



Inspection Edition

Following our inspection in March 2010, we are delighted that the team judged the Alun School to be a 'very good school which has many outstanding features' and awarded the highest possible grade for each of the seven key questions.

The very high percentage of lessons awarded Grade 1 for the standards achieved by pupils and students and the quality of teaching and assessment, particularly in the Sixth Form, endorses our commitment to providing the very best experiences for learners and maintains a trend of continuous improvement since the last inspection.

We are also proud of the identification of so many outstanding and excellent features, and this booklet brings together some of the headline comments from the report.



Members of the School Council receiving copies of the report

Results in external assessments and examinations are well above unitary authority and all-Wales averages in most key indicators of performance and compare very favourably to results in similar schools. This is an outstanding achievement.

Standards in the Sixth Form are outstanding . . . students make extremely good progress in lessons.

“Learners make excellent progress compared with their abilities on entry.”

Pupils make excellent progress in their personal, moral, social and wider development.

The school provides an outstanding variety of enrichment experiences for its learners . . . Pupils' and students' learning experiences are enhanced by a number of outstanding partnerships with the community and other providers.

"Teaching at the school is good with outstanding features inspectors judged the consistency of very good teaching to be a major contributory factor in the progress made by learners the quality of teaching continues to be a significant strength of the school."


Pupils and students demonstrate outstanding social and learning skills.

The quality of care, support and guidance is an outstanding feature of the life and work of the school.

“Sixth Form students respond very well to the highly effective teaching they receive. Their behaviour is exemplary. They make a very good contribution to the life of the school. They are aware of their teachers’ high expectations of them and are motivated to meet them. They are very well prepared for higher education and to take their place in the world of work.”

Teachers have very high expectations of their pupils, regardless of their level of ability. There is a strong and enthusiastic emphasis on the development of pupils as independent learners.

“The provision for work-related education and the development of enterprise is excellent.”



The inclusive approach to support all learners with additional and special educational needs is an outstanding feature.

“Pupils behave well and adopt very good attitudes to school. Relationships with other pupils and teachers are very good.”

Working relationships with local providers at primary, secondary and further education levels are very good.

“The school has very effective strategies to manage and promote positive behaviour.”

Sixth Form students work exceptionally well in creative and problem-solving opportunities. The ways in which they work with others in pairs and in small groups are outstanding.

“The extensive range of academic and vocational courses in the Sixth Form is an outstanding feature.”

“The school has made outstanding progress in raising the awareness of sustainable development and global citizenship.”

The governors’ contribution to the school’s strategic direction is outstanding.

“Working relationships are excellent. Teachers support and encourage pupils of all abilities individually and collectively.”

There are many outstanding ways in which the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community. These features include the:

- the range of academic and vocational courses offered in KS4 and the sixth form;
- wide and varied range of extra-curricular activities;
- provision for the social and moral development of learners;
- partnerships with other providers;
- promotion of education for sustainable development and global citizenship; and
- opportunities to develop entrepreneurial skills at KS4 and in the Sixth Form.

Leadership and management at the school are outstanding.

The school monitors its budget to a very high standard and provides excellent value for money.

The school's use of performance data to monitor pupil progress is outstanding . . . Teachers make outstanding use of ICT systems to track and monitor pupils' personal and academic development, and this is a strength in the school.

The reward system is outstanding in the way in which every form of achievement is noted.

“The school's strategies to promote gender equality are an outstanding feature . . . The way in which the school supports disabled pupils is outstanding . . . The inclusive ethos of the school is an outstanding feature.”

The arrangements to ensure that all learners receive support are outstanding.

. . . and the comments below confirm that this inspection report is part of the continuing story of successful development in the school

Quote from the 2004 report “The Alun School is a highly successful, very well led school, with many outstanding features including its capacity for continuous improvement. Despite its very large size, the school provides a happy, safe and caring environment, where pupils and staff feel that they matter and are valued personally as individuals. A forward looking school, it serves its community, whose confidence it rightly enjoys, very well.”

Quote from the 1998 report “The Alun School is a thriving, popular and highly successful school, with much good practice, some of it exceptionally good.”



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