



**St Cyres School**  
**School Prospectus 2024-25**  
**Prospectws Ysgol 2024-25**



“Once again my son has been provided with a school year of outstanding teaching, nurturing support and moments to excel and flourish. He continues to jump out of bed and be excited for school everyday and that is the sign that you and your staff are doing an incredible job.”

**Parent of Year 9 Pupil**

# Headteacher's Welcome

## Croesawiad y Prifathro

It is my pleasure to introduce this prospectus to you and to welcome you to St Cyres School. Choosing a secondary school for your child is a very important decision and I hope that this prospectus gives you everything that you need in order to support you in making that choice.

At St Cyres, we have a very strong mission statement and we expect all pupils who want to attend this school, all parents who wish to send their child here, and all staff who want to work here to embrace this. The mission statement is an acrostic of the school name:

**S**trive  
**T**ogether  
**C**hallenge  
**Y**ourself  
**R**ealise  
**E**veryone can  
**S**ucceed

Fundamentally, all adults and pupils in the community work together to achieve the very best outcomes. Members of the school community challenge themselves in their daily work, or in their learning, or challenge themselves to be the best person they can be. And most importantly, we have a unrelenting belief that everyone can succeed, and we work together to deliver that success. We also believe that happy and well supported pupils can make the most of an outstanding education and achieve great results!

Aligned to this mission statement, we are strong advocates of community and partnership working, and the most important partnership we have is between the school and parents. From parents' evenings, information evenings, open evening to Wellbeing and Academic Review Days (WARD), we ensure that there are countless

opportunities for you to engage with this school and your child's education.

One thing that sets us apart from other schools is the way in which we use digital technologies in teaching and learning. We are proud to be the first and only Apple Distinguished School in Wales which is part of the Apple worldwide recognition programme that celebrates some of the most innovative schools in the world!

I hope that you find everything you need in this prospectus, but if you have any further questions, would like to attend our Open Evening, or visit the school during the day, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Peter Lewis**  
**Headteacher**



# About our School

## Ein Hysgol

St. Cyres School is an 11-18 mixed, English medium, non-denominational Comprehensive School. The school houses some 1250 pupils in Years 7-13 on the outskirts of Penarth in the Vale of Glamorgan.

St Cyres School is at a very exciting stage as we continue to focus on ensuring we deliver high-quality learning which is engaging and enjoyable for all our students. We have outstanding facilities having moved to a brand new building in 2014, combined with dedicated and hard working staff who ensure that pupils both enjoy and succeed at school. We continue to achieve excellent GCSE and A Level results. Many students choose to return into our Sixth Form and we have a proud track record of success in supporting students to progress on to excellent universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

The school attaches great importance to the effective guidance and pastoral support of all pupils. The progress and welfare of each year group is overseen by Heads of Year, assisted by a team of support staff and a team of Learning Coaches.

Each year group has a Year Council which enables and encourages pupils to play an important part in the development of the school and the School Council which is also very active.

Many factors play a critical part in our success including:

- The high expectations of all staff and Governors.
- Close monitoring of individual children's progress.
- Talented, committed and hardworking staff.
- The wholehearted support received from parents and the wider community.
- Innovative teaching and learning, including our use of iPads.

Our students are here to learn and we will set them challenging expectations throughout their time with us. We are proud of our success and will ensure we do all we can to recognise and celebrate individual student achievements. We place great emphasis on excellent behaviour and so it will not be a surprise to hear that we expect all our students to respect the rules that include: allowing others to learn, wearing their uniform with pride, being punctual and maintaining an excellent attendance record, and having respect for the other pupils and all staff at all times.



# Learning Dysgu

An essential part of our vision is a desire to give pupils access to high-quality teaching and learning resources and experiences wherever they are, whenever they need them. Our technology-rich environment is the driving force of our vision; providing new opportunities to collaborate, create, assess and reflect and for our pupils to develop the resilience needed to become successful independent learners.

All of our staff to deliver high quality, stimulating, media rich, interactive and dynamic lessons, where all students are supported and challenged to make excellent progress in their learning.

We have an established commitment to use assessment for learning, aspirational target setting and high quality feedback to move pupils forward and support them to achieve to the very best of their ability. Pupils, parents and guardians, and teachers all play vital roles in securing progress. In order to achieve this meaningful feedback, the setting of targets, the monitoring of progress in relation to these targets and feedback to parents are all designed and planned to fit together to form one coherent process. The St Cyres model lesson structure below is used to ensure that teachers: -

- Deepen Thinking
- Role Model
- Impact on Learning
- Challenge
- Engage learners.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It celebrates the specialism of subjects and encourages learners to explore the natural links that occur within and across all Areas of Learning.

In Years 7 and 8, pupils study a curriculum that includes: - Expressive Arts, Health and Wellbeing, Humanities, Languages, Literacy and Communication, Mathematics and Numeracy, Science and Technology and Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). Pupils will be part of eight broadly mixed ability Learning Coach groups and will be taught for most lessons within these groups.

In Year 9, pupils still study a full curriculum based on all the Areas of Learning and Experience above, but have the opportunity to focus on fewer subjects as part of a pathway to making their full GCSE options.

In Year 10 and 11, pupils have the opportunity to study a range of vocational and academic subjects (See page 6). Pupils will be able to choose option subjects which they will study together with English (Language and Literature), Mathematics and Numeracy, Science, Welsh, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Welsh Baccalaureate, and PSE.



# GCSE Options

## Opsiynau TGAU

In addition to the core curriculum of English, mathematics, science, PE, RE, Welsh and WBQ and PSE, pupils choose options from the following subjects to study at GCSE. More information on each subject can be found in the annual Options Booklet.



Art &  
Design



Business  
Studies



Computer  
Science



Construction



Digital  
Technology



Drama



Engineering



Financial  
Capability



Food and  
Nutrition



French



German



Geography



Health &  
Social Care



History



Hospitality  
& Catering



Humanities  
Pathways



Independent  
Living



Media  
Studies



Music



Physical  
Education



Performing  
Arts



Photography



Product  
Design



Separate  
Science



Sociology



Spanish



Textiles



Work Skills



# A Level Options

## Opsiynau Lefel A

Students choose 4 subjects from the list below in addition to the WBQ qualification. The option process starts in the spring of Year 11. More information on each subject can be found in the annual Options Booklet.



Art &  
Design



Biology



Business  
Studies



Chemistry



Computer  
Science



Criminology



Design  
Technology



Digital  
Technology



Drama and  
Theatre



Economics



English Lang  
and Literature



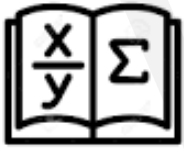
English  
Literature



Fashion  
& Textiles



Food Science  
& Nutrition



Further  
Mathematics



German



Geography



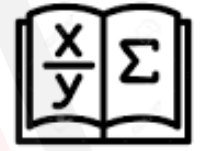
Government  
& Politics



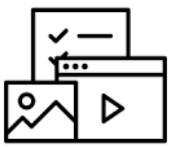
Health &  
Social Care



History



Mathematics



Media  
Studies



Medical  
Science



Music



Music  
Technology



Physical  
Education



Photography



Physics



Psychology



Religious  
Studies



Sociology



Tourism



Welsh



# Apple Distinguished School

## Ysgol Nodedig Apple

St Cyres School is proud to be recognised as an Apple Distinguished School which is part of Apple's worldwide recognition programme which recognises innovation and creativity in learning through the use of technology. There are 728 Apple Distinguished Schools in 36 countries across the world.

St Cyres School was the first Apple Distinguished School in Wales and we were first recognised for this award in 2014. The school remain the only Apple Distinguished School in Wales! Our status as an Apple Distinguished School was renewed in September 2025.

Apple Distinguished Schools are centres of leadership and educational excellence that demonstrate Apple's vision for learning with technology and are considered to be some of the most innovative schools in the world.



# School Day

## Y Dydd Ysgol

All pupils should arrive via the St Cyres Close pupil entrance or the pupil entrance at the bottom of the 3G pitch by 8:20am

<b>Learning Coach Time</b> 8:30 – 8:45		
<b>Lesson 1</b> 8:45 – 9:45		
<b>Year 7,8,9</b> <b>Break</b> 9:45 – 10:00 <b>Lesson 2</b> 10:00 – 11:00	<b>Year 10,11,12,13</b> <b>Lesson 2</b> 9:45 – 10:45 <b>Break</b> 10:45 – 11:00	
<b>Lesson 3</b> 11:00 – 12:00		
<b>Year 8 &amp; 9</b> <b>Lunch</b> 12:00 – 12:32 <b>Lesson 4</b> 12:32 – 1:40	<b>Year 7,12 &amp; 13</b> <b>Lesson 4</b> 12:00 – 12:32 <b>Lunch</b> 12:32 – 1:07 <b>Lesson 4</b> 1:07 – 1:40	<b>Year 10 &amp; 11</b> <b>Lesson 4</b> 12:00 – 1:07 <b>Lunch</b> 1:07 – 1:40
<b>Lesson 5</b> 1:40 – 2:40		

A full programme of sporting and other extra-curricular activities

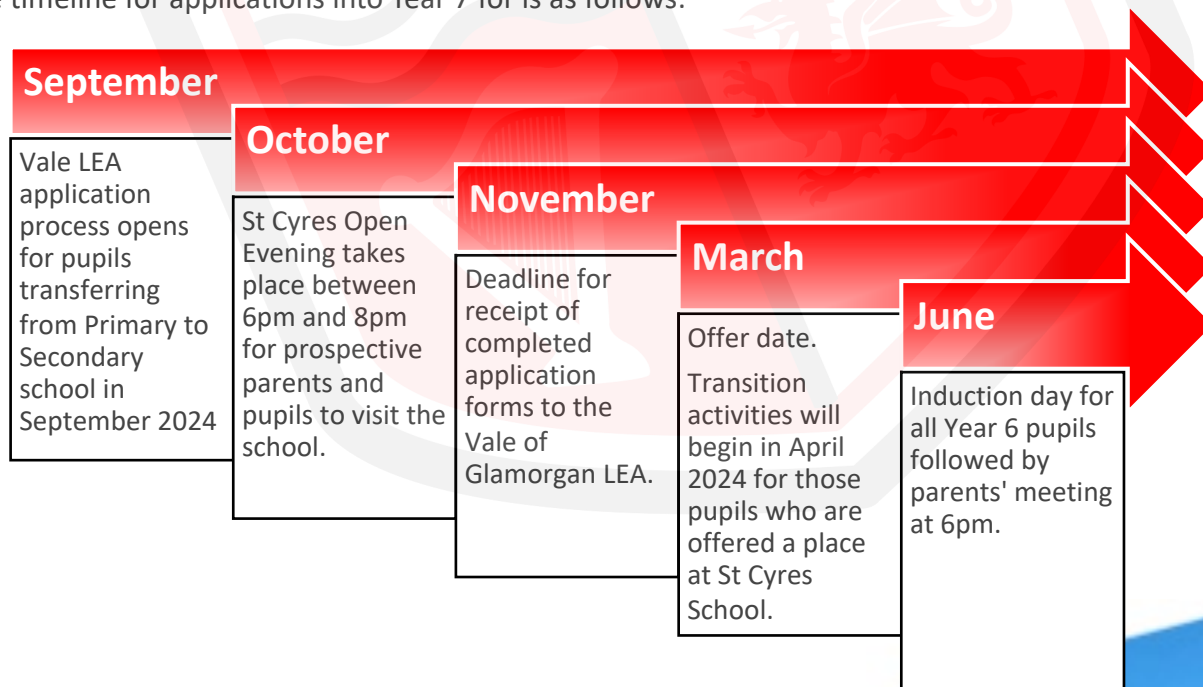


# Admissions Derbyniadau

St Cyres School has a published admissions number (PAN) of 210 in each Year group and a PAN of 220 in the Sixth Form. Admissions to St Cyres School are through the Vale of Glamorgan Council. For more information on the admissions criteria and process, please see the School Admissions section on the Vale of Glamorgan website. In summary, the criteria is as follows:

- Children with IDPs or statement of SEN with St Cyres School named.
- Children Looked After (CLA).
- Children who are currently permanently resident within the designated catchment area of St Cyres School on or before the published closing date for receipt of applications.
- Children not currently permanently resident within the designated catchment area of St Cyres School whose parents have satisfied the Council, on or before the published closing date for receipt of applications, that the child will be taking up residence within the catchment area by the commencement of the school term to which the application relates.
- Children who were on roll at a previous feeder primary school prior to the withdrawal of the feeder school arrangement in September 2020.
- Children in respect of whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to St Cyres School.
- Children who have an elder brother or sister at the school in years 7 to 11.
- Proximity of the pupil's home to the secondary school as measured by the shortest available walking route.

The timeline for applications into Year 7 for is as follows:



# Transition Pontio

Close links have been developed between St Cyres School and the local primary schools. They help to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary education. During the course of the year, Year 6 pupils undertake an extensive programme of transition activities and events to help them gain confidence, resilience and understanding so that they can have the best possible start to being educated and cared for at St Cyres School.

Primary school visits take place in September to launch the transition process and share information about the school. This is followed by Open Evening in October when prospective pupils and their families are able to explore the school and learn about our facilities and provisions.

Throughout the academic year, various departments will deliver subject specific projects which aim to bridge the learning from Year 6 to Year 7. St Cyres staff will introduce these projects in the primary schools. Year 6 pupils then visit St Cyres throughout the year to experience learning and the use of specialist facilities and resources.

St Cyres School offers an extensive range of enrichment opportunities for Year 7 pupils and Year 6 pupils will be provided with several taster activities to gain awareness of our extracurricular activities on offer. Each year, the Performing Arts department visit local primary schools to deliver the school production Roadshow to showcase the enrichment opportunities at St Cyres School. Year 6 pupils who have a passion for music will be invited to attend a Music

Masterclass and showcase evening in the summer term. In addition, St Cyres School invites Year 6 pupils to take part in a transition sports day.

The Year 6 induction day takes place in the summer term. All pupils allocated a place for St Cyres will have the opportunity to meet with their Learning Coach, explore taster lessons and meet their peers. This is followed by the Parent Induction evening where parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet with the Learning Coach and Head of Year.

Throughout the year, we offer bespoke transition activities for pupils that require additional support when transitioning from Primary school.

Year 7 pupils gain valuable experiences through the transition programme and as a result, they settle into secondary school life exceptionally well.



# Beyond the Classroom

## Tu allan yr ystafell ddosbarth

As well as the focus on achieving the very best academic outcomes for our pupils, we also place great importance on the need for pupils to enjoy their time at school and to be happy by playing an active role in the life of the school. We certainly have something for everyone.

Pupils are encouraged to further develop their talents and social skills by taking part in as many activities as possible, available through the curriculum and as part of the extra-curricular offer.

We provide students with the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of sports, clubs and visits. This promotes the benefits of staying fit and living a healthy lifestyle. We have several teams across all sports and the school frequently enjoys success at a range of tournaments. A significant number of our students have represented their county, while many have gone to international level honours.



There are numerous clubs such as Seren club, Eco club, Warhammer and Dungeons and Dragons club, Science club, homework club, to name but a few, all of which contribute to rich tapestry of our out of hours activities. Music and drama thrive with pupils enjoying the opportunities and successes from taking part in numerous productions, choir and music making. In addition to timetabled music lessons, peripatetic teachers provide individual sessions for students who wish to develop their musical talents in a range of instruments.

There are a wide range of trips and educational visits to enrich the experience of school life. Examples include Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, trips include to France, Italy, Germany, USA and other European and international destinations.



# An Inclusive Vision

## Gweledigaeth Cynhwysol

At St Cyres we believe in offering learning opportunities which challenge pupils, help them realise that they can succeed and support them in reaching their full potential. Universal Provision is pivotal to our teaching and learning strategy and ensures that every child, regardless of their ability, is able to succeed both academically and socially. This is achieved through excellent teaching which has been appropriately differentiated to meet the needs of every child.

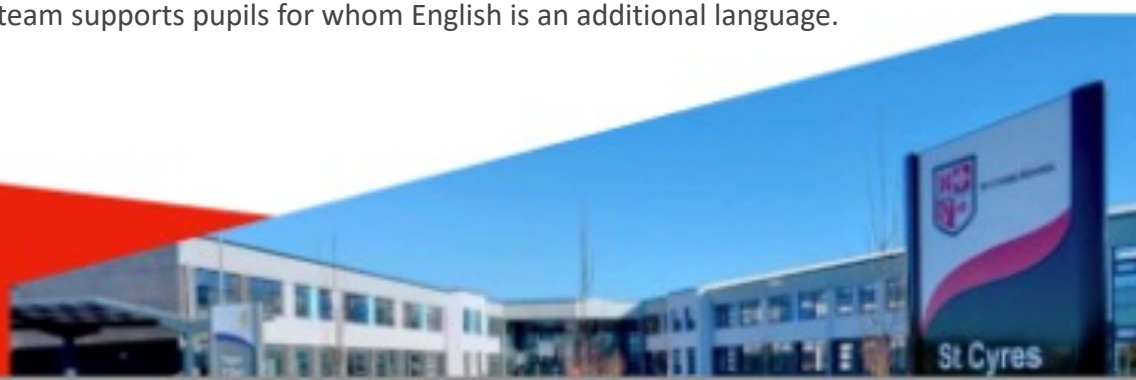
Our Additional Learning Needs team work with pupils with identified Additional Learning Needs, helping them to overcome their barriers to learning and delivering Additional Learning Provision (ALP) to further support their learning.



St Cyres School is the Vale of Glamorgan mainstream secondary school resourced to meet the needs of pupils with a Physical or Medical need (PMED) and/or Hearing Impairment (HI). Admission to the HI and PMED resources bases is managed by the Vale of Glamorgan and once allocated to St Cyres School, pupils benefit from targeted support from a team of specialist staff.

The ALN team is further supported by a Pupil Support Centre which helps pupils with emotional regulation difficulties overcome their barriers to learning. A Learning Support Centre offers in class support, wellbeing (ELSA) support and targeted interventions to develop literacy and numeracy skills.

Finally, our EMAS team supports pupils for whom English is an additional language.



# Sixth Form Life

## Bywyd y Chweched Dosbarth

St Cyres 6th Form enjoy all the benefits of being part of a 21st century school, as well as having their own specialist accommodation which comprises the 6th Form Centre, dedicated 6th Form classrooms, a Silent Study Room and a 6th Form cafe.

Results at both AS and A Level are excellent and the majority of our leavers in 6th Form leave for their first choice university. Most pupils study 4 AS Level and WBQ in Year 12 and 3 A Level and WBQ in Year 13. Many of our students move on to study in Russell Group universities and we have a good record of supporting students who apply for Oxbridge and for Medicine and Dentistry. A smaller number of students move on successfully to apprenticeship placements. In all cases, we get to know students well during their time with us, and we are always able to support them in their journey to their chosen destination.



St Cyres 6th Form is a warm, welcoming environment and, whilst the majority of our students who join our Sixth Form come from within our own Year 11, we also welcome applications from Year 11 pupils from other local schools. The 6th Form at St Cyres School has its own strong identity, but the students have a unique role as leaders and role models for the rest of the school. The school offers a wide range of post-16 courses for students, as shown on page 7 of this prospectus.

Students receive outstanding pastoral and educational advice at St Cyres School. Students will be part of a Learning Coach group and the Learning Coach will oversee progress. Learning Coaches will be a specialist in Post-16 issues, and will help you to manage the transition to a whole new way of learning, as well as providing you with the guidance you will need to decide on your future plans.



# Behaviour for Learning

## Ymddygiad ar gyfer Dysgu

St Cyres School believes that positive behaviour ensures all learners enjoy and succeed in their learning. St Cyres School prides itself on the behaviour of its pupils and views positive behaviour as key to succeeding in our mission statement of 'Strive Together; Challenge Yourself Realise Everyone can Succeed'.

This message is regularly promoted in a positive way, with the following poster being displayed in every classroom and office space.

**Be  
Safe.**

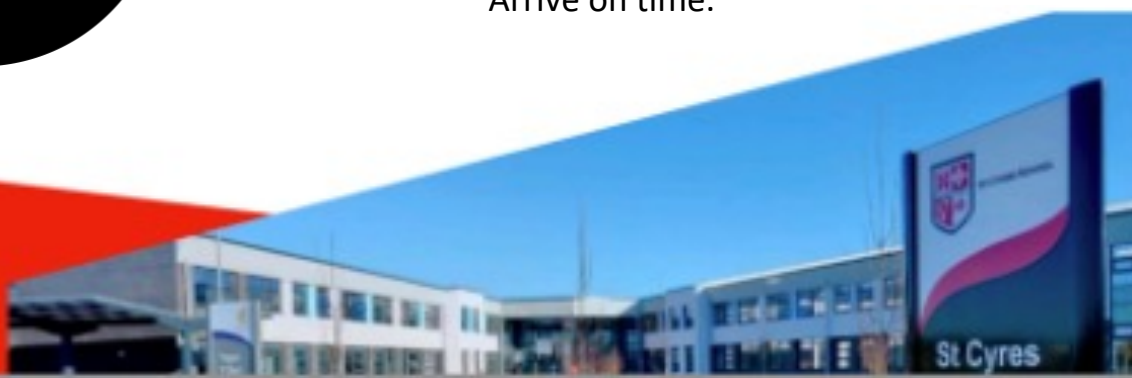
Be where you should be, when you should be there.  
Treat the inside of school differently to the outside.  
Follow requests and instructions from all staff.  
Mobile Phones not to be used or seen.  
Be calm through the corridors.  
Allow everyone space.  
Listen for the bell.  
Stay to the left.

**Show  
Respect.**

Treat others the way you want to be treated.  
Follow Instructions and requests.  
Be polite and kind to everyone.  
Listen to teachers, and pupils.  
Allow others their freedoms.  
Do not swear.  
Insult no-one.  
Care.

**Make  
Progress.**

Come with all equipment in your bag.  
Respect your book and equipment.  
Work to the best of your ability.  
Ask for help if you need it.  
Do not spoil the learning.  
Listen to the teacher.  
Arrive on time.



# Wellbeing Lles

The welfare and wellbeing of our young people is a key priority for all staff at St Cyres school. The Pastoral team is available throughout the school day and are based in the Hub. The Hub offers a safe inclusive space where pupils can discuss concerns, communicate appointments and contact key staff or home, all with the support and guidance from our Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Assistants.

Each Year group has a Head of Year who has overall responsibility for pupils' academic progress and wellbeing, and each Year group also has a Pastoral Support Assistant who works with the Head of Year to support pupils in that Year group. Pastoral Support Assistants are non-teaching members of staff. There are also other teaching and non-teaching staff who support pupil wellbeing across the school, including staff who provide specific wellbeing interventions.

St Cyres School has adopted a whole school approach to pupil wellbeing. There are dedicated areas within the school which are safe, calm environments for staff to deliver wellbeing related interventions. A number of group and individual interventions focus on key themes such as mental wellbeing, nurture, friendships, self esteem and resilience building.

We also offer support with bereavements, family relationships, emotions and anxiety. As a result, many pupils feel that their teachers know them and care for them.

## Learning Coach Groups Grwpiau Hyfforddiant Dysgu

There are 210 pupils in each Year group and these are organised into 8 Learning Coach groups which are broadly mixed ability.

The Head of Year leads a team of 8 Learning Coaches who have daily contact with pupils. They monitor the personal wellbeing, attendance, progress and achievements of all learners in their group. Pupils are encouraged to show empathy and be aspirational learners.



# Facilities

## Cyfleusterau



Photography Suite



6 Microsoft Windows IT Suites



7 fully equipped Science labs



3 fully equipped Technology workshops



2 multi-use Games areas



260 seater auditorium



Dining room



Fitness Suite



2 fully-equipped Food Technology rooms



110m all weather Running track



Fully stocked Learning Resource Centre



Full size 3G pitch



3 grass pitches & artificial cricket pitch



2 music technology suites



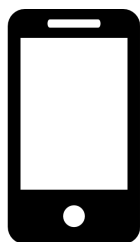
Sports Hall



Dance Studio

# Find out more

## Darganfyddwch fwy



Phone the school on  
02920 708708



Email the school on  
[contact@stcyres.org](mailto:contact@stcyres.org)



[www.stcyres.org](http://www.stcyres.org)



[@stcyresschool](https://www.instagram.com/stcyresschool)

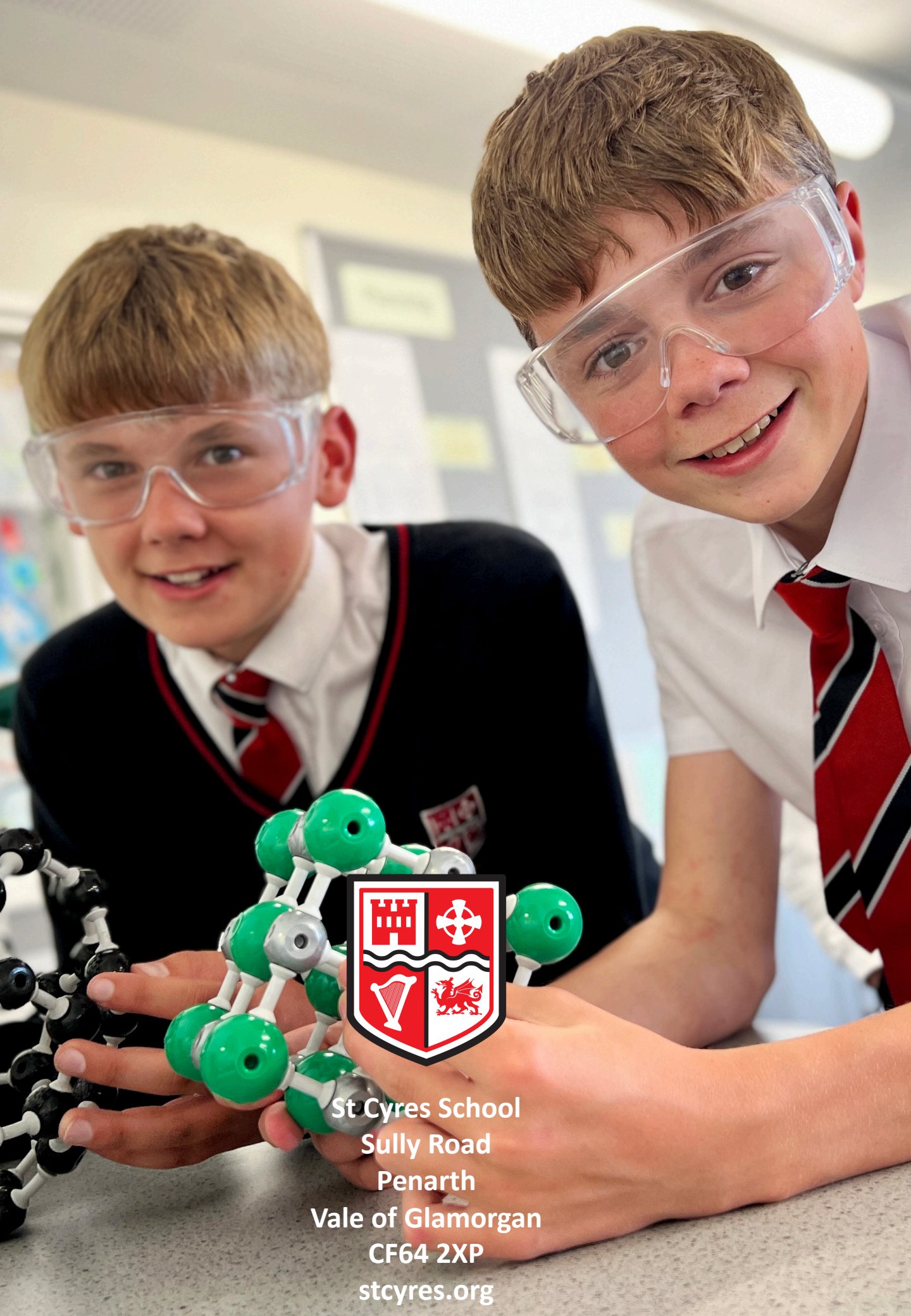


If you are interested in our school, then feel free to pay us a visit. Our annual Open Evening takes place on **Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 6pm – 8pm** so please come along with your child and your family to see what we have to offer. Please see our website for more information. Alternatively, if you wish to visit during the school day, please contact us using the details above.





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