



Outstanding Learning Community



Opened in 1954, the school was named after Hywel Elfed Lewis 1860-1953, the renowned bard and scholar who served as Archdruid of the National Eisteddfod of Wales from 1924 to 1928. In 1967 it became a Senior Comprehensive, serving a wide catchment area, including Buckley, Hawarden, Mynydd Isa, Saltney, Caergwrle and Hope. The school became fully comprehensive in 1973.



Contents

Welcome to the Elfed High School	5
A Message from the Chair of Governors	6
Outstanding Learning Community	7
Developing Students' Skills	10
More Able and Talented	12
Digital Competence	13
Physical Education	14
Music and Drama	15
Dining and Social Areas	16
Care and Support	19
Equality and Diversity	21
Uniform	24





“Welsh Quality Centre assessors discovered a progressive, encouraging and transparent atmosphere”

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

“Elfed is a very inclusive school with wellbeing at the heart of all aspects of school life”

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.

Elfed High School is a 'highly effective school which is well run, has strong leadership and is clear about the priorities for improvement.'

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.

Please contact us for more information or call to arrange a visit; you will be most welcome.

Purpose and Values

A Message from the Chair of Governors

As Chair of Governors, I am proud to be part of a school community that is ambitious for every young person. At Elfed, we believe that every pupil deserves to feel safe, valued and inspired to achieve their very best.

Our role as governors is to support and challenge the school, ensuring that every decision is made in the best interests of our pupils. We work closely with the Headteacher and staff to hold the school to account, promote high standards and ensure that all learners receive the very best educational opportunities.

Elfed High School is a welcoming and inclusive community where respect, kindness and aspiration underpin everything we do. Alongside academic success, we are committed to developing confident, resilient and compassionate young people who are well prepared for life beyond school.

I encourage you to visit our school, meet our dedicated staff and experience the warm, supportive atmosphere that makes Elfed such a special place. We look forward to working in partnership with you to help every pupil flourish and achieve their full potential.



“I can never thank this school enough for the fantastic opportunities 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 can 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, FORMER MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS**



Learning

As an 'Outstanding Learning Community', learning is at the heart of everything we do at Elfed High School. We support our students to become ambitious capable learners, enterprising creative contributors, ethical informed citizens and healthy confident individuals.

Learning in Years 7, 8 and 9

Subjects include: English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, Art, French, Geography, History, Digital Technology, Music, Drama, Religion, Values and Ethics, Wellbeing, Physical Education and Technology.

Learning in Years 10 and 11

Individual learning pathways enable everyone to study the subjects they find interesting. Optional subjects include Geography, History, French, Music, Art, Digital Technology, Business Studies, Travel and Tourism, Personnel Finance, Hospitality, Separate Sciences, Engineering, Drama, Sport, Physical Education, Philosophy and Ethics.

All students study English Language and English Literature, Mathematics and Mathematics: Numeracy, Science, Welsh, Religious Studies, Skills Challenge Certificate, Wellbeing 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.

Religion, Values and Ethics

Religious Studies are broadly non-denominational and part of the curriculum for all students. Students are involved in daily reflection based on morals, values and ethics.

Health and Wellbeing: Relationships, Sex Education

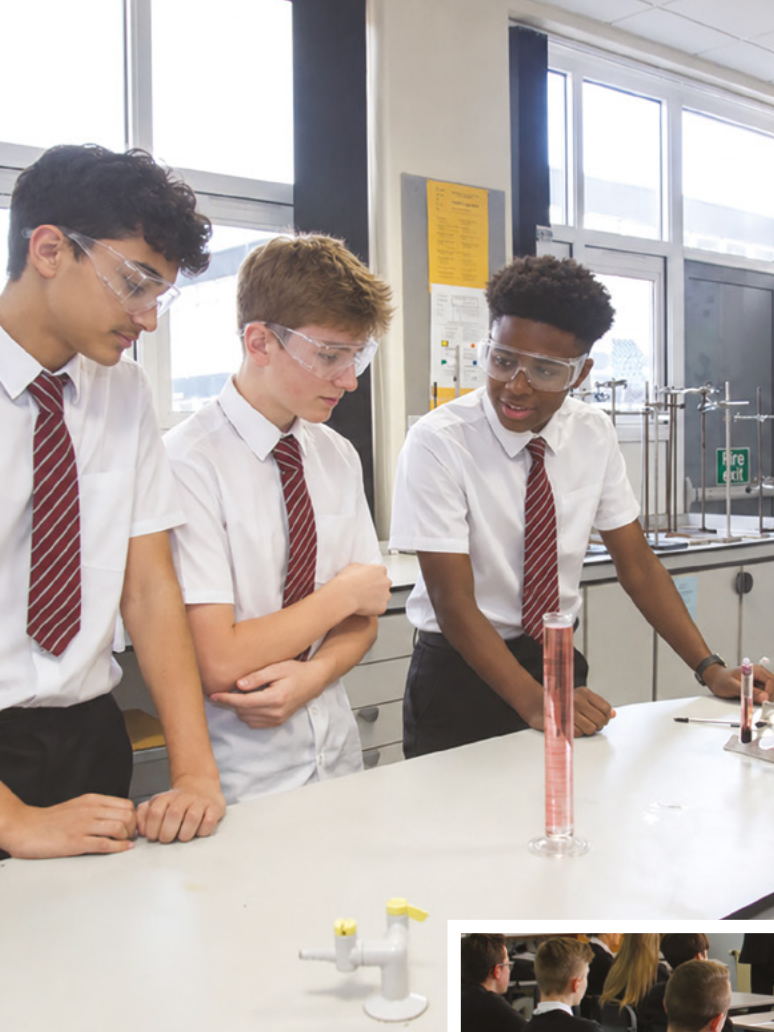
Learning about sex and relationships is set in the context of social responsibility and personal relationships are discussed in relation to parenthood and family.

Elfed Extra

Elfed Extra is an exciting and significant programme of activities that take place before school, during lunchtime and after school. Some examples of activities include the opportunity to:

- play musical instruments, join a band and sing in the choir;
- develop creativity and communication skills through Art and Elfed Youth Theatre;
- take part in a range of sports such as football, dodge ball and gymnastics;
- travel on school visit;
- help organise charity events.





How we learn

Elfed High School is an inclusive school, with opportunities for everyone to achieve personal excellence. We use Learning Plans to outline the knowledge and skills that will be developed in each unit of work.

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.

- We recognise that **More Able and Talented (MAT)** 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.

Each half term, students complete a Quality Marked Assessment (QMA) in each subject. Teachers provide feedback based around the QMA and students are given time to respond to their teacher's feedback to further improve their work.

Teachers monitor attitude and progress towards challenging personal targets. There are regular updates on student wellbeing and progress made in subjects. Families are invited to meet with staff at Progress Evenings and at any other time to suit them.



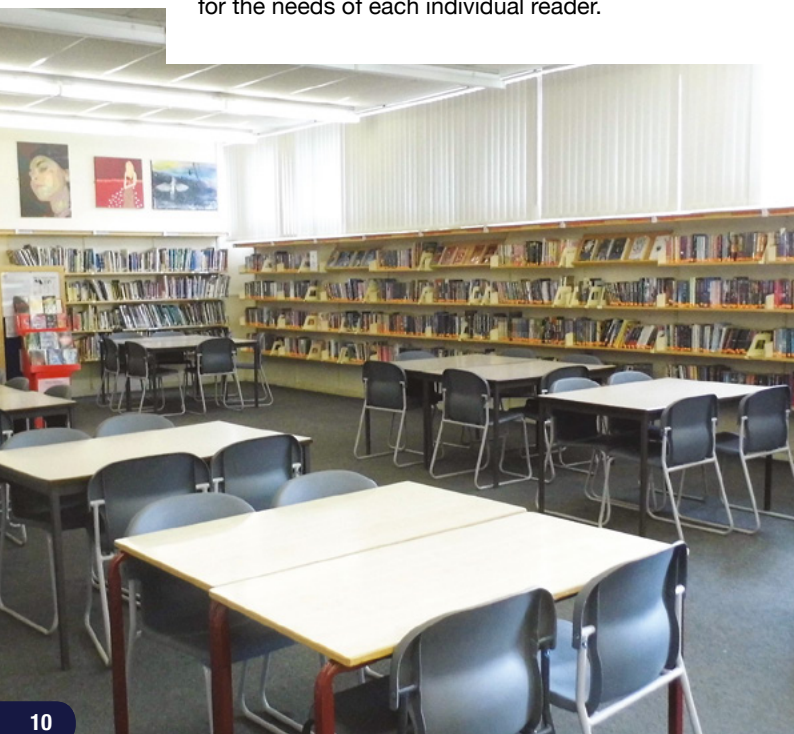
Developing Students' Skills Across the Curriculum

Literacy

The development of students' literacy skills is a key focus across Elfed High School. A love of reading is encouraged through access to our well resourced library, which is open to students during break and lunchtime. Students engage in structured time to read during Active Tutorial sessions and participate in the 'Accelerated Reader' programme, which ensures that reading is appropriately challenging for the needs of each individual reader.



Effective speaking and listening skills, and being able to write accurately and extensively, are skills that are developed across all subjects that students study. The key vocabulary that students need to learn and use is outlined in the Learning Plans for each unit of work. We encourage creativity and a love of literature through key events, such as World Book Day and regular writing competitions. There are opportunities for all year groups to attend theatre trips to encourage their love of literature as well as extra curricular clubs to broaden their experiences, nurture talent and inspire a passion for reading and writing.





Numeracy

The Mathematics Department at Elfed support a well-established Numeracy programme in Years 7, 8 and 9 in which all students are taught to be confident, resilient, ambitious and enterprising mathematicians.

Excellent classroom routines are established and maintained through starter tests, homework booklets and targeted interventions which support student progress and enable consistently above average National Numeracy Test results.

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 participate in a weekly problem-solving lesson, through which their reasoning skills are developed to provide an excellent foundation for the Mathematics and Numeracy GCSE Qualification. Students who excel at GCSE are rewarded with the further opportunity to sit Additional Mathematics.

Extensive support is offered to students outside of the classroom, including homework club and after-school revision sessions, as well as preparation for the national UKMT maths challenges and opportunities to represent Elfed in team competitions. Further extra-curricular opportunities include our annual PGL Trip, becoming one of our Maths Lead Learners, or through participating in one of our enterprising initiatives such as 'Make £5 Grow'. The annual 'Numeracy Day' provides further opportunities to develop students' numeracy skills, and provides guidance for parents on how numeracy skills can be developed at home.





More Able and Talented

A key part of our ethos is to support all learners and provide positive learning experiences for all, including our 'More Able and Talented' students who require enriched and extended opportunities across the curriculum.

Elfed High School will support all MAT learners by providing activities that will:

- Promote high attainment;
- Promote a growth mindset;
- Help learners to become individuals who can take responsibility for their own learning, set their own challenging targets and be self-motivated to achieve;
- Provide a range of high quality teaching approaches that are successful in providing demanding work that will meet the needs of all of MAT learners;
- Have an appropriate level of challenge for our MAT learners, through the use of effective differentiation;
- Promote and deliver a broad range of extra-curricular activities to challenge our MAT students;
- Recognise and celebrate successes.



Digital Competence

“At Elfed High School, digital technology is used by all staff to embrace 21st century learning, and enable students to develop their own digital competence. The development of digital skills, in line with the new curriculum, and the Digital Competence Framework, is essential to enable students to take full advantage of the opportunities that come their way and for them to succeed in school and beyond.”

The Successful Futures report in 2015 recommended that all learners in Wales experience digital skills within each subject. As a result of this recommendation, the Welsh Government released the Digital Competence Framework. Digital Competence is the set of skills, knowledge and attitudes that enable the confident, creative and critical use of technologies and systems. It should not be confused with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) or Computer Science. Digital

“Elfed High School has dramatically improved the way that students can develop their digital skills.”



 Suite



Competence is one of three cross-curricular responsibilities, alongside Literacy and Numeracy. It focusses on developing digital skills which can be applied to a wide range of subjects and scenarios that are transferable to the world of work.

There is a dedicated room for Digital Technology lessons with 34 Windows PCs. A further room with 30 Windows PCs, and a Technology room with 26 Windows PCs are both available for staff to book. Staff take into account technological and pedagogical principles before booking the rooms, which ensures that they plan for how learners will progress their digital skills. The school also has a bank of 400 Google Chromebooks, with each area of learning responsible for two trolleys. These supplement the rooms in the School.

Elfed Extra clubs also contribute towards the development of students' digital skills. The Digital Technology department run improvement sessions after school, along with a Coding Club and Cyber Discovery Club during the lunchtime.

All teaching staff at Elfed High School have a Windows laptop. These are used as teaching and learning tools, and training is given by other teachers who are certified Google Educators.





Physical Education

Elfed High Schools Physical Education Department boasts a wide range of facilities giving our students a broad range of opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity.

The sports hall includes 4 badminton courts, basketball nets and 5-a-side football pitch. We have two full size gymnasiums, fully kitted out with equipment for gymnastics, as well as being a multi-purpose space for fitness and dodgeball lessons.

Our 25 metre swimming pool is used regularly by Year 7 and 8 for our swimming units of work. A scheme deemed very important to develop water-based life skills. It is also used by our Year 10 and 11 GCSE PE students to complete a unit in Personal Survival as part of the practical element of our course.

Our fitness suite, with rowing machine, treadmill, exercise bike and a variety of free and machine weights, is used during our health and fitness schemes of work in Year 10 and 11, as well as for practical-theory lessons as part of our GCSE PE course. Our outdoor facilities are extensive and consist of 7 grass football pitches, a full size astro-turf with a hockey pitch and three 7-a-side football pitches. Our four recently re-surfaced netball courts and five tennis courts complete the full list of excellent facilities we have here at Elfed High School.

Our ethos here in the Physical Education department

is 'Effort Determines Outcome'. The notion being that at whatever level you may be in sport, if you are giving your best that is all we can ask. We have developed a culture where it is ok to make mistakes and one where everyone is engaged in learning.

All our extra-curricular sports clubs are inclusive, and students regularly attend before school, at lunch time and after school in a wide range of activities including football, rugby, hockey, netball, dodgeball, gymnastics, cheerleading, badminton, basketball, fitness, athletics, cricket, tennis and rounders. The aim is to provide an atmosphere of enjoyment in order to develop lifelong participants who are educated on the importance of sport and physical activity.

Music and Drama



“At Elfed, we are creating a thriving community of confident, creative musicians. We are proud of the musical achievements of all our students who, through showcasing their talents, take a central role in the public life of the school.”

HEAD OF MUSIC.

Curriculum information:

At Elfed High School, students study both music and drama during one lesson per week in Years 7, 8 and 9. They have the opportunity to learn a range of instruments in music, develop their confidence as a performer in drama, and attend the many extra-curricular opportunities open to them. Students will learn the skills, knowledge and understanding required to progress to a formal qualification and can also take part in our public performances which take place throughout the academic year.

In Year 10, GCSE Music and GCSE Drama are options for further study - both subjects enabling students to progress into continuing education, in addition to developing essential life skills which many employers appreciate significantly.

We have fantastic resources at Elfed High School which enable students to fully thrive in the performing arts. We have a huge array of musical instruments, composing software and a formal theatre, with lights, sound and set, offering students the experience of professional live performance.

Being part of the music and drama community at Elfed is stimulating, engaging and exciting and these opportunities create memories that last a lifetime.



“The drama curriculum at Elfed High School aims to develop students into confident, self-aware individuals. Through experience, creativity and artistic communication, they explore a range of themes and ideas, to become ambitious, capable learners.”

LEARNING DIRECTOR FOR
EXPRESSIVE ARTS.



Dining and Social Areas

At Elfed High School, we have an ever-increasing array of social spaces that have become a vibrant heart of the school community.

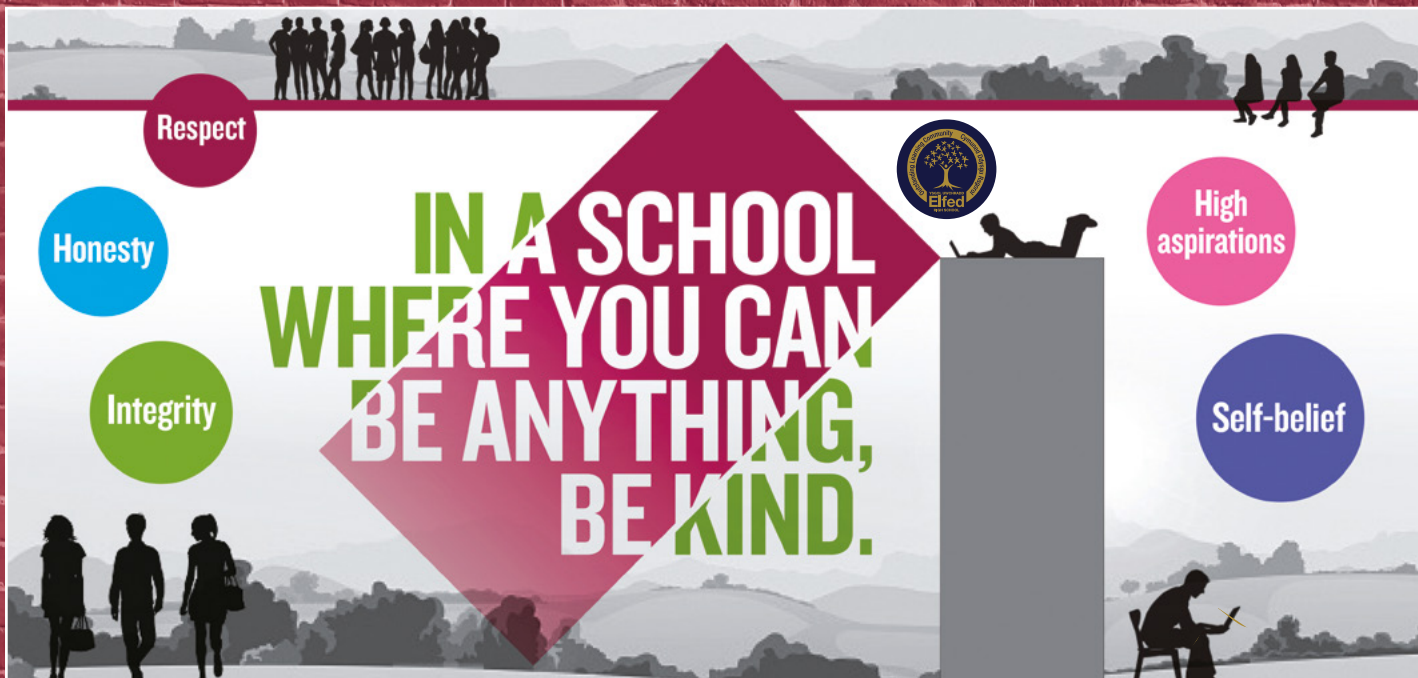
The Dining area caters for our breakfast club, break and lunch provision, providing an excellent selection of healthy meals and snacks.

We have outdoor dining facilities for all year groups, as well as outdoor sheltered areas which provide protection from the elements.

Our quads provide a social area that students are able to meet with friends. In addition, we have extensive hard-surfaced spaces, playing fields, tennis courts and access to our all-weather pitch.



Y RHWYDWAITH YMCHWIL
IECHYD MEWN YSGOLION
SCHOOL HEALTH
RESEARCH NETWORK





ALN Provision

We work hard at Elfed High School to ensure that all teaching and support staff are fully aware of the additional learning needs of all students. We offer a number of bespoke areas to support learning and employ highly skilled staff, able to offer support to children with a range of needs. We offer classroom support for children with an Individual Development Plan (IDP) and work closely with all external agencies.



School Youth Worker

Students at Elfed High School benefit from the support offered by our highly experienced School Youth Worker. Working alongside key staff, the Youth Worker is qualified to offer support to any student in need of additional help. This enhanced support is invaluable to students who may require extra support at significant points in their life.



Elfed High School students benefit from individual care and support

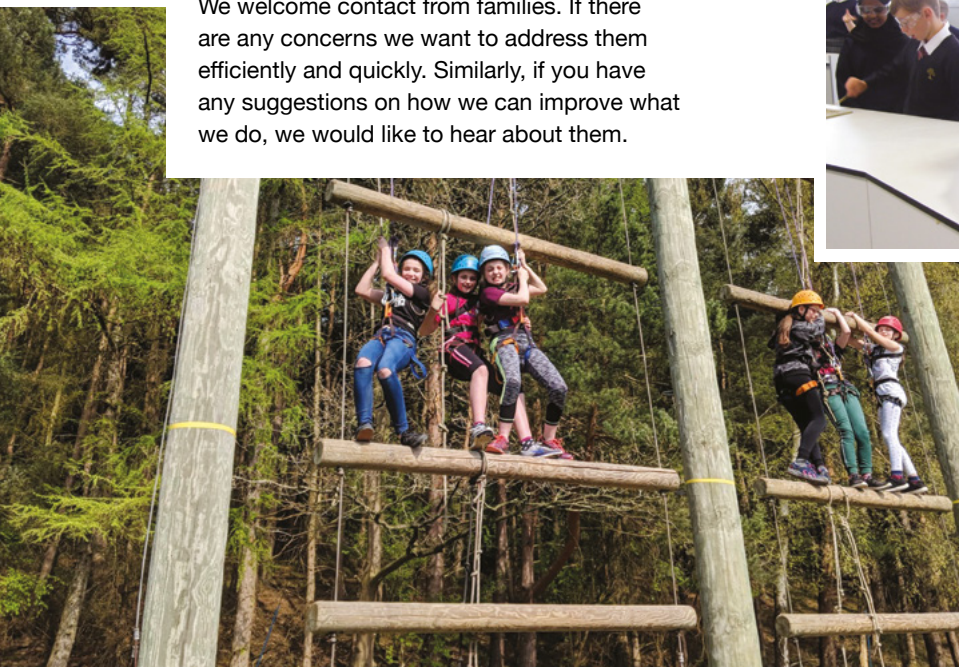
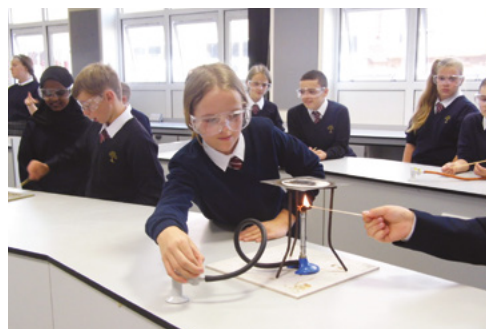
Elfed High School is a very friendly school with a positive ethos based on understanding, respect and co-operation.

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. Pastoral Teams remove any barriers to learning through advice, guidance and by working with parents and carers.

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 Belonging Policy encourages all students to be the best they can be. Teachers look out for opportunities to praise and reward students when they take on new challenges.



"I feel my sons transition from primary to secondary school was handled very well, thus enabling him to settle in very quickly and well."

PARENT PERCEPTION SURVEY



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 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 one day

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 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 550217 to arrange an appointment.**

"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

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 or disability.

"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



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.

Safeguarding

The school recognises its moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment where children feel respected and confident that their concerns will be listened to.

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

"The schools core values of 'honesty, integrity, respect high aspirations and self-belief' are at the heart of what it does."

ESTYN 2023

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.





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 Head of Year. 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





Bronze Siarter Iaith Award – Promoting Bilingualism

At Elfed High School, we are proud to have achieved the Bronze Siarter Iaith Award, recognising our commitment to promoting the Welsh language and creating a bilingual culture across the school.

As a border school, we are passionate about ensuring that every learner develops confidence in using Welsh in meaningful and authentic ways. Through our enthusiastic Criw Cymraeg, whole-school events, competitions, classroom activities and everyday use of Welsh, we encourage pupils and staff to celebrate the language as a living part of our school community.

Bilingualism is woven throughout school life, providing learners with opportunities to develop their language skills, deepen their understanding of Welsh culture and heritage, and appreciate the benefits of speaking more than one language.

We are committed to continuing our Siarter Iaith journey and creating an environment where Cymraeg belongs to everyone.



Student Voice

At Elfed High School, we believe that our learners should play an active role in shaping their school community. Listening to our pupils and acting upon their views is central to our commitment to creating a school where every young person feels safe, seen, supported and valued.

Our Student Council, alongside groups such as the Criw Cymraeg, Eco Committee, and Leaders of Now, provides pupils with meaningful opportunities to influence school life. Learners regularly contribute to decisions about teaching and learning, wellbeing, the school environment, enrichment activities and wider school improvement.

We actively seek pupil feedback through surveys, focus groups, learning walks and discussions with senior leaders. By working in partnership with our learners, we ensure that their voices are heard, their ideas are valued and their contributions help shape the future of Elfed High School.



School Uniform Guide

WHITE SCHOOL SHIRT WITH COLLAR AND TOP BUTTON

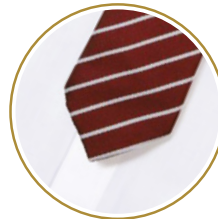
- Long or short sleeved shirts will be acceptable.
- The shirt should fasten up all the way to the collar including the top button.
- Rounded or reverse collars will not be acceptable.

Shirts available from various retailers



MAROON TIE WITH THIN STRIPE

- Students must wear a school tie at all times with top button of shirt fastened.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

RIGHT HAND FASTENING BLAZER WITH GOLD SCHOOL LOGO



-
- Typically worn by boys.
 - Blazers will be compulsory for all students.
 - Blazers may be removed with permission from class teacher.

LEFT HAND FASTENING BLAZER WITH GOLD SCHOOL LOGO



-
- Typically worn by girls.
 - Blazers will be compulsory for all students.
 - Blazers may be removed with permission from class teacher.

NAVY JUMPER WITH SCHOOL LOGO



-
- Students must wear a school jumper.
 - Permission will be given for students to remove jumpers but they must wear a blazer with a shirt and tie.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

TRUTEX CHECK PLEATED GREY SKIRT WITH GOLD LOGO



-
- Skirt hems should not be worn any higher than 2 inches above the knee.
 - Skirts should not be rolled up at the waist.
 - Skirts will be worn with plain black knee high socks or plain black opaque tights.
 - Trainer socks or over the knee socks will not be permitted.

GREY TROUSERS



-
- Grey trousers only permitted.
 - Tracksuit bottoms, jeans, very wide or very narrow legged trousers (skinnies) will not be permitted.
 - Low slung trousers will not be accepted.
 - Any belts worn with trousers must be plain black.

BANNER BERMUDA GREY SHORTS



-
- Grey Banner Bermuda shorts only permitted.
 - Sport shorts etc. will not be permitted.
 - Low slung shorts will not be accepted.
 - Any belts worn with trousers must be plain black.
 - Shorts will be worn with plain short grey socks.
 - Trainer socks will not be permitted.
-

PE KIT

ESSENTIALS 1/4 ZIP TOP



- Students must wear the zip top when the weather requires.

ESSENTIALS TRAINING TEE



- All students must wear the tee for all lessons.

ESSENTIALS LEGGING



- Students must wear either the leggings, skort or shorts. (only leggings with the Elfed logo will be permitted).



PE KIT

SKORT



-
- If students choose to wear the skort, it must be the item above.

UNISEX SHORTS



-
- Students may choose to wear a plain pair of navy blue shorts (no logo) as an alternative.

POE WEIGHT SPORTS SOCKS



-
- Students may choose to wear plain navy blue socks as an alternative.



COATS

- Coats should not be worn in the school buildings.
- Students should remove coats on entering the school building.

STRONG SCHOOL BAG

Fully equipped pencil case with scientific calculator and geometry set.

SHOES

- Plain black footwear.

The following will not be permitted:

- Boots.
- Ankle boots.
- Shoes with prominent logos.
- Jewelled shoes.

JEWELLERY

For health and safety reasons:

- Only one pair of stud earrings will be permitted.
- Only one ring on fingers.
- No bracelets or necklaces may be worn.
- No facial piercings of any kind.
- Spacers will not be permitted.



SUPPLIER

FORRESTER SPORTS
(01352 756636)

QUEENSFERRY SPORT
(01244 812040)

All clothing and personal items must be marked with the student's name.
The school is not responsible for students' personal property.

Notes



Some images in this prospectus have been created or enhanced using artificial intelligence for illustrative purposes.
AI-generated images do not depict actual pupils, staff, facilities, events or activities unless expressly stated.
Every effort has been made to ensure that they represent the character and values of the school accurately.



Elfed High School

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