



**OLCHFA SCHOOL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

**2023/2024**

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Dear Parent/Carer

This Annual Report of the Governing Body gives you a useful insight into some of the key features of the school and its performance. Please take the time to read it and absorb the detail.

You may also request a paper copy by contacting Mrs Jan Platt, Clerk to Governors on 01792 534345 or [jpt@olchfa.org.uk](mailto:jpt@olchfa.org.uk).

Julian Kennedy  
Headteacher

### Mission Statement

The School's mission is defined by the School motto *Dysg Dawn Daioni (Learning Talent Goodness)*. We aim to provide a secure and caring learning environment in which all young people can achieve their full potential and where they can explore opportunities for involvement in both the school and its wider community. The School and Governors try to make this statement a reality through the twin themes of partnership and participation, working closely and actively with pupils, parents, the Local Authority and support agencies, local businesses and our local community.

At Olchfa we try to foster:

- respect and tolerance
- active participation in the life of the school through a wide range of extra-curricular activities
- spiritual awareness and shared values of care and concern
- a quality and demanding, inclusive learning environment in all subject areas
- academic achievement and endeavour
- the personal and social development of each pupil to prepare them for lifelong learning
- a commitment to the welfare, care and professional development of all colleagues.

## **Governing Body Meeting with Parents**

A letter from the Chair of Governors setting out how to request a meeting with the Governing Body was distributed to all parents/carers in September 2023. (No meeting with parents was requested/held in the academic year 2023/2024.)

**To: Parents/Carers of Pupils at Olchfa School**

### **Your right to request a meeting with the school's Governing Body**

The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (The Act) removed the requirement for school governing bodies to hold an annual meeting with parents. Instead, new arrangements were introduced to enable parents to request up to three meetings in any school year with a governing body, on matters which are of concern to them.

If parents wish to use their rights under the Act to hold a meeting, four conditions will need to be satisfied:

#### **1. Parents will need to raise a petition in support of holding a meeting.**

The parents of at least 30 registered pupils will need to sign the petition. If it is a paper petition, then a written signature must be given as well as the name and class of each child who is a registered pupil at the school. If the petition is in electronic format, the 'signature' required is the typed name of the parent plus the name and class of each child who is a registered pupil at the school and the email address of each parent who 'signs' the electronic petition.

#### **2. The meeting must be called to discuss matters which affect the school**

The meeting cannot be called to discuss such matters as the progress of individual pupils, or to make a complaint against a member of the school's staff or governing body.

The petition should contain brief details of the matter(s) to be discussed, and the reasons for calling the meeting. This information should be clearly displayed at the top of the petition, with parents' signatures appearing below.

#### **3. A maximum of three meetings can be held during the school year**

The law allows parents to use their rights to request up to three meetings with a school governing body during the school year.

#### **4. There must be at least 25 school days left in the school year**

The law makes it a condition that at least 25 school days are left in the school year when the petition is received so that the meeting can be held.

A "school day" means a day when the school is open to pupils: it does not include weekends, public holidays, school holidays or INSET days.

The name/address for service of a petition requesting a meeting with this school's governing body is:

Mrs Jan Platt  
Clerk to Governors  
Olchfa School  
Gower Road  
Sketty  
Swansea  
SA2 7AB

Email: [jpt@olchfa.org.uk](mailto:jpt@olchfa.org.uk)

Further advice on how parents can request a meeting with a governing body is available on the Welsh Government's website.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Cllr Mary Jones**  
**Chair of Governors**

## **INTRODUCTION**

As Chair of the Governing Body, it is my pleasure once again to introduce this report to you.

In September 2023 we welcomed our new Head Teacher, Mr Julian Kennedy, who has used this year to consult with as many as possible to find out what everyone's expectations are for the future of Olchfa

After the Covid period the school recommenced their Annual Christmas Carol Concert which was held in St Mary's Church and which was enjoyed by all.

The school production of was again a success which showcases our very talented young people.

We had three teams going to Birmingham to take part in the Big Bang Project and one Team (Remake the Waste) came home with the Junior Technology Award which was an excellent achievement

We have also had a successful year both in sporting achievements and academic results.

The external examination results for Summer 2024 were very pleasing. The 'raw results', the grades achieved by pupils, place the school's performance well above county and national averages. Pupil performance was strong at all levels, but notably so when considering pupils achieving multiple A and A\* grades at GCSE and in post-16 qualifications. When national performance data is released in late Autumn, we would expect the school to have performed very well in comparison with similar schools across all of Welsh Government's Interim Performance Measures.

In addition, and very importantly, pupils have achieved high levels of what is known as Value Added. Value Added measures the progress achieved by pupils above and beyond what might be expected. At GCSE and in AS and A Levels, pupils of all ability levels are making very high levels of progress, with analysis placing the school as performing within the top 10% of schools within an England and Wales data set on certain measures. Our thanks as ever go to the staff of the school, you as families for the valuing education and attainment and, most significantly, to the young people whose ability, attitude and commitment are reflected in such pleasing performances. Llongyfarchiadau pawb, congratulations to everyone involved.

**Cllr Mary Jones**  
**Chair of Governors**



## OLCHFA SCHOOL GOVERNORS 2024-2025

Chair of Governors: Cllr Mary Jones  
Headteacher: Mr Julian Kennedy  
Clerk to Governors: Mrs Jan Platt

Correspondence for the attention of the Chair and Clerk should be forwarded to:  
Olchfa School, Gower Road, Sketty, Swansea, SA2 7AB

TYPE OF GOVERNOR	NAME	DATE APPOINTED	DATE TERM EXPIRES
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY</b>	Cllr M Day	28.10.2021	27.10.2025
	Mr J Ellis	25.5.2023	24.5.2027
	Cllr J Jones	25.7.2024	24.7.2028
	Cllr M Jones	25.1.2024	24.1.2028
	Mr D Rees	26.9.2024	25.9.2028
<b>PARENT</b>	Prof A John	24.11.2021	23.11.2025
	Mr G Jones	23.10.2023	22.10.2027
	Mrs H Lake	18.11.2024	17.11.2028
	Mrs A Omole	23.10.2023	22.10.2027
	Mrs S Smith	18.11.2024	17.11.2028
	Ms L Westhead	18.11.2024	17.11.2028
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Dr M Basha	25.11.2020	24.11.2024
	Ms R Colasanto	7.2.2025	6.2.2029
	Mrs J Howells	1.9.2022	31.8.2026
	Mrs B Jones	3.9.2022	2.9.2026
	Mrs K Novis	3.7.2024	2.7.2028
<b>TEACHER</b>	Mr M Jones	3.9.2022	2.9.2026
	Mr I Stewart	16.11.2022	15.11.2026
<b>STAFF</b>	Mrs H Vincent	21.9.2022	20.9.2026
<b>HEADTEACHER</b>	Mr J Kennedy	1.9.2023	

## SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS 2023-2024

	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Apprenticeship	4	1	1
Current status unknown	0	1	5
FE FT	71	19	5
FE PT	3	0	0
Foundation Apprenticeship	2	0	0
HE	0	1	141
Higher Apprenticeship	0	0	1
JGW+ Engagement	1	0	0
Job FT no formal training	0	0	4
Job FT with formal training	0	1	3
Job PT no formal training	2	0	6
Job PT with formal training	0	0	5
Non-employed (actively seeking)	1	2	2
Non Employed - not ready to enter	2	0	0
Out of Wales	2	0	0
Year 12	193	0	-
Year 12 Repeater/2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	0	13	-
Year 13	0	182	-
Year 13 Repeater/2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	-	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>174</b>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023-2024

SCHOOL: Olchfa Comp

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR

	Delegated Expenditure £	Non-Delegated Expenditure £	Total Net Expenditure £
Teachers Salaries	6,737,339	43,543	6,780,882
Salaries	1,952,345	2,168	1,954,513
Other Employee Costs	6,268	0	6,268
Premises	851,495	218	851,713
Transport	15,138	79,073	94,211
Supplies & Services	1,545,418	0	1,545,418
Recharges	169,977	5,275	175,251
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>11,277,980</b>	<b>130,277</b>	<b>11,408,257</b>
Grant Income	-814,580	0	-814,580
Other Income	-1,302,589	0	-1,302,589
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>-2,117,170</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,117,170</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>9,160,810</b>	<b>130,277</b>	<b>9,291,087</b>

<b>RESERVES:</b>	<b>£</b>
FINAL FORMULA ALLOCATION:	9,378,775
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE:	9,160,810
<b>TRANSFER TO / (FROM) RESERVES:</b>	<b>217,965</b>
OPENING BALANCE ON RESERVES 01/04/23	1,144,897
<b>CLOSING BALANCE ON RESERVES: 31/03/24</b>	<b>1,362,862</b>

## **ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS**

The school's designated Additional Learning Needs Coordinator is Mr Robert Williams (Senior Assistant Headteacher). He is assisted by Mrs Olivia Kennedy-Braddock (Learning Support Manager). We have a team of around 20 classroom-based Teaching Assistants, 4 Specialist Teaching Assistants, 2 Learning Coaches and a Specialist Teacher of the Deaf. We work in partnership with the Local Authority and have regular visits by the Behaviour Specialist Teacher, Educational Psychologist, Specialist Teacher for Speech, Language and ASD and other specialists.

The school continues to embed the new ALN Code for Wales within its ethos and systems. We are currently working on migrating pupils with Statement of SEN to the new Individual Development Plans (IDPs).

The next stage of the migration to the new ALN system has been extended by the Welsh Government. The process of moving across to the new system should be complete by the end of the 2024-25 academic year.

The school liaises closely with colleagues in our partner primary schools to ensure that transition to secondary is as smooth as possible for pupils with ALN. However, we also attend review meetings at other primary schools across the city where pupils are coming to Olchfa for Year 7 and have known learning difficulties.

We have received a grant from the Local Authority to provide more facilities for pupils with social communication difficulties. We have used this money to construct a small sensory regulation room within our STF. This is a very useful space that will be a fantastic resource for our pupils.

Olchfa is proud of hosting the only Specialist Teaching Facility (STF) for deaf children in a Swansea secondary school. However, advances in hearing aid technology means that most deaf pupils across the city are educated in their local mainstream schools. We are therefore working with the Local Authority to consider the future direction of our STF as part of the wider re-organisation of provision across the city. This is a major project for the Local Authority.

The use of the school's Learning Centre continues to evolve to provide support to pupils for a wide range of reasons. Historically, this facility supported pupils at KS4 to maximise achievement. We are increasingly offering access to pupils at KS3 who may be facing a range of challenges including learning difficulties, social/emotional difficulties and anxiety. Interventions are helping to support attendance and achievement.

The school continues to have a team of Specialist Teaching Assistants to support pupils with dyslexia and to provide literacy, numeracy and speech and language support interventions. We have two qualified access arrangements assessors, to ensure that we are able to make appropriate reasonable adjustments for external examinations.

We are working towards having a designated 'Neurodiversity Support Team' to support the needs of an increasingly broad spectrum of pupils who are neurodiverse. All teaching staff have been through the national autism awareness training resource.

Within staff development, ALN and inclusive teaching continues to be referenced frequently within training sessions. There is a far greater understanding of the range of learning needs and how best to support individual pupils in the classroom.

**Robert Williams**  
**Assistant Headteacher and ALNCo**

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

The aim of the Health and Wellbeing Department at Olchfa is to provide appropriate opportunities and experiences for individuals to achieve their optimum potential. Health and Wellbeing is primarily concerned with physical capabilities, but the associated aspects of knowledge and understanding are also vital components for all young people. Planning, performing and evaluating, therefore, are important and are pursued according to each individual's strengths.

Our objective in Health and Wellbeing is to encompass enjoyment and satisfaction and thereby encourage lifelong healthy habits whilst igniting a passion for sports and/or exercise within our pupils.

Our KS3 curriculum (iThrive) is and has been an ongoing process. Delivering, evaluating, reviewing and adapting has become a yearly process and we as a department are now very proud of what we have been able to achieve. We believe our curriculum strongly meets the needs of our learners and certainly allows them to develop lifelong healthy habits.

We play inter-school fixtures across the county and also enter national competitions. We regularly field A and B teams in each year group across sports such as football, rugby, netball, hockey, basketball, athletics, cross country, badminton, cricket, and rounders. Many of our individual players go on to represent county and district sides as well as some that achieve national representation.

The department runs an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities and encourages links with local sports clubs. We offer our Calon fitness suite to pupils on a daily basis, both before and after school, and also offer swimming lessons to pupils. We run a young ambassadors programme and also support pupils in completing officiating and coaching qualifications. New this year are our sixth form wellbeing sessions where pupils can take a break from their qualifications and utilise our sporting facilities with structured football, badminton, fitness, basketball and table tennis sessions now available to them.

Sporting highlights and achievements are numerous and are celebrated and noted on a termly basis in school via our internationals board, our achievement wall, assemblies, our Twitter account, via the school website and the termly newsletter.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Our shared vision for the school community has enabled us to continue to develop a strong sense of *Cynefin*. This has been achieved by working in partnership with all members of the school community.

The work of the School Advisory Board (SAB), which is made up of pupils, parents/carers and staff, continues to have a direct and meaningful impact on the life

of the school. Pupil voice continues to evolve and plays a central role in shaping and informing decisions at Olchfa, including the development of *Cynefin*.

We value strong relationships with parents and carers, supported by open lines of communication. We have continued to develop a programme of events to support better links which include open evenings, information evenings, parenting workshops and mathematics masterclasses to name but a few.

Very positive and productive relationships exist with our partner primary schools. We have a well established and effective process for representatives from each of the six Areas of Learning and Experience from schools in the partnership to come together throughout the year, to collaborate on curriculum and pedagogy. This is supporting and enhancing the specific transition activities in place for learners. Our partnership with our cluster primaries is enabling us to develop a shared understanding of progression, a central goal of Curriculum for Wales.

Olchfa's Strategic Equality plan has been in progress since 2021 and we are midway through its four year life span. It continues to be reviewed termly in school and yearly by the Governing Body. The main focus areas for 2023-2024 are anti-racism and diversity.

We have maintained a successful exchange partnership with El Centro Ingles (Cadiz) since 2017, with pupils from both schools benefitting from the academic and cultural programme. This work and our other international links are evidence of Olchfa's commitment to enabling pupils to become global citizens.

Olchfa pupils are also involved in a diverse range of other community activities, some of which form part of their D of E or Welsh Baccalaureate qualifications. The school also maintains and develops partnerships with a range of external agencies who form a valuable part of the wider community of support at Olchfa.

## COMMUNITY - FACILITIES HIRE

Many clubs and societies hire our facilities on a short-term and long-term basis, which includes our sports halls, swimming pool and 3G pitch. If you are interested in hiring our facilities, please visit the lettings page on the school website.

## HEALTHY EATING & DRINKING

The food and drink provided in school can make a positive contribution towards giving children and young people a healthy, balanced diet and encouraging them to develop good eating habits. The aim is to achieve a whole-school approach towards healthy eating and to encourage healthy attitudes to food and drink from an early age. This is in line with the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience within the new Curriculum for Wales.

We provide a breakfast service for pupils and staff from 8 am every day. As a school we mark and celebrate Healthy Eating Week annually. PowerPoint information is provided to all form tutors, to include tips, recipes and healthy eating information. The school catering outlets provide a special menu of the week and includes a range of different, healthy dishes each day. The school offers a wide range of dietary options daily, as well as offering a range of Halal dishes.

Water fountains are located throughout the school for pupils to access drinking water, or fill up their drinking bottle and water is provided free of charge in all dining halls at lunchtime.

### School Terms and Holiday Dates 2025-2026

Term	Term begins	Term Ends	Mid-term holiday		Term begins	Term ends
			Begins	Ends		
Autumn 2025	Monday 1 September	Friday 24 October	Monday 27 October	Friday 31 October	Monday 3 November	Friday 19 December
Spring 2026	Monday 5 January	Friday 13 February	Monday 16 February	Friday 20 February	Monday 23 February	Friday 27 March
Summer 2026	Monday 13 April	Friday 22 May	Monday 25 May	Friday 29 May	Monday 1 June	Monday 20 July

#### **Bank Holidays**

Thursday 1 January 2026  
Friday 3 April 2026  
Monday 6 April 2026  
Monday 4 May 2026  
Monday 25 May 2026  
Monday 31 August 2026

#### **INSET Days**

Monday 1 September 2025  
Tuesday 2 September 2025  
Monday 5 January 2026  
Monday 16 March 2026  
Friday 17 July 2026  
Monday 20 July 2026

## **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The summary of the SDP is appended to this document.

## **CURRICULUM POLICY**

The Curriculum Policy is available on the school's website.

## **SCHOOL PROSPECTUS**

The school prospectus is published on our website. There were no changes to the prospectus during the academic year.

## **LANGUAGE MEDIUM OF THE SCHOOL**

The language which is used as the medium of instruction and the normal business of Olchfa School is English.

## **USE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE AT OLCHFA**

- a) Welsh is only the prime language of instruction in Welsh lessons where it is reinforced with English in line with best practice.
- b) Welsh is not the usual language of communication in the school. It is instead used incidentally.
- c) The study of Welsh is compulsory to the age of 16.
- d) Welsh plays a full part in the transition programme at the school and is taught until the age of 16, except in the case of formal disapplication.
- e). The use of spoken and instructional Welsh, plus bilingual signage etc is an increasing feature of school life. The school has been awarded the Siarter Iaith Bronze Award and will work towards the next stage in future years.