

Another year of brilliant results

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Outstanding Learning Community

As 2013 draws to a close we are celebrating another year of outstanding academic achievements. Brilliant results in GCSE and A Levels have broken previous records and put Elfed High School students ahead as they move on in their education and enter the world of work.

The latest data published by the Welsh Government recognises the excellent achievements of students here at Elfed High School. We are above the majority of schools in Flintshire and Wales and come out at the top in vital performance indicators:

- Top in Wales for the percentage achieving 5 A* - C GCSE grades including English and Maths (with FSM).
- Excellent added value, based upon the students' achievements during five years at Elfed High School.

Congratulations to students and school staff on this fantastic achievement and to the parents and carers who have encouraged and supported our students at home.

Thinking of others



Elfed High School students have generously donated gifts to children who are much less fortunate than themselves. Well done. Da iawn.



Learning Tree

Pyramid Club members proudly display their Learning Tree at the Bistre Church Christmas Tree Festival.

Season's Greetings / Cyfarchion y Tymor

Best wishes for a joyous holiday and a Happy New Year.

Dymuniadau gorau am wyliau Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

Feedback from parents and carers...

'My daughter absolutely loves school and this has been reflected in her attendance and attitude results. As parents we would like to thank you for helping to make her experience at school an enjoyable one.' See the back page for more feedback.

Elfed High School is closed from **Monday 23rd December 2013** and reopens for students on **Tuesday 7th January 2014**





Elfed High School Outstanding Learning Community



Thank you, Year 7 Diolch yn fawr, Blwddyn 7

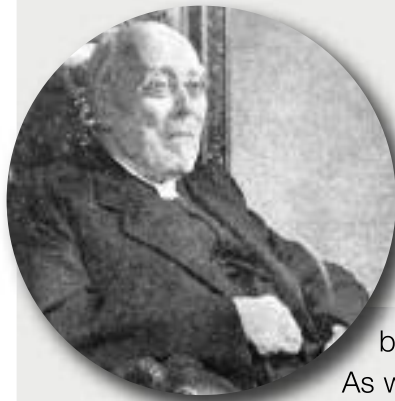
Year 7 students spent a day snug and warm in their pyjamas to raise money for Children in Need. Mrs Leftwick, Head of Learning said “the students in Year 7 have been absolutely fantastic this term. They have settled in so quickly and are already making a brilliant contribution to our school community.”

★ Congratulations! Longyfarchiadau!

After a brilliant performance in the Flintshire round of the Police Liaison Quiz, Elfed High School’s team of four go on to represent the county in the North Wales finals in Llandudno. Well done. Da iawn.



Remembering **Elfed** Cofio **Elfed**



Sixty years ago Buckley’s brand new secondary school was named after Howell ‘Elfed’ Lewis. Newspaper reports from the time show that Elfed said that he was pleased and proud that the new school would bear his name.

As we find out more about his life, we are proud that the school bears the name of Elfed, who was not only an accomplished writer and scholar, but also a man who dedicated his life to encouraging and caring for others through times when life was very hard.

Born in Carmarthen in 1860, Elfed gave his first sermon at the age of thirteen. He was known as the ‘boy preacher’ and quickly gained a reputation for his confidence, his faith and his gentle manner. The 1881 census shows that Elfed lived in Hawkesbury Place and preached in John’s Congregational Chapel. He was only 20 years old and, known as ‘the lad’, he was much loved by the Buckley community.

Connor Beattie, Year 11 history student has studied the census, “ I noticed that Elfed is shown as a boarder in the house and I can see that the other families worked in the colliery or the brickworks. The community has changed so much now and life is not as hard as it would have been then.”

In 1884 Elfed moved away from Buckley and he kept in touch with the town, returning every year to meet friends in the community and to preach in the chapel. Elfed died in his 94th year on 10th December 1953 and didn’t live to see the school open three weeks later on 5th January 1954.

Year 11 students are performing two of the many hymns written by Elfed in the Memorial Service. “The words are really thoughtful and interesting. It is very special to sing these hymns in memory of Elfed. We respect his life and work and the example he set through his kindness and by taking on a challenge and not giving up.”



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60th Anniversary Presentation Evening



High performing students of all ages have been nominated by their teachers to receive awards this year. The guests of Honour at the event represent the six decades of the school's history, including Mr I Budd, Flintshire's Director of Education, Mr K Grandfield, former Headteacher and Cllr N Phillips OBE, a student in the 1950s. Pictured above are the award winners from Year 11. Well done. Da iawn.

Smooth Move to Elfed High School

Year 3 pupils from Drury, Mountain Lane, Southdown and Westwood Primary Schools spent an energetic day at the recent Dance Festival.

The pupils learnt three dances, including the Haka, a traditional war dance from New Zealand. They were supported by enthusiastic helpers from Elfed's Year 10, along with Mrs A Woolgar, Mr B Lewis Jones and Jamie from NEW Dance.

"I've had so much fun today. I really liked learning the Haka", said a pupil from Southdown.

Mr Lewis Jones said he had a great time working with the pupils who were a credit to their primary schools. "It was a fantastic day. Year 3 really immersed themselves in the experience of learning new dances."

The event was organised as part of our Smooth Move Transition Programme that encourages primary school pupils to build confidence and enjoy learning in the high school environment.

There is more information about the transition programme on the 'Transition from Primary' page in the Parents section of the Elfed High School website, www.elfedhs.co.uk. You will find a copy of the programme of events for years 4, 5 and 6 and many more photographs in the news section.

Please contact us on 01244 550217 to arrange to visit the school at any time.

Elfed Parent and Teachers' Network



We enjoyed an evening in the company of creative cooks, learning about Thai cookery and sugar craft cake decoration. Look out for details of our next event, the Network Quiz, to be held in March. All parents and carers of Elfed Students are welcome to the network. See our page on the website for more information.

Elfed High School, Buckley CH7 3HQ 01244 550217

Outstanding Learning Community

Sharing Outstanding Practice

Elfed High School leads the Secondary Sector.



Estyn inspectors, secondary headteachers, subject leaders and researchers from all over Wales have visited Elfed High School this term, seeking to share the excellent work that is ongoing at the school. Details of our excellent practice in literacy and numeracy have already been published by Estyn and now they are interested in our well established coaching and mentoring programme.

Some schools have focused on excellence in motivation, behaviour and wellbeing, whilst others have observed outstanding practice in Mathematics. Headteacher, Rosemary Jones, says, "We are always very happy to welcome visitors to our school. I hope that other schools will benefit from sharing the expertise and experience of our staff."

Elfed High School
1954 to 2014 60th Anniversary Events

Open Afternoon

60th Anniversary Exhibition & Tea Party

Saturday 18th January 2014 2.00pm to 4.00pm

You are welcome to visit the school on this Open Afternoon, along with your family and friends. Enjoy an exhibition of memorabilia from the last 60 years and meet up with old classmates. You are all invited to a 60th Anniversary tea party in our Dining Room. A photographer will be on hand to record generations of Elfed students at this special family occasion.

60th Anniversary Concert

with the Royal Buckley Brass Band

Wednesday 12th February 2014 at 7.00pm

You are welcome to this celebration of 60 years of learning at Elfed. Tickets will be on sale at the school office at £3.00, call 01244 550217 to reserve your seat.

Dodgeball is a real hit, with high attendance at the weekly after school club, provided as part of the school's 5 x 60 programme.



British Champion

A Year 7 student has triumphed in the recent British Tai Kwando championships in Cardiff.

Congratulations!
Llongyfarchiadau!

Middle School Wellbeing Updates were sent out to parents and carers last week, with information about praise, motivation and attendance. Here are some of the replies Mrs Rowlinson has received:

'I'm very pleased with the update. My son enjoys learning at Elfed and doesn't want to miss a day.'

'Vivos, great idea!'

'I'm so pleased with this feedback and I am one very proud mum. Well done.'

'Wow, what a star! Very, very proud parents'

Keep up to date with all the latest news from Elfed High School's
'Outstanding Learning Community' by visiting our new website

www.elfedhs.co.uk