

Elfed High School Ysgol Uwchradd Elfed

Outstanding Learning Community



Rated
'Excellent'
by Estyn
2015

Welcome to Elfed High School

Outstanding Learning Community

We are pleased and proud to welcome you to Elfed High School, where the staff and students are passionate about learning.

Our purpose is to be an Outstanding Learning Community, based on the values of respect, honesty, integrity, high aspirations and self-belief. Elfed High School students take pride in their learning and strive to exceed their previous best.

For three consecutive years, Elfed High School has been in placed in the 'GREEN' support category by Welsh Government. It is 'a highly effective school which is well run, has strong leadership and is clear about their priorities for improvement.' In 2015, Estyn inspectors judged the School as 'excellent' in their 2015 inspection.

- **The school's current performance is 'excellent'**
- **The school's prospects for improvement are 'excellent'**

These judgements were based on the standards of students' achievement, the provision for learning and the quality of leadership.

As a school community we have high expectations of all our students and we are quick to praise and reward their effort and achievement. We promote a love of learning and provide our students with support and guidance from excellent teachers and pastoral staff. We encourage all students to make the most of learning opportunities in lessons and in wide ranging activities outside the curriculum. They value the high quality of care and guidance they receive and they take pride in our school community.

Like you, we want your child to be happy, safe and successful. We want your child to become an adult of whom you and we are proud. We will work with you to encourage your child to become confident and resilient, with a desire to make the most of life.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child. Please contact us for more information or call to arrange a visit; you will be most welcome.





Elfed High School Joint Winners
Wales Quality Award

'Elfed High School aims to support and challenge every student to succeed by instilling the values of respect, honesty, integrity, high aspirations and self-belief.'

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'Welsh Quality Centre assessors discovered a progressive, encouraging and transparent atmosphere.'



Elfed is a 'highly effective school'

Congratulations to students, staff, governors and families on the excellent outcome in the new Welsh Government ratings.

Purpose & Values

A message from the Chair of Governors

In recent years, Elfed High School has consistently been one of the top performing secondary schools in Wales.

Governing body policies underpin the school's commitment to ensure that every student, regardless of any additional need, enjoys the success they work for and deserve.

In 2016, Elfed High School was presented with the Wales Quality Award. The Elfed High School is only the second school in Wales to have earned this prestigious recognition, placing the school amongst the best organisations in the United Kingdom, not just in education, but in any sector. The Award is a robust test of the commitment of the leadership team and staff to create, manage and maintain a level of excellence that goes far beyond examination success. To have won it after

the first assessment is unprecedented and is indicative of the school's strong adherence to the fundamental concepts of excellence over a number of years.

The governing body is, rightly, very proud of the achievements of the staff and students of the Elfed High School, but the stark truth is that we could not get the good student results or aspire to excellence in the future without the strong support of their families and the wider community. We thank you for putting your faith in the school and helping us prepare your child to make the most of their opportunities for success in later life.

Governors welcome you to our school and invite you to become members of 'Team Elfed' – to be a part of our continuing success story.



'I can never thank this school enough for the fantastic opportunities that it has given me.'

Former Student



Our Purpose is to be an Outstanding Learning Community.

Elfed High School has a high-performance culture where students are supported to achieve a personal standard of excellence.

We are proud of our Welsh identity and celebrate our unique culture, language and traditions whilst preparing students for the world of work in a competitive national and international market.

Our values are the guiding principles and beliefs for everyone in our school community.

They are

- respect
- honesty and integrity
- aspiration and self belief

Elfed High School is a mixed comprehensive school maintained by Flintshire County Council. We provide excellent learning opportunities for the whole community of Buckley, including our partner schools: Mountain Lane, Westwood, Southdown and Drury Primary Schools and beyond.

Students learn in a calm and safe learning environment where everyone is included. They benefit from excellent facilities with modern laboratories, studios and workshops. Our theatre, music suite and drama studio are very well used to develop skills in the Arts. The indoor swimming pool, full sized all-weather pitch, gymnasium and sports hall are shared with the Buckley Leisure Centre, providing a wide range of sports activities outside school hours.



“Elfed is a school where everyone, every single pupil, no matter who they are, no matter what their story, is helped and challenged to succeed.”

Huw Lewis, Minister for Education and Skills

Learning

Learning is at the heart of Elfed High School. We support our students to enjoy learning, to acquire the knowledge and skills for the world of work, develop enquiring minds and be confident to express their opinions.

Learning in Key Stage 3

Subjects include: English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, Art, French, Geography, History, Information Technology, Music, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Technology and Personal and Social Education.

Learning in Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) individual learning pathways enable everyone to study the subjects they find interesting. Optional subjects include Geography, History, French, Music, Art, ICT, Business Studies, Design and Technology, Child Development, Food, Engineering and Philosophy and Ethics. All students continue to study English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies, Welsh and Physical Education.

All students have a work placement that helps them to learn about the world of work, with local employers providing some excellent placements.

Religious Education and Collective Worship

Religious Studies are broadly nondenominational and part of the curriculum for all students. Students are involved in daily collective worship, based on a moral or religious theme, including a prayer.

Sex and Relationships Education

Learning about sex and relationships is set in the context of social responsibility and personal relationships are discussed in relation to parenthood and family.

Elfed Extra

Elfed Extra is an exciting programme of activities that take place before school, after school and at lunchtime.

- Play musical instruments, join a band and sing in the choir.
- Develop creativity and communication skills through Art and Drama.
- Take part in sport.
- Travel on school visits.
- Help organising charity events.
- Contribute to the student newspaper, Adlais Elfed Echo.





How we learn

Students develop their skills using individual programmes in literacy, numeracy and digital competence that unlock their potential across the curriculum. Estyn inspectors were very impressed by our excellent practice developing students' literacy and numeracy skills. Our enrichment programmes boost skills at all levels and increase students' enjoyment of learning.

Elfed High School is an inclusive school, with opportunities for everyone to achieve personal excellence. Teachers plan lessons with learning activities to suit all students and learning styles.

- We recognise that more able and talented students thrive on extra challenges and provide extension activities to help them reach the highest levels.
- Students with additional learning needs have the best support to meet their social and learning needs. We overcome barriers to learning by working in partnership with parents and skilled professionals.

- The school building is accessible for all students, staff and visitors. Our additional needs resource supports students who find learning difficult. Please call the school for more information about our bespoke programmes for individual students.

How we check on progress

We support every student to make the best possible progress and update parents and carers regularly throughout the year. Teachers monitor attitude and progress towards challenging personal targets. There are regular updates on student wellbeing and a full annual written report on progress and achievement. Families are invited to meet with staff at Progress Evenings and at any other time to suit them.



'Pupils behave exceptionally well and have very positive attitudes to learning.'

Estyn 2015

Care

Elfed High School students benefit from individual care and support.

Elfed High School is a very friendly school with a positive ethos based on understanding, respect and co-operation.

We encourage excellent attendance and punctuality and provide the support needed for outstanding academic progress. Students benefit from the care and attention from their Tutor and Personal Mentor. Pastoral Teams remove any barriers to learning through advice, guidance and by working with parents and carers. Learning Coaches support students as they prepare for their examinations.

We welcome contact from families. If there are any concerns we want to address them efficiently and quickly. Similarly, if you have any suggestions on how we can improve what we do, we would like to hear about them.



Expectations and Rewards

The Elfed Wellbeing Policy encourages all students to be the best they can be. Teachers look out for reasons to praise and reward students when they take on new challenges. We use the Vivo online rewards system which parents are able to monitor. Students enjoy exchanging their points for goods from our Vivo Shop or making donations to charity.





Welcoming new students – ‘Smooth Move’

Primary school pupils and families enjoy the Smooth Move to Elfed programme of learning opportunities in the years running up to their change of school.

We keep in touch with primary school teachers so that we really know and understand every child’s strengths and know about any support that may be needed. We help new students settle in quickly, so that they feel happy and confident and reach their true potential at Elfed High School.

Parents, carers and primary pupils are invited to the Open Day in October, to see the facilities and meet students and staff. New students spend two days in Elfed High School during the last term of Year 6, to get to know one another and for a taste of life in a secondary school.

‘I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Elfed and found the school to be so warm and accommodating. I left the school feeling really inspired and having learnt a lot.’

Additional Learning Needs
Officer for Conwy

We try our best to keep friends together when allocating tutor groups, whilst keeping a mix of ability in every class. All new students and parents sign up to the Home School Agreement that sets the standard for us to work together with shared values and expectations. We welcome students from schools other than our local partner schools.

‘In year’ transfers are made with the support of Flintshire’s admissions team. You can contact them on **01352 752121**. We are pleased to meet with parents of prospective students at any time to ensure a **‘smooth move’** for all our students.

Please contact the school on **01244 550 217** to arrange an appointment.



‘I feel my son’s transition from primary to secondary school was handled very well, thus enabling him to settle in very quickly and well’.

Parent Perception Survey

Organisation

Equality and Diversity

Elfed High School is committed to equality of opportunity for all, regardless of gender, race, age, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, ability/disability.

We promote attitudes that value diversity and ensure that all aspects of the school's activities encourage positive approaches to the principle of equal opportunities.

A full copy of the School Equality Plan is available on request.

Child Protection

All staff are trained in Child Protection and have a duty to report concerns about the well-being of students.

Looked After Children are supported in line with Welsh Government recommendations and the Headteacher is responsible for promoting their educational achievement.

The School Day

The school day is divided into six lessons of 50 minutes. Students should be in school by 8.45am for the start of the morning session at 8.55am and the afternoon session finishes at 3.30pm.

Health and Safety

Students and staff co-operate to ensure the health and safety of all users of the school site. Students are expected to follow the basic rules that ensure a healthy environment for learning and teaching in school. Parents and carers are asked to support the school by encouraging their child to co-operate in this respect. A copy of the Health and Safety Policy is available on request.





Concerns and Complaints

We encourage those who care for our students to raise any concerns they have as soon as possible. If the first response to a concern/complaint is felt to be unsatisfactory, the issue should be put in writing to the Headteacher who will investigate and resolve the complaint. If the complaint remains unresolved, a formal complaint can be made to the Chair of the Governing Body at the school. The school complaints procedure conforms to Welsh Government guidance.

For student concerns we follow Welsh Government and The Wales Children's Commissioner guidance. Students can raise any concerns they have with the School Council, Tutor or mentor. There is a formal process to follow where concerns/complaints are not resolved in the first instance.

The School Admissions Policy

The Admissions Policy is determined by the Local Authority. Normal admission is into Year 7 (students aged 11), but older students are welcomed to the school. They will be guided and mentored to take a full part in all the activities the school offers. Parents and carers who are considering transferring their child to the Elfed should contact the school reception for advice and guidance.

The latest school performance information, attendance figures, calendar, term and holiday dates and student destinations are available from the school office and displayed on the website www.elfedhs.co.uk



'Pupils' performance in qualifications including English and Mathematics is outstanding.'

Estyn 2015

'The teachers' caring attitude outweighed my expectations. They have been outstanding. I cannot praise them enough. They have instilled so much self belief and confidence in my child'.

Parent

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The full version of the Elfed High School Prospectus is published on the website **www.elfedhs.co.uk**

Visits to school

Parents and carers who wish to visit the school are welcome to make an appointment with the office reception staff who will try to arrange a date and time with the appropriate member of the team who can answer your questions and respond to your needs.