



Rated **'Excellent'** by Estyn in 2015

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Smooth Move to Elfed



Congratulations to all the families who completed the Smooth Moves for Families programme.

Primary pupils and their families attended the series of four sessions to find out about the school and ask any questions in a friendly and informal setting. More than forty families took part this year, developing a valuable partnership between home and school as we look forward to September and the start of Year 7.

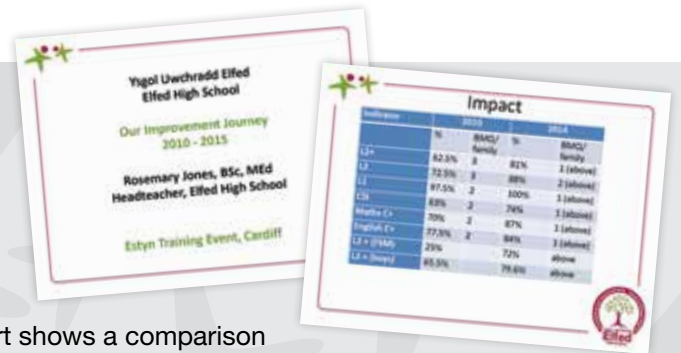
"Really great idea, useful for parents and children"

"The children are already empowered with the confidence that they can be part of Elfed straight away. It has been great to see how much the children are valued."



Estyn Inspectors learn from our 'improvement journey'

Rosemary Jones, Headteacher, was invited to address Estyn Inspectors on the subject of Elfed High School's 'Improvement Journey' at their training event in Cardiff. The chart shows a comparison of the 'good' standards in the 2010 Estyn inspection with the 'excellent standards' in 2015.



Rosemary Jones said, **"I felt privileged to share our experience with the inspectors. I explained that outstanding learning is at the core of all we do, with our expert teachers providing top quality experiences for our students. The feedback afterwards was brilliant, with inspectors saying that my presentation was 'inspirational'."**



Students remember the fallen soldiers of the First World War

Year 8 students developed their skills in Drama, Dance, Art and Music through an innovative Creative Arts Project. Funded by the Arts Council of Wales and a 'Remembering the First World War' Grant, the project developed the theme of the First World War. Primary school pupils were treated to a presentation that brought all the skills together, with every Year 8 student making a contribution according to their strengths and interests.

The talented Elfed staff team were joined by professional artists and performers for the week's activities: Cathryn Griffith, Laura Heap, Jamie Jenkins and Ynyr Llwyd.



Adventurous activities in Llandegla

Congratulations to all the Year 7 students who camped out over night as part of their Skills Week challenge. They developed their skills as they pitched tents, cooked meals and solved a series of challenging problems. Families enjoyed the regular updates posted on the Elfed PE Department's Twitter site.





Year 9 Airbus Challenge

Congratulations to the Year 9 students who took part in the Airbus UK Glider Challenge. Two teams of Elfed High School students showed fantastic teamwork skills as they designed and tested their innovative solutions. They learnt about the engineering and manufacture of the Airbus wings during a tour of the Broughton Airbus site.



Community excavates the past



Elfed students and pupils from local primary schools and community volunteers have been busy excavating the site of Price's Pottery on the school field. They have been searching for the kiln that dates from the 16th Century. The excavation has been organised by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust and funded by CADW. Community Archaeologist, Viviana Culshaw, has been delighted to work with the young people of Buckley and has shared her knowledge and skills during the three week project.



Estyn reports on 'Best Practice' at Elfed High School

Elfed High School is featured in two best practice case studies published by Estyn inspectors.

Our excellent leadership in Literacy and Numeracy has been featured in the report on 'Best Practice in Leadership Development'.

Elfed High School's proactive approach to supporting other schools to develop their practice has also been featured as best practice in the report 'School to school support and collaboration'.

Both the reports were published by Estyn in June 2015 and are available on the Estyn website www.estyn.gov.uk and on the news section of our school website elfedhs.co.uk



A wonderful celebration for the Class of 2015

Year 11 students marked the end of five very happy years at Elfed High School with a fabulous Prom. Families and friends, who have provided excellent support over the years, were there to see them arrive at the venue in style. The event attracted the attention of the press, with some fantastic photos of these brilliant young people. As a school community we congratulate them on their many impressive achievements and wish them every success in the future.



Record-breaking students excel in athletics

Students gave of their very best in a range of events, including Flintshire Sports and Elfed's own Sports Day. Records have been broken as talented students have excelled in their events. Elfed High School students have represented Flintshire and North Wales in national competitions. Well done to all who have taken part.



Author 'splashes out' on Elfed's Library

The Library Committee organised a fabulous fundraising event that attracted the attention of leading author, Anthony Horowitz. Students really enjoyed the event, with many smiles and some very wet sponges. News of the event reached the popular author by way of the Twitter and he responded by sending a generous donation to the appeal.

'A top performer deserving better recognition'

Flintshire's Chief Executive Colin Everett, came see learning in action at Elfed High School.



He enjoyed meeting the staff and students and congratulated everyone on the school's excellent Estyn inspection.



Is your child eligible for free school meals?

The high cost of raising a young family means that everyone could do with some help. Free school meals save you time and money and provide reassurance that your children are eating a healthy, balanced lunch every day. **If you are on benefits or unemployed you may be able to claim free school meals for your child. Details are on the website.**



Elfed News

News about Elfed High School is available on our website, together with policies and updates. You can also follow us on Twitter.

www.elfedhs.co.uk  [@elfedhs](https://twitter.com/elfedhs)

Elfed High School, Mill Lane Buckley CH7 3HQ

School is closed for the summer holiday from:
**Monday 20th July to
Wednesday 2nd September 2015.**

We look forward to welcoming students back for the new school year on:
Thursday 3rd September 2015.