

Ysgol Caban Aur

Learner's Guide





Welcome to Ysgol Caban Aur



Moving to Afon Goch Children's Homes (AGCH), and being in either the Afon Goch or Caban Aur house, is a big change for you. Then you are enrolled to attend the school; 'Ysgol Caban Aur'. All this is a lot to manage; new places, new people, new things to do. However, the care staff and the school staff work together to ensure that you can settle in.

This booklet is to give you an introduction to the school and the staff, so that you are more comfortable about starting at Ysgol Caban Aur.

Ysgol Caban Aur (YCA) is experienced at helping young people settle into this new environment and treating you as an individual. We understand many of the issues you might have faced in the past, and work closely with others to make sure that we can support you as well as we can, during your time at Ysgol Caban Aur.

We hope that you will enjoy your time at Ysgol Caban Aur and use it to prepare yourself for the more rewarding future that you deserve.

What is Ysgol Caban Aur like?



Afon Goch Children's Homes (AGCH) is made up of two houses: Afon Goch and Caban Aur. Ysgol Caban Aur works very closely with the care staff, in fact it is so close, that many of the lessons actually take place within the Caban Aur home itself. There is a main classroom in Caban Aur. You may have part of your schooling outside, this could be because you are doing some outdoor activities, gardening, other projects, or visiting places of interest. Ysgol Caban Aur is a very small school, the most number of children that could be attending are only four! You may be taught by yourself, or joining together with other learners for some activities. The ages of our learners are between 11 years and 16 years (Y7 - Y11).

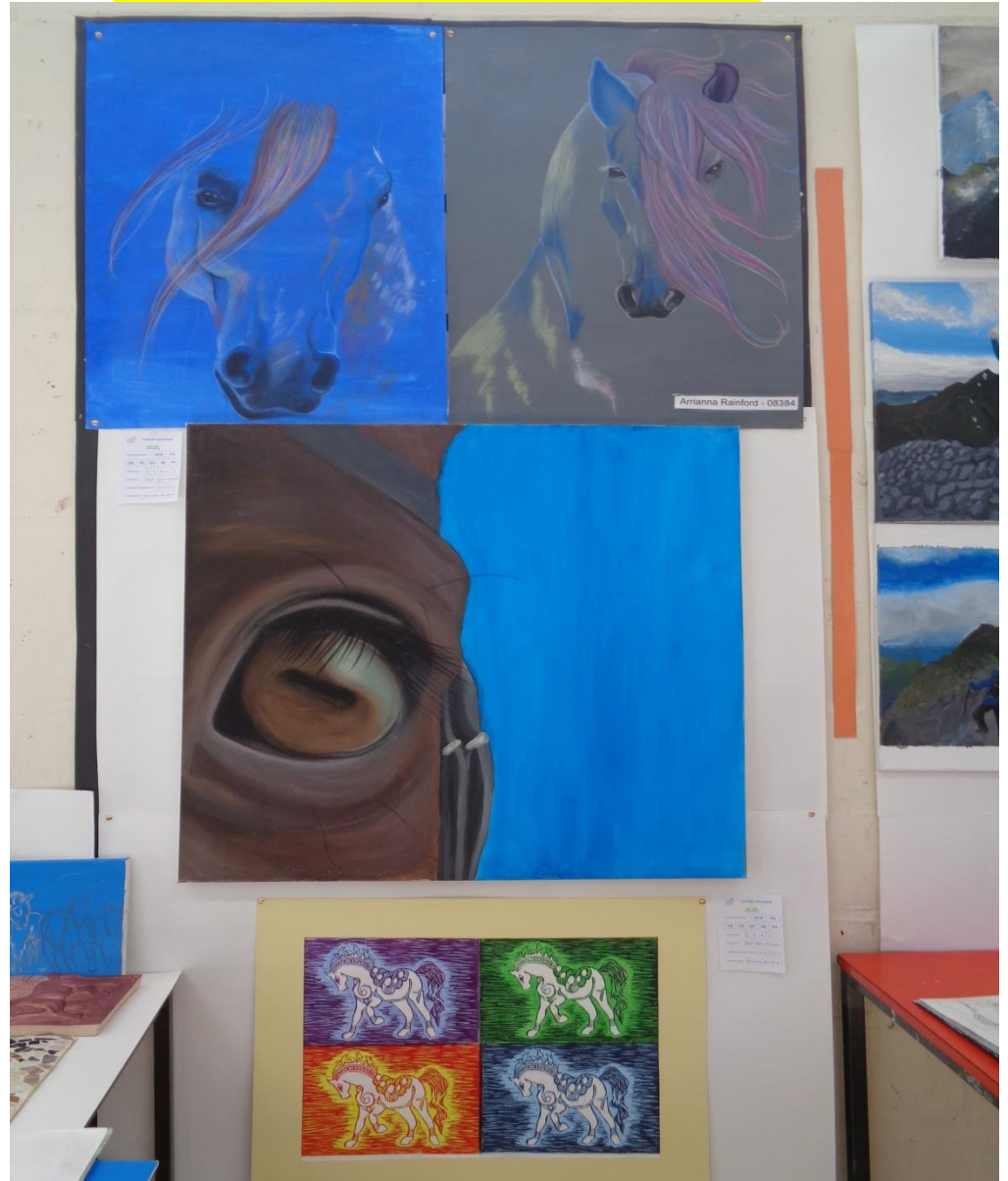
Ysgol Caban Aur has four staff working within the school. However, the outdoor education has its own instructors - who all work for AGCH. We have somebody who is a 'project worker' with whom you may do outside project work. You could have individual music lessons as well.



If you have missed lots of school, it is not your fault! Ysgol Caban Aur will help you to recognise what you are able to manage, when you arrive. You need to feel comfortable with what you are you are doing. You will start with what you require, not what might have been expected of you, if you had always attended school. Your timetable and lessons will be adjusted to fit with what you have managed so far, before arriving at AGCH. YCA will uses information passed on from your previous school(s) to help us with starting you off on the appropriate work. However, YCA also uses some on-line assessments to give the teachers a clearer idea of how best to support you at the beginning, and as you make progress.

Part of the GCSE art exhibition

You are able to study most of the subjects that you could do in a main-stream secondary school, from Y7 to Y11. Depending on your individual requirements, you may work towards external examinations such as GCSEs, or you can be successful with gaining certificates for your work, that the teachers can assess.



Aspirations

The school will support you with trying to consider what your aspirations are for; work, training, or further education, after you leave YCA. This support could also be provided by outside agencies that the school liaises with.



Debrief

At the end of the school day, we have a group discussion about how the day has gone. This is called the 'Debrief'.

We ask the care staff who are working with you, to come along and take notes, so that they have a record of what you have achieved during the day's lessons.

We talk about how each of you did in your lessons, how you got on, and anything arising from that, e.g. homework.

We then award the points you have earned for your education.

Education points are linked to your evening 'Points and Pocket Money' routine and go towards your earned weekend activity.

After 'Debrief', school has finished, and you continue with your house programme.

School Expectations

To allow yourself and others to enjoy engaging in, and progressing with their own development, in a supportive, respectful, and considerate setting.



Points and Pocket Money

During the day, you achieve points as you go through your education. This can be tailored to each individual student, but a common approach is to get 10 points per lesson, or 50 points for the whole day. In the evening, back at Afon Goch, or Caban Aur, and with your care staff, these points are added up along with the points for the rest of your day to go towards your 'earned activity'. If you miss a lesson for a meeting, or an appointment, the points are adjusted accordingly, so that, you do not miss out on points for something which you have no control over.

Target Setting



At the end of every term, we have a target setting meeting.

This looks at how the previous term has gone, and how you have got on. It looks at things that have gone well, as well as things we need to look at improving.

This is your chance to set a target for the next term, and a reward if you achieve it.

It also gives us a chance to make any changes over gap week and have them in place for the next term.

Uniform

YCA will provide you with a polo shirt and a sweatshirt with the Ysgol Caban Aur logo (plus a spare set). You should also wear black trousers and shoes.

You should wear your uniform every day – except for outdoor education clothing, which will be bought for you.

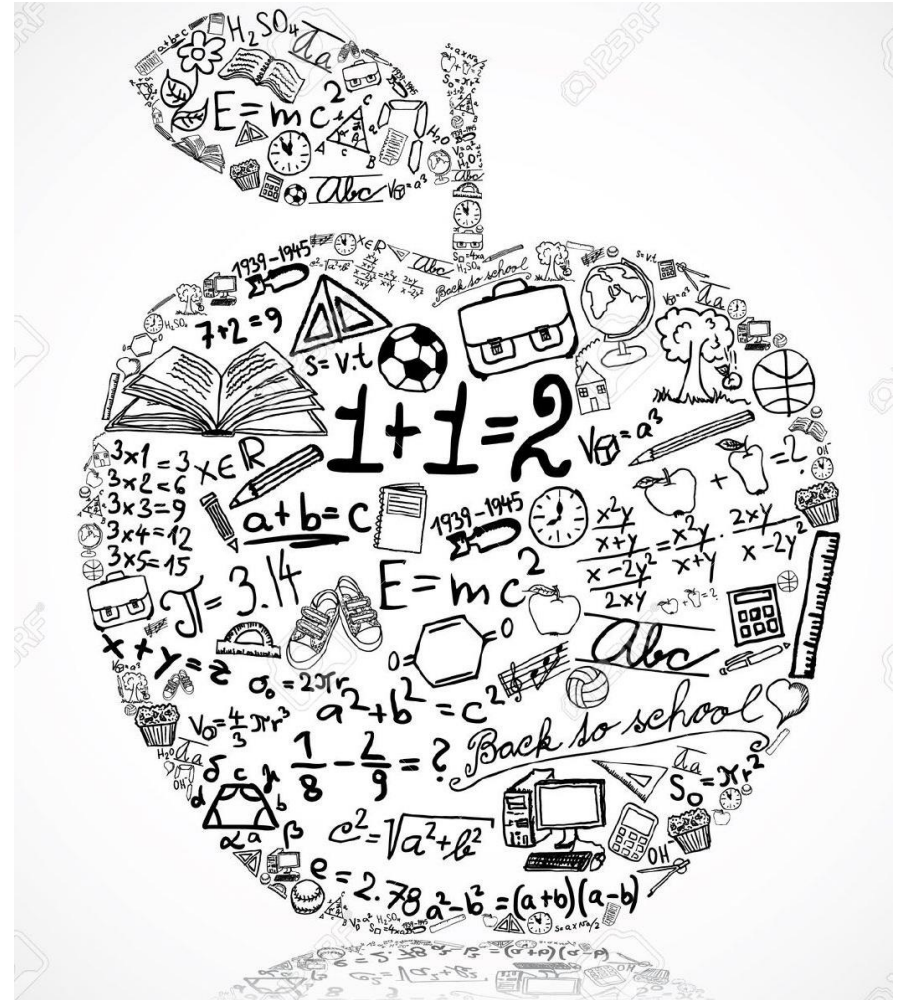
The school uniform is provided to you, because **you are at school!** It also stops you having to worry about what to wear for school.



Homework

You will get homework each week. You will receive a log with the instructions and when the homework is due in. **Usually, homework is to be done on the day it is set, so this will be part of your evening routine back at the house.**

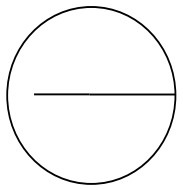
We understand that you have a busy programme, so we will ensure that the homework is achievable for you and does not clash with other planned activities.



The school day

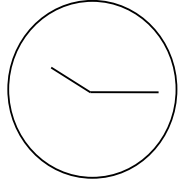


School Starts: 09:15 ⇒



Lesson 1: 09:15 – 10:15

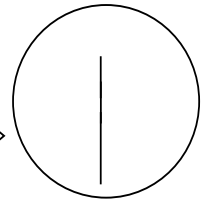
Break: 10:15 – 10:30 ⇒



Lesson 2: 10:30 – 11:30

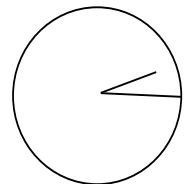
Lesson 3: 11:30 – 12:30

Lunch: 12:30 – 13:15 ⇒



Lesson 4: 13:15 – 14:15

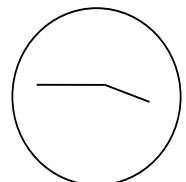
Break: 14:15 – 14:30 ⇒



Lesson 5: 14:30 – 15:30

School Debrief 15:30 – 15:45

School ends: 15:45 ⇒



Break times

At break times, there will be a drink and a snack prepared for you.

You can use this time to chill out in the kitchen, lounge, or you can go outside, there are benches and tables outside, and also a football goal and lots of grass for running around on.

At lunchtime, we all sit down together, teachers, learners, and staff.

After you have eaten, you should then have a few minutes before school restarts to get some fresh air, or chill out.



The school year

YCA has eight 5-week terms. At the end of each term is a one week 'gap-week', or a two week 'gap' around each of; Easter, Summer, Autumn and Christmas.