every child feels included and valued. We take time to provide real personal guidance to build a strong sense of a school community to ensure that every child is happy and secure in school. This is the foundation of every child's academic and personal success.

Heads of House, form tutors, subject staff, support staff, counsellors, the inclusion team and our family engagement officer, all work to offer additional support and advice to help our children. Academic mentoring and strong relationships between staff and students, mean that each student's individual needs are met.

We have strong transition programmes to support a smooth and happy transfer from primary school to Maesteg from key stages 3 and 4 and into our sixth form. At every stage, students are guided in selecting the best courses to help them achieve their ambitions for the future. Our house system fosters a sense of community built upon positive relationships where every child can make a valued contribution.

Students are placed in one of our four houses along with students from other year groups. The houses are named after local geographical and historical features. These are Cadrawd, Cynwyd, Llynfi and Daren.





Through our house system students develop a clear sense of belonging. They learn from one another and older students are entrusted to act as role models and mentors to their younger peers. Students are encouraged to contribute to their schools and wider community through volunteering, charity work and leadership roles.

House activities and challenges give students opportunities to take on new responsibilities, share experiences, compete against one another and offer practical support to each other. House members can work together in sporting and other competitions to further develop a strong community ethos.

## MAESTEG SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Quite simply at Maesteg School, every child matters. Every child has a unique voice and every voice is heard. Our school comprises of almost 1200 individual children and we aim to give every child a positive learning experience from their very first day to their very last day here. The well-being of every child is our main priority.



We pride ourselves on exposing our pupils to many points of view, perspectives and opinions so that they are ethically informed and have a firm understanding of life in the 21st century. Here, At Maesteg School, we provide a disciplined learning environment with "RESPECT" as our code of conduct at its core. It is a warm and caring school based on excellent relationships between all our staff and pupils.

We instill a strong sense of identity at Maesteg School where pupils are encouraged to take responsibility and develop leadership skills whenever possible. We provide a holistic education that enables our pupils to take pride in themselves, their achievements and in their local environment. Our pupils experience a wide spectrum of activities in order to develop a strong cultural identity and awareness. Maesteg School is at the heart of our community, our children are our community's future and we will continue to equip our learners with a deep-rooted foundation to become global citizens in an ever-evolving world.

Our modern school building provides excellent facilities for dynamic learning to take place. It is a learning school where pupils can explore new world ideas and concepts in a safe environment. Our pupils are proud to be students at Maesteg School. There is a vibrant atmosphere in all our Faculty areas where our pupils are contributing to their successful futures by engaging fully in their learning journey.

At the core of our success is the value we place in partnership with families where we work together to ensure all our children are 'motivated to strive' and are happy in school. As part of our primary transition programme every child and parent attends an interview in the summer term providing us with a thorough knowledge of each family. From this, we establish really strong partnerships.

We provide regular information about how students are progressing and there is clear and frequent communication including written reports, curriculum evenings and subject based parents' evenings. There is also regular communication by e-mail, the school's website and our newsletters. Parents/carers are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education, including the monitoring of homework and their school books.



## MAESTEG SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

Maesteg School sixth form is a dynamic and vibrant part of our community, offering a wealth of new opportunities and freedoms. What defines us is our capacity to support, develop and inspire young minds in an environment where they have access to excellent resources and high-quality teaching.

The curriculum offers more than 30 'A' level and strong vocational courses, supporting our ethos of an inclusive Sixth form. Whether the ambition is for a place at Oxbridge, a Russell group University, Apprenticeship, or a higher level vocational pathway, Maesteg School can provide the right preparation and guidance.



We are proud of the statistics that show the success of our students when they leave Maesteg School and of the high standards they achieve not only in their chosen courses, but in the Welsh Baccalaureate too.

The Sixth form programme includes dedicated careers advice; support via the SEREN network to support the students who aspire to apply to Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities; professional lectures; visits to universities; mock interviews with course/career-related professionals; a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and additional support from dedicated professionals in the lead up to exams. In addition, they receive practical and personalised support with their applications to university, to gain access to top universities or secure those valuable apprenticeships or employment in what is a highly competitive market.

Opportunities are provided to develop their leadership skills by taking on roles such as Head of House, Sports Captains, Senior Prefects and Head Boy/Girl. Students continue to benefit from excellent pastoral support in order to achieve their very best. There are designated areas for the sixth form to study quietly which have free wifi. Ipads or tablets are available on request.



Our Sixth Form students are excellent role models and great ambassadors for our school and Maesteg Community. The Sixth form has a well-established reputation of working with the community, often fund-raising for charities, running clubs in local primaries and hosting numerous social events for local people. Their contribution to school and community life is recognized in an end of Sixth Form ball which is always eagerly anticipated by both students and staff alike and is planned for and organized by the students themselves.



# MAESTEG SCHOOL PUPIL QUOTES



“ The learning facilities are superb. The implementation of ICT across all subjects is very impressive. It is a real growth mindset school where pupils are encouraged to strive for success.

Aled Bachelor - Year 12

“ There are so many opportunities for us to participate in activities; for example, school trips, after-school clubs, orchestra, school production.

Shannon Cooksley - Year 9

“ For a big school the layout of the classrooms is amazingly easy to follow. The sports facilities are excellent and we have such good friends here.

Dafydd Phillips - Year 10.

“ Maesteg School is different from primary school – it's bigger with more facilities in each subject. The opportunities are endless.

Lucy Evans - Year 7.

“ Maesteg School has excellent PE facilities. It's a modern school with lots of friendly teachers and it is easy to make friends.

Alex Waters - Year 8.





