



## Join the Ysgol Eirias Sixth Form

*"Ysgol Eirias inspires its students to challenge their learning and demand the most from their skills and talents.*

*The school has a proud reputation for academic excellence that regularly sees it feature as one of the top performing Sixth Forms in England and Wales. Eirias is a richly resourced school set in a beautiful location that complements the vast array of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. We are proud of our Welsh identity and recognise that the school now needs to prepare young people to compete in an increasingly competitive international scene. The combination of culture, challenge and innovation aims to give all of the students a fantastic launch into the next stage of their life."*



**Mrs Sarah Sutton**  
Headteacher

*"Performance by pupils in the sixth form is consistently higher than of the averages for similar schools and nationally. This is a strong feature of the work of the school."*

**Estyn Inspection 2014**

### Why Should I stay on in the Sixth Form?

In Year 11 when the pressure of work is increasing rapidly and you are no longer able to go out and enjoy yourself as freely as you were before, it is easy to become frustrated with school and impatient with its rules - it is easy to conclude that the sooner you leave the better. For a minority, that may be the right thing to do; for the majority it would be quite wrong. Try to remember that what you feel strongly about may soon change and the most important consideration is your long term future.

An important aspect of this is to train yourself for the better, more fulfilling career that higher qualifications can give. But that is not all the Sixth Form offers. Your understanding of life will develop greatly, as your studies will be broader than your specialist areas and you will be given varied opportunities to use initiative and assume responsibility.



### Isn't the Sixth Form just more of the same thing?

**Certainly not.** For a start, you will be working in much smaller groups and this leads to a friendlier, and competitive atmosphere. Secondly, you will be with students who have chosen to specialise in that subject. Lessons take on a different quality altogether - much greater emphasis is placed on your contribution to discussion, research and experimentation; your initiative, suggestions and observations become more important. You are more responsible for the organisation of your work and your time. Your success depends on your own sense of purpose, your determination and your self-discipline.



### How will I be taught?

**Focused groups mean that greater individual tuition is a reality** and relationships with staff will be on a much more mature level. There will be a greater variety of teaching methods employed with you taking a more active role in your learning. Indeed, you will need to develop specific study skills to enable you to be successful in your studies. Your Sixth Form planner will help you organise your work and there will be regular reviews with your subject and form tutors to support your progress.



### How do I choose my subjects?

- Which subjects do you enjoy?
- Which subjects will produce your best exam results?
- Which subjects are required for the career you have in mind?

Your present interest in a subject is usually a realistic guide to the choice you should make but beware! Subjects can change substantially between Year 11 and the Sixth Form, concentrating on different aspects and demanding an

alternative style of work. Subjects you find dull now may be much more attractive to you at sixth form level and of course, vice versa.

You may also wish to study a subject not offered at GCSE. It may be difficult to predict your summer exam results. While mock exams will give an indication, your teachers will know if you have the ability to study their subject. Their advice is invaluable. Take advantage of it. There are certain combinations of subjects that you must take if you wish to pursue specific careers. This requires specialist help which you can obtain from Head of Sixth Form and her team, and Heads of Faculties and subjects. Talk to staff and students already in the Sixth Form to help you with your decision. Use their expertise.

## Opportunities in the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form area offers spacious, modern study and recreational facilities. We are an integral part of the school, but the Common Room and the Resource Base give us a greater degree of independence and responsibility. We receive excellent preparation for Higher Education, apprenticeships or employment, including presentations, visits, "mock" interviews and individual counselling. The support programme has enabled me to make informed choices about my future. Here are just a few of the many activities we have experienced here in the Ysgol Eirias Sixth Form:

### Giving Back

Giving something back to the school community is important - being involved as a prefect; joining the Pyramid scheme where we work with primary schools in after school clubs; working with year 6 students during summer school or with years 7 and 8 as lower school support in lessons. It's hard work but certainly rewarding.

### Wider Skills

The Sixth Form offers a wide range of opportunities to improve important transferable skills necessary for life outside school. To all of us in the Sixth Form, the prospect of leaving home and being independent is quite scary. Life Skills lessons help us to cover the cooking of a simple meal in Cookery, rewiring a plug in Handy Andy, Self Defence and the basics of First Aid as well as a weekly current affairs lesson to keep up with the world. Young Enterprise gives us the opportunity to set up and run our own business. Who knows perhaps we'll become the entrepreneurs of the future. Other events held during the year can help you learn a variety of skills you never imagined you would have. Life Long Learning day gives you the chance to learn how to Salsa or develop relaxation techniques or circus skills. Even if you don't think it's for you, it's a very rewarding experience and a great day or all involved.

### Trips

If you want to discover learning outside the classroom, how about Edinburgh with English, London with Economics, adventure tourism with Travel or experience Europe in Manchester at the Christmas markets. That's just a taste of what's on offer.

### Summer Schools / Sutton Trust

Having the opportunity to live and study in a university environment has been an eye opener. We were treated as undergraduates while on campus, attended lectures and tutorials and stayed in halls of residence. Actually seeing the relevance of our A level studies in a real situation has helped us be even more focused on working towards our future courses and careers.

### Raising money for Charity

For all those people who don't get to dress up as Smurfs or Sumo wrestlers on their Saturday nights out, Comic Relief is a perfect opportunity. Not only are we giving to charity, but we're having fun in the process. And if you are slow to get out of bed for children in Need, then come to school in your pyjamas instead! If you can't "bear" to leave Teddy behind, bring him along to improve his mind at the Teddy Bears' Picnic.



*For further information on the Sixth Form and our courses please see the Sixth Form Prospectus*

