



# OLCHFA

**Olchfa School Prospectus**  
Prosbectws Ysgol Olchfa  
**2025 - 2026**



DYSG • DAWN • DAIONI



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## Headteacher's Welcome

### Croeso'r Pennaeth



## Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your considering Olchfa as the school of choice for your son or daughter. It is my pleasure to introduce this prospectus. It offers a brief glimpse of what life at Olchfa is like and how we try to work with young people and families. Olchfa offers a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment which puts the needs of children first. Our vision for the school centres on cynefin or belonging. We are proud to be a school in Wales with roots all over the world. We work hard to be a school which is of, by and for its community. We work in partnership with young people and families to celebrate success and positivity in all things.

At Olchfa, your son or daughter will experience a dynamic atmosphere of high-quality teaching and learning, excellent care for wellbeing and tailored learning support where needed. This is added to by a full programme of extra-curricular activities on stage, on the sports field and on visits locally, nationally and internationally, amongst many other opportunities.

Making the move to secondary school is an exciting and important stage of your son or daughter's life. We ask families to look at all the options available locally, including joining us and other schools at Open Evenings. After that, if you would like to join our community at Olchfa, we would very much welcome an application. I wish you all well in the process.

*Diolch i chi am ystyried Olchfa fel yr ysgol o ddewis i'ch mab neu'ch merch. Mae'n bleser gen i gyflwyno'r prospectws hwn. Mae'n cynnig cipolwg byr ar fywyd yn Olchfa a sut rydym yn ceisio gweithio gyda phobl ifanc a theuluoedd. Mae Olchfa yn cynnig amgylchedd cynnes, croesawgar a chynhwysol sy'n rhoi anghenion plant yn gyntaf. Mae ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer yr ysgol yn canolbwyntio ar gynefin neu berthyn. Rydym yn falch o fod yn ysgol yng Nghymru gyda gwreiddiau ledled y byd. Rydym yn gweithio'n galed i fod yn ysgol sydd o, gan ac ar gyfer ei chymuned. Rydym yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â phobl ifanc a theuluoedd i ddathlu llwyddiant a phositifrwyd ym mhob peth.*

*Yn Olchfa, bydd eich mab neu ferch yn profi awyrgylch deinamig o addysgu a dysgu o ansawdd uchel, gofal rhagorol dros les a chefnogaeth ddysgu wedi'i theilwra lle bo angen. Mae hyn yn cael ei ychwanegu at raglen lawn o weithgareddau allgyrsiol ar y llwyfan, ar y cae chwaraeon ac ar ymweliadau yn lleol, yn genedlaethol ac yn rhyngwladol, ymhlith llawer o gyfleoedd eraill.*

*Mae symud i'r ysgol uwchradd yn gam cyffrous a phwysig ym mywyd eich mab neu ferch. Rydym yn gofyn i deuluoedd edrych ar yr holl opsiynau sydd ar gael yn lleol, gan gynnwys ymuno â ni ac ysgolion eraill mewn Nosweithiau Agored. Ar ôl hynny, os hoffech ymuno â'n cymuned yn Olchfa, byddem yn croesawu cais yn fawr iawn. Pob lwc i chi gyd yn y broses.*

Yours sincerely, Yn gywir,

**Mr Julian Kennedy**  
Headteacher  
Pennaeth

# Children Plant



## ***We put the needs of children at the centre of all we do***

At Olchfa School, children are at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to nurturing each student as an individual, recognising their unique strengths, interests, and potential. Our school environment is designed to be safe, supportive, and stimulating, encouraging children to grow both academically and personally. We believe in fostering curiosity, resilience, and a lifelong love of learning.



## **Safeguarding *Diogelu***

The safeguarding of pupils is the highest priority of the school. Every adult in the school is trained in safeguarding and we have a clearly understood referral system where concerns are addressed quickly. We take the prevention of bullying seriously and use our 'CHAT' team (Confidentiality, Help, Advice, Trust) of peer mentors to help resolve conflicts and promote positive relationships. All pupils can speak to any member of staff at Olchfa, and be listened to, if they have any concerns.

## **Organisation of Pupils for Learning *Trefniadaeth Disgyblion ar gyfer Dysgu***

Pupils are organised into year groups and mixed ability forms. They are generally taught in their form group for the majority of lessons in years 7-9. There is some ability setting in iCalculate and iThrive. Each pupil has a Form Tutor, who they see every morning during Registration. Each year group also has a Learning Leader, who has responsibility for overseeing the academic progress of pupils within their year. The year group also has an allocated Pastoral Guidance Worker to support the Learning Leader in the pastoral care of pupils.

## **Pastoral Support *Cefnogaeth Bugeiliol***

In addition to their form tutors, pupils are supported by an excellent pastoral team including Pastoral Guidance Workers, Learning Coaches, Key Stage Managers and a Pupil Welfare Officer. The team works alongside other agencies and the Education Welfare Service to ensure that our pupils are supported to remain engaged with learning and to achieve excellent outcomes. We strive to work in partnership with families and have a Family Engagement Officer within our team.





## Welshness Cymreictod

*We are a distinctly Welsh community that serves and builds communities, locally, nationally and globally*

Our strong sense of Welsh identity is embedded in the fabric of Olchfa School. We celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Wales through our curriculum, daily practices, and community events. Welsh language and traditions are woven into school life, fostering pride and understanding among our students. We aim to inspire a connection to our national heritage while preparing students for a global future.

All pupils develop their Welsh language skills through their iCommunicate Cymraeg lessons. In years 10 and 11, we expect all pupils to continue with accredited qualifications in the Welsh language.



# Belonging *Perthryn*



***We celebrate diversity, inclusivity, individuality and equality, where they strengthen our community***

Olchfa School is a community where everyone can feel they belong. We value diversity and inclusivity, creating an environment where every student feels accepted, respected and supported. Through pastoral care, extracurricular activities, and collaborative projects, we build strong relationships that reinforce a sense of connection and community among students, staff, and families.

At Olchfa we place special value on the development of relationships with the wider community. Our long-standing links with our partner primaries are particularly important. We work in close collaboration with Cila, Duvant, Hendrefoilan, Parkland and Sketty schools on Key Stage 2 - 3 transition arrangements and assessing pupil progress. There are many opportunities for Year 6 pupils to develop links to Olchfa which include visits, taster days and invitations to attend events.

Although we have formal transition arrangements with our five partner schools, we regularly welcome pupils from schools across Swansea. If your child does not currently attend a partner school, we will invite them to visit Olchfa to take part in our transition programme in the summer term, particularly the important 'taster days', where they can meet their form group and attend some lessons.



## **Additional Learning Needs** ***Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol***

Olchfa is an inclusive school and we work hard to ensure that all pupils are able to access the curriculum and make progress in their learning. Where pupils need additional support in their learning, we offer a wide range of inclusive learning approaches including 'catch-up' literacy and numeracy small group sessions and support for pupils with dyslexia or speech and language difficulties. For pupils who need more targeted support, we have clear processes to identify any specific difficulties in their learning and guide them towards the most appropriate support. This may include consideration of whether their needs might best be met through an Individual Development Plan (IDP) in line with the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales. We can access specialist services, such as an Educational Psychologist or Specialist Teachers.





## Success Llwyddiant







***We are high achieving and aspirational, celebrating success in all its forms***

Success at Olchfa School is defined by more than academic achievement. We celebrate progress, effort, and personal growth across all areas of school life. Our dedicated staff provide high-quality teaching and tailored support to help each student reach their full potential. Whether in academics, sports, the arts, or leadership, we encourage students to set ambitious goals and strive for excellence, as part of the Olchfa School experience. We believe that learning should be engaging, dynamic, and enjoyable. Our vibrant school environment is filled with opportunities for students to explore their passions, discover new interests, and celebrate their successes. From exciting lessons to cultural events and school trips, we create memorable experiences that inspire happiness and enthusiasm for learning.

At Olchfa, we pride ourselves on the high quality teaching and learning that takes place lesson by lesson, day by day. Teachers reflect on their practice, discuss ideas with colleagues and receive appropriate training. We also listen to what our pupils are telling us. As a result, lessons are well paced and stimulating and conducted in supportive yet challenging environments.

We are always looking to adopt initiatives to improve learning and we have been at the forefront of curriculum innovation for a number of years. Importantly, curriculum innovation has supported excellent pupil progress and attainment in external examinations places Olchfa amongst the most successful schools in the country.

Year 7 pupils starting in Olchfa will experience an exciting and innovative learning experience designed to stimulate enquiry and build upon the progress that they have made in primary school. We are excited about iLearn and believe that the curriculum, which is underpinned by the development of skills in literacy, numeracy and digital competence, will result in even more ambitious and capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.



*Joy Llawenydd*





## ***We see wider life, skills and experiences as going hand in hand with academic success***

At Olchfa, we encourage all pupils to become involved in the wider life of the school and, hopefully, there is something for everyone.

We offer a range of opportunities within sport, with competitive teams organised for netball, hockey, rugby and football. Further enrichment activities include dance, swimming and basketball. We have a very proactive PE department who work hard to offer sports activities that pupils are interested in.

We have an excellent multi-gym fitness studio - 'Calon' - which is available to join for a modest fee to use after school. We have a busy Expressive Arts department, with many drama and music events throughout the year. Pupils are encouraged to sing, dance, act, play instruments or develop their skills of working on other production elements, such as stage management, technical, costume or marketing. We offer peripatetic music tuition during the school day, where pupils can have a weekly instrumental lesson (for a reasonable termly financial contribution). We run a range of orchestral and vocal groups for pupils to develop their musical ability.

Olchfa offers excellent opportunities for pupils to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The school is one of the largest DoE centres in the UK with over 300 pupils taking part each year at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. The award, which begins at the end of Year 9, is a great way to meet new friends, learn new skills and develop as a person, giving something back to the community in the process.

Olchfa also offers a wide range of educational trips and visits, to broaden the experiences available for pupils. This includes theatre trips, field work and visits to places of interest locally and further afield. We also offer a range of opportunities to travel overseas. We have also established an exchange programme with a school in Spain. We aim to be sensitive to family budgets and offer a range of trips at different levels of cost. Many of our trips incur no cost, or are limited to transport costs.



## ***Care Gofal***

### ***We expect, support and challenge everyone to build resilience, develop wellbeing and to care for others***

Caring for our students is a top priority at Olchfa School. We provide a nurturing environment where students feel safe, valued, and supported. Our pastoral care system ensures that every child has access to guidance and support when needed. We promote emotional well-being, mental health awareness, and healthy relationships, fostering a culture of empathy and kindness throughout the school.

The school has a strong tradition of guidance and care and aims to fulfil its mission statement of developing the individual potential of all in a safe and caring environment. Learning Leaders attached to year groups oversee the academic progress and potential of the pupils. They are supported by Pastoral Guidance Workers and Key Stage Administrative Managers, who oversee the calendar of year group routines as well as monitoring the attendance and behaviour of pupils, interfacing directly with parents where necessary.

When your child first arrives at Olchfa, they will be placed into a mixed ability form group. The pupils within a form group will usually remain together as they progress through the school, providing them with the opportunity to build productive relationships with their form tutor and their peers.

Pupils with additional learning needs are taught with their peers in mainstream mixed ability form groups. In some instances, pupils will be supported in class by our team of Teaching Assistants or extracted from some lessons for specialist support. We understand that changing schools can cause particular anxiety for some pupils with additional learning needs and their families; please contact the ALN team in school to arrange a visit.

Each day the Year 10 & 11 pupils run the 'CHAT' room where pupils are free to access support, advice and guidance for a range of issues. CHAT counsellors also undertake training on issues of diversity and drugs and alcohol awareness in order to support younger pupils, helping them to be the best they can be.

# Respect *Parch*

***We take our core values of “Ready, Respectful and Safe” seriously***

Respect is a cornerstone of life at Olchfa School. We teach our students to value themselves and others, embracing differences and celebrating diversity. Our code of conduct emphasises mutual respect, encouraging positive interactions among students, staff, and the wider community. By modelling respectful behaviour, we create a culture where everyone feels heard, valued, and empowered.

## Uniform *Gwisg Ysgol*



We believe that our pupils should come to school with a smart appearance, as this is good preparation for adult life. We therefore expect all pupils and their parents/carers to support us in helping to ensure that the correct uniform is worn to school each day. Further information about the school uniform can be found on the school website.

# Positivity *Positifrwydd*

***We build positive relationships based on mutual respect, manners, integrity and kindness***

A positive mindset is key to personal and academic growth. At Olchfa School, we cultivate an optimistic atmosphere where students are encouraged to approach challenges with confidence and determination. Our school culture promotes resilience, gratitude, and a growth mindset, helping students to develop the skills and attitudes needed to thrive in all aspects of life.



# Leadership *Arweinyddiaeth*

***Leadership is visible and where everyone is a leader of themselves and others***

We believe in empowering students to become confident leaders, both within our school and beyond. Olchfa School offers numerous leadership opportunities, from student council roles to peer mentoring and extracurricular activities. We encourage students to take initiative, make decisions, and contribute to their community, developing skills in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

As a school, we consult widely about school improvement and value the views of our pupils. We are increasingly embedding pupil voice into all aspects of the school's work. Pupils routinely contribute to the recruitment of new teachers by taking an active part in the interview process. The Head Boy and Head Girl attend meetings of the school's Governing Body in the role of Associate Governors.

The School Advisory Board at Olchfa is a dynamic and collaborative body, comprising pupils, staff and wider community members, who work together to ensure all voices are heard and valued. Its primary purpose is to identify areas for improvement and spearhead meaningful, action-based initiatives that positively shape learning, teaching, policy and school culture. Beyond Olchfa, the Board actively partners with other Swansea schools to share best practice and deliver joint projects, strengthening regional cohesion and enhancing educational opportunities for pupils across the area. Equally, its engagement in community-focused work promotes inclusion, raises awareness of key social issues and reinforces the school's role as a vital local hub. By gathering regular input from pupils and staff and collaborating closely with senior leadership, the Board ensures its efforts align with the needs of the entire school community—making a tangible impact on curriculum, policy and school life, rooted in openness, continuous improvement and shared purpose.



# Creativity Creadigrwydd

*We are innovative, purposeful, creative, supported and supportive*

Creativity is celebrated and nurtured at Olchfa School. We provide a rich and varied curriculum that encourages students to think critically, innovate, and express themselves. Whether through the arts, sciences, technology, or problem-solving activities, we inspire students to explore their imaginations and develop original ideas. Our creative environment fosters curiosity, adaptability, and a passion for discovery.

Our curriculum offer in Year 7-9 embraces the new curriculum in Wales by organising learning into six 'Areas of Learning and Experience'. The aim of this is to help pupils explore the natural links between subjects and provide a better feeling of cohesion in their learning.



LEARNING AREA	SUBJECTS	OVERVIEW
Language, Literacy and Communication	<b>iCommunicate</b> English, Welsh, Spanish	English, Welsh and Spanish components of iCommunicate are taught by respective subject specialists. We take a joined-up approach to developing skills in speaking, reading and writing.
Mathematics & Computing	<b>iCalculate</b> Mathematics, Computing, Information Technology	iCalculate centres on the disciplines of mathematics and computing, including traditional mathematics components of developing numerical reasoning, number, measuring, geometry, algebra and data skills, together with logic.
Science & Technology	<b>iDiscover</b> Science, Design & Technology	iDiscover will draw on Physics, Chemistry, Biology and also Design and Technology. Pupils explore food technology, graphics and resistant materials.
Humanities	<b>iThink</b> History, Geography, RE, Business and Social Studies	iThink draws on History, Geography, RE, Business and Social Studies
Expressive Arts	<b>iCreate</b> Art, Music & Drama	In iCreate, pupils will explore Art, Music and Drama, each taught by subject specialists, but exploring natural links through a thematic approach.
Health & Wellbeing	<b>iThrive</b> PE, Healthy living	iThrive encourages the participation in different sports and physical activities, whilst helping pupils to make informed choices about leading a healthy lifestyle.



## iDevelop

iDevelop is the latest part of Olchfa's innovative approach to the curriculum. It brings together a number of important curriculum strands and experiences - namely Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE), areas of Health and Wellbeing and academic and pastoral mentoring - complementing the other components of iLearn in developing pupils towards the Four Purposes.

The iDevelop programme runs through the daily registration time, led by the Form Tutor. The themes are also reflected in a weekly assembly. We also have a number of 'Taith' sessions spread across the year where the normal timetable is suspended for an hour, to facilitate time for iDevelop learning to take place across the school.



## The School Day at Olchfa Diwrnod Ysgol yn Olchfa

We believe that good timekeeping is an essential skill-for-life and we expect pupils to arrive promptly at school each day. The day is divided into five lessons of one hour duration, with a 20min morning break and a 45min lunch break. We offer a breakfast facility each morning in the Main Hall from 8am.

LESSON	START	END	DETAILS
Doors open at 8.30am			
Registration	8.35am	9.00am	Registers taken at 8.35am
Lesson 1	9.00am	10.00am	
Lesson 2	10.00am	11.20am	Includes 20min break 10.00am - 10.20am: Years 7,8,9 11.00am - 11.20am: Years 10 11, 12, 13
Lesson 3	11.20pm	12.00pm	
Lesson 4	12.20pm	2.00pm	12.20pm - 1.05pm Lunch Session 1 (Years 7, 10, 11) 1.15pm - 2.00pm: Lunch Session 2 (Years 8 & 9)
Lesson 5	2.00pm	3.00pm	
All pupils are dismissed at 3.00pm			

## Cashless School

Our catering service operated on a 'cashless' basis, with pupils using a biometric scan of their finger to identify themselves and pay. Dining payments can be topped up online via the School Gateway App. Pupils who are eligible for free school meals will automatically have their accounts credited. In order to help pupils manage their spending, there is a daily spending limit of £5.





## Admissions and Further Information

*The City and County of Swansea is responsible for all admissions to the school in Years 7-11 and information can be found on the Council's website:*

[www.swansea.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/admissions)

Parents of Year 6 children are warmly invited to attend our annual open evening held during the autumn term. However, visits to the school are encouraged throughout the year. Please contact our admissions officer for further information.

### **Olchfa Website**

[www.olchfa.org.uk](http://www.olchfa.org.uk)

### **Performance Statistics**

[www.mylowschool.wales.gov.uk](http://www.mylowschool.wales.gov.uk)

### **School Inspection Reports**

[www.estyn.gov.wales](http://www.estyn.gov.wales)

### **Local Education Authority**

[www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk)

### **Contact Us**

Olchfa School, Gower Road, Sketty, Swansea, SA2 7AB

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