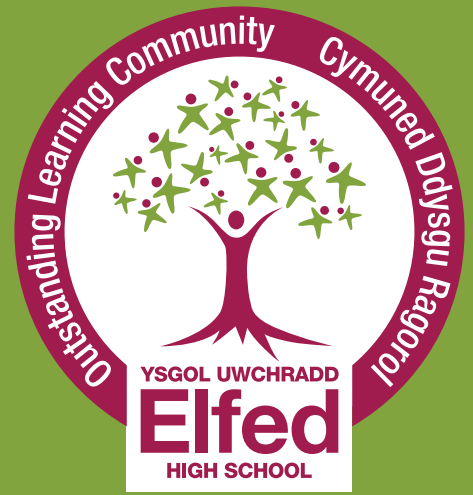


# Elfed High School Ysgol Uwchradd Elfed

School Prospectus

Outstanding Learning Community



Rated  
**'Excellent'**  
by Estyn  
2015

# Welcome to Elfed High School

## Outstanding Learning Community

I am pleased and proud to welcome you to Elfed High School, where the staff and students are passionate about learning. We enjoy working together to be the best that we can be.

Elfed High School students achieve at the highest levels and make excellent progress compared with other schools. The Welsh Government has put the school in the 'GREEN' support category, with a grade 1 for standards. Elfed High School is 'a highly effective school which is well run, has strong leadership and is clear about their priorities for improvement.'

Estyn inspectors have agreed that our school is excellent in their 2015 inspection.

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

The judgements are based on the standards of students' achievement, the provision and the leadership at the school.

As a school community we share the values of respect, honesty and integrity, high aspirations and self belief. We have high expectations of all our students and we are quick to praise and reward their effort and achievement.

At Elfed High School we love learning and our students benefit from the support and guidance of the best teachers. We encourage students to make the most of all 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 a pride in our school community.

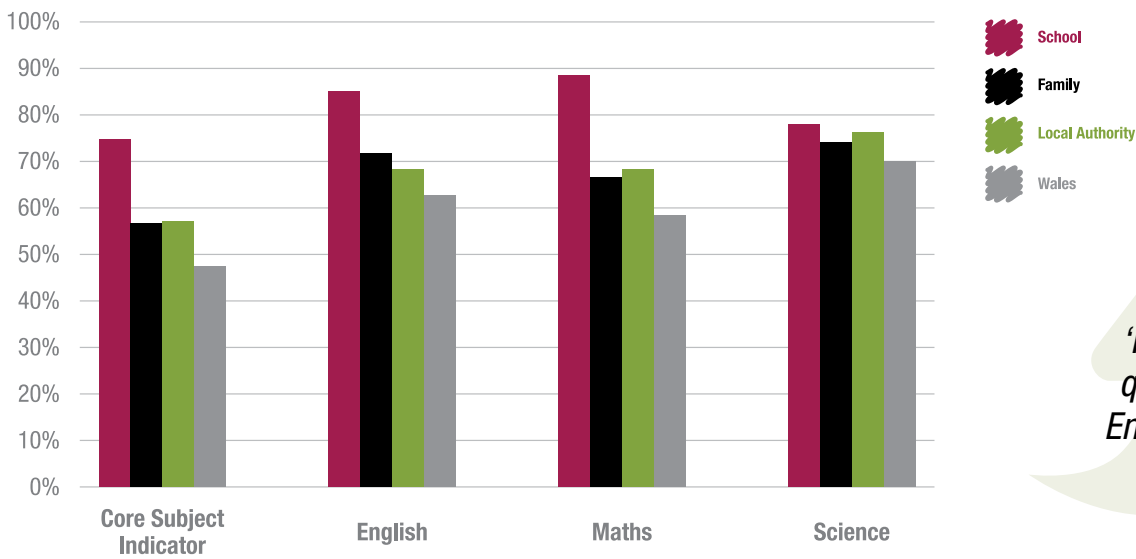
Like you, we want your child to be happy, safe and successful and to become an adult of whom you and we are proud. We will provide the opportunities to excel and encourage your child to become confident and resilient, with a desire to make the most of life.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child. Please do not hesitate to write or telephone for more information or to arrange a visit; you will be most welcome.

**Rosemary Jones**  
Headteacher



## % Students achieving GCSE grade by subject, 2014



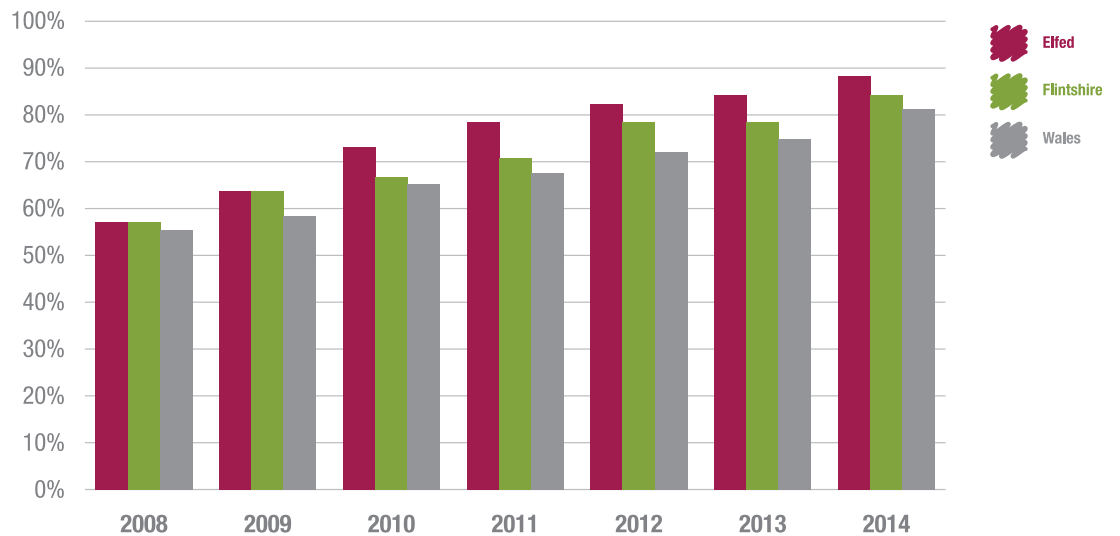
*'Pupils' performance in qualifications including English and Mathematics is outstanding.'*

Estyn 2015

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

Former Student

## % Y11 Students Achieving 5A\* - C



# Purpose & Values

The governing body is very proud of the achievements of the staff and students of the Elfed High School.

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

The performance indicator that is particularly pleasing for governors is the value-added measure of student achievement. That is, students in Year 11 attain at the level or do better than was predicted for them when they came into the school.

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.

Every student who has left Elfed High School over the last two years has gone on to further or higher education or employment with at least five GCSEs; not many schools in Wales have achieved that!

Governors welcome you to our school and invite you to become a part of this continuing success story.

**Ray Wells**  
Chair of Governors





## 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.

### Values

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, in lessons, outside lessons and through the students' personal development as members of our wider community. We support 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.

## What we learn

In **Key Stage 3** students learn English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, Art, French, Geography, History, Information Technology, Music, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Technology and Personal and Social Education.

In **Key Stage 4** individual learning pathways enable everyone to study the subjects they find interesting and that are suitable for their ability. Optional subjects include Geography, History, French, Music, Art, ICT, Business Studies, Design and Technology, Health and Social Care, Food, Engineering and Philosophy and Ethics. All students continue to study English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies, Welsh and Physical Education.

**Religious Studies** are broadly non-denominational 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. Learning about sex and relationships is set in the context of social responsibility and personal relationships are discussed in relation to parenthood and family. Parents and carers are entitled to withdraw their child from Sex Education and /or Religious

Studies as a whole, or any part of the on request in writing to the Headteacher and alternative activities will be arranged.

## Elfed Extra

Elfed Extra activities before and after school and at lunchtime provide excellent opportunities for our students to:



- Play musical instruments, join a band and sing in the choir.
- Develop creativity and communication skills through art and drama.
- Take part in sport such as rugby, netball, rounders, gymnastics, dance.
- Travel on school visits in Wales, the UK and abroad.
- Learn from inspirational visitors from industry and former students.
- Develop teamwork and communication skills.
- Test their skills in the Mathematics Challenge.
- Learn about leadership and working with others by organising charity events.
- Enjoy reading, writing and supporting other students through activities in the Library.
- Contribute to the student newspaper, Adlais Elfed Echo as reporter, editor or feature writer.



Elfed High School students learn to recognise their own strengths and meet their personal targets. They are encouraged to prepare for the world of work, employment and training.

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

#### How we learn

Students develop their **skills** using individual programmes in literacy and numeracy 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 challenge 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, including guest students from Ysgol Maes Hyfryd in Flint.

#### How we assess 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 is an annual written report on progress and achievement, and 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

## Our students benefit from individual care and support.

### Care

Elfed High School is a very friendly school with a positive ethos based on understanding, respect and co-operation. Learning Directors encourage excellent attendance, punctuality and outstanding academic progress.

Students benefit from the care and attention from their tutor and personal mentor. Pastoral Support Teams remove any barriers to learning through advice, guidance and by working with parents and carers. We welcome to contact from families if there are any concerns so we can address them efficiently and quickly.

Learning Coaching is also available to support students as they prepare for their examinations.



### Expectations and Rewards

The 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 that is also accessible for parents. Students enjoy exchanging their points for goods from our Vivo Shop or making donations to charity.







## Smooth Move to Elfed Admissions and Welcoming New Students



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.



We 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 and those who transfer mid-year.

We are pleased to meet with parents of prospective students at any time. Please contact the school on **01244 550217** 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

## A healthy environment for learning and teaching.

### Equality and Diversity

The Diversity and Equality Policy and Equality Plan demonstrate our commitment to equality of opportunity. We ensure that the school's activities encourage positive approaches to the principle of equal opportunities.

### Child Protection

All staff are trained in Child Protection and have a duty to report concerns about the well-being of students to the Child Protection Coordinator. 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 maintain a healthy environment for learning and teaching in school. Toilets are checked and cleaned regularly throughout the day. The external doors are on security locks during lessons and there is a CCTV system.





### Complaints Procedure

Any complaint 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 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](http://www.elfedhs.co.uk)

### 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, 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 help and guidance.



*'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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**Ysgol Uwchradd Elfed**  
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