



OLCHFA



DYSG DAWN DAIONI



"Teaching is excellent and makes a strong contribution to pupils' wellbeing, personal development and the standards that they achieve. The school has been successful in developing collaborative and innovative approaches to teaching that are at the heart of its work."

Estyn 2018

WELCOME TO OLCHFA | CROESO I OLCHFA

I am delighted to be able to introduce this prospectus which will give you an insight into our work and values here at Olchfa. We welcome applications for places in Year 7 for a September start, but we also welcome admissions into all year groups throughout the year.



Pleser o'r mwyaf ydy gallu cyflwyno y prospectws hwn sy'n amlygu ein gwaith a'n gwerthoedd yma yn Ysgol Olchfa. Rydyn ni'n croesawu ceisiadau ar gyfer lleoedd ym Mlwyddyn 7 i ddechrau ym mis Medi, ond hefyd rydyn ni'n croesawu ceisiadau i unrhyw ddosbarth dysgu yn ystod y flwyddyn.

Olchfa is a large and busy school, with productive relationships between pupils and staff. In all key stages, we achieve results which place the school amongst the leading education providers in Wales, both in raw and value-added terms. The school's governing body, leadership team and teaching staff are never complacent; we know that we have to keep evolving what we do in order to meet the rapidly changing world around us and the needs of our pupils.

Of course we are proud of our examination results, but school life is also about far more than that. The school offers a wealth of wider opportunities to our pupils including sport, expressive arts, trips and activities. Our enrichment programme in Years 10 and 11 enables pupils to go out into the community to experience working in local care homes, nurseries and partner primary schools. Every year, we offer several trips involving foreign travel.

Although this prospectus is a good starting point to familiarise yourself with what we do, the best way to understand our ethos is to visit us. We welcome visits by prospective pupils and their parents/carers throughout the year. If you require any further information, please contact the school and speak to our admissions officer.

Mae Olchfa yn ysgol fawr a phrysur gyda pherthynas gynhyrchol rhwng disgyblion a staff. Mae canlyniadau'r ysgol yn llwyddiannus ym mhob cyfnod dysgu ac yn sgil hynny mae darpariaeth yr ysgol gyda'r gorau yng Nghymru. Mae'r corff llywodraethol, y tîm arwain a'r staff dysgu bob amser yn edrych ar strategaethau ar sut i wella; gwyddwn bod rhaid datblygu er mwyn wynebu y newidiadau sydd yn y byd ohoni ac addasu er lles ein plant.

Wrth gwrs rydyn ni'n falch iawn o'n canlyniadau arholiad, ond mae bywyd ysgol yn fwy na hynny. Mae'r ysgol yn cynnig cyfleoedd ehangach ac amrywiol i'n disgyblion gan gynnwys gweithgareddau a theithiau chwaraeon a chelfyddydol. Ym mlynedd 10 a 11 darperir rhaglen o wersi sy'n galluogi disgyblion i fynd allan i'r gymuned a chael profiad o weithio mewn cartrefi gofal, meithrynfeydd ac ysgolion cynradd. Bob blwyddyn mae'r ysgol yn cynnig teithiau tramor hefyd.

Rydyn ni'n croesawu ymweliadau gan ddarpar disgyblion a'u rhieni/gwarcheidwaid drwy'r flwyddyn. Os hoffech fwy o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â'r ysgol i siarad gyda'r swyddog Ceisiadau.

Hugh Davies

HEADTEACHER

Hugh Davies

PRIFATHRO



Dysg Dawn Daioni

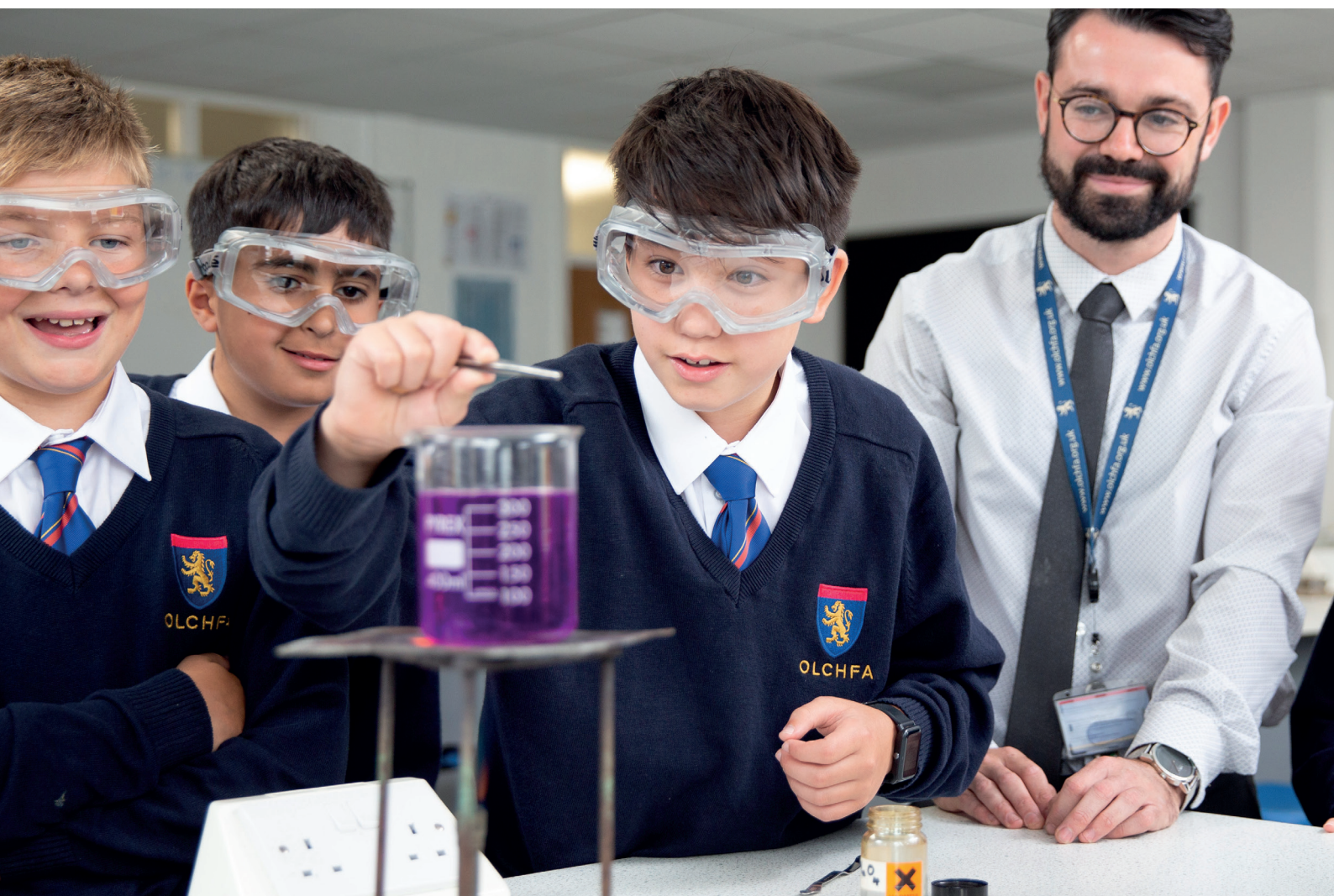
Our mission is defined by the school motto, Dysg Dawn Daioni (Learning Talent Goodness). Learning and academic achievement is at the core of our outstanding provision.

We aim to provide a secure and caring learning environment in which all young people can make the most of their individual talents and achieve their full potential. An innovative curriculum and rich enrichment programme provide pupils with a holistic learning experience where they develop into confident individuals ready to make a positive contribution to the world beyond the school gates.



"Pupils demonstrate extremely positive attitudes to their learning and behave courteously, respectfully and maturely. They are enthusiastic, ambitious and resilient learners. There are high levels of pupil participation in all aspects of school life."

Estyn 2018





“High expectations and the importance of respect and tolerance pervade all of the school’s work.”

Estyn 2018

A Culture of High Expectations and the Pursuit of Excellence

Olchfa School is a happy and successful school. Consistently high results across all key stages, impressive levels of value-addedness and very high levels of wellbeing combine to produce an environment in which pupils can succeed to the very best levels of their ability within an aspirational and supportive culture.

In February 2018 we received a truly outstanding report from Estyn, the education and training inspectorate. Olchfa received 5 ‘excellent’ judgements out of a possible 5, the highest possible outcome. The standards that pupils achieve, their sense of wellbeing and the care, support and guidance they receive were all singled out for praise. Teaching and leadership at all levels also received an extremely positive endorsement. A particular thrill for us was the recognition of our innovative approaches to the curriculum and the development of pupils’ skills. This gives us the encouragement to continue to be at the forefront of curriculum development in Wales.

As one of the largest schools in the country, with 1800 pupils, including over 400 students in the Sixth Form, we are able to provide breadth, balance and opportunity to all of our pupils within an inclusive culture. The range of courses on offer to pupils at all key stages is very wide.

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.

The school has a wide range of facilities on the purpose-built site which includes extensive Science and Technology suites, a Drama and Theatre Arts Hall, a well-stocked Learning Resource Centre and comprehensive ICT provision. Sporting facilities are good, with an indoor swimming pool, cricket nets, two gymnasias, outdoor pitches, Sports Hall and the new ‘Calon’ Fitness Suite which opened in 2015.





*"Pupils thrive in
Olchfa School's
caring, supportive
and inclusive
environment."*

Estyn 2018

Olchfa and our Partner Primaries

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, Dunvant, 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 with Olchfa which include visits, taster days and invitations to attend events.

Our CHAT pupil counsellors visit primary schools during the summer term to give information about Olchfa and answer any questions that Year 6 pupils might have. During 'transition week', pupils are carefully placed into mixed form groups. They are encouraged to take this opportunity to develop socially and extend their friendship groups.

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.





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An Innovative and Engaging Learning Experience

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.

Our iLearn curriculum is an example of this pioneering spirit. iLearn is broader, more balanced, more inclusive and more challenging than anything that has gone before. iLearn ensures subjects work collaboratively in order to develop the skills required for effective learning.

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.







A Caring, Supportive and Inclusive Community

Olchfa is an inclusive school and we have an outstanding pastoral support system which ensures that all pupils are able to fulfil their potential and be active members of the school community.

When your child first arrives at Olchfa, he/she 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.

CHAT has been a vital part of Olchfa since its inception in 1995 and stands for "Confidentiality, Help, Advice and Trust" - the key values that it is built upon. It comprises of a group of approximately 20 young people who are recruited in Year 10 and trained to handle a variety of issues facing younger pupils in the school. These issues can range from resolving friendship issues, building resilience in those who are anxious and assisting with the transition from our feeder primaries.

Each day the Year 10 pupils run the 'CHAT' room where pupils are free to access support, advice and guidance. 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.

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.

In 2015, we established 'Voices of Olchfa' (School Advisory Board), which is the school's strategic advisory board. It brings together parents, pupils, teachers, support staff and governors to allow everyone to have a say in the major decisions affecting the school. Voices of Olchfa (School Advisory Board) commissions surveys on different aspects of school life, considers the findings of reports and self-evaluations, and looks at anything which can help the school develop strategically for the good of the pupils. As well as the main advisory group, sub-committees look at 'Behaviour and Ethos', 'Our Community', 'Our Environment' and 'Learning and Teaching'. Pupil members of Voices of Olchfa will regularly give feedback on their findings to the senior leadership team and governing body for further consideration.

"Provision for pupils with additional learning needs is a notably strong feature of the school."

Estyn 2018





"The support provided by pupils to their peers is a strong feature of the school's work. The 'CHAT' group provides valuable support to other pupils regarding personal and social issues."

Estyn 2018



“There are high levels of participation in the wide range of extra-curricular sporting activities, such as after-school sessions in ‘Calon’, the school gym. Many pupils exhibit strong levels of creativity, both in their class work and through participation in the wide variety of cultural extra-curricular activities, such as musical productions and the creative writing club.”

An Inspiring Enrichment Programme

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 team of PE teachers and support staff who work hard to run other sports activities that pupils are interested in.

We are really proud of our new 'Calon' multi-gym fitness studio. If pupils wish to use Calon outside of lesson time, they can join the gym for a modest fee and take advantage of its facilities during the lunch break and after school. We have a busy expressive arts department, with many drama and music events held throughout the year. Our Expressive Arts performance hall has undergone a major refurbishment, offering a professional auditorium for school productions and well-resourced technical facilities. 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.

Olchfa offers excellent opportunities for pupils to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The school is one of the largest 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.

We also offer a wide range of educational trips and visits to help broaden experiences, as well as site visits, theatre trips and field work organised at subject level. We regularly visit UK destinations which include the Senedd, the Globe Theatre, Oxford and Cambridge, Alton Towers and Oakwood, but also venture further afield for exchange programmes and tours in the south of Spain, India, the USA and South Africa.



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

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

Performance Statistics
www.mylowschool.wales.gov.uk

School Inspection Reports
www.estyn.gov.wales

Local Education Authority
www.swansea.gov.uk



Contact Us



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