

Alun School News

Date: April 2004

Inspection Edition

“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.”

These are the opening words from the report we have just received following the inspection that took place in February. Staff and governors are absolutely delighted with what has been written as it gives a strong endorsement of every area of the school. Standards have never been higher, and inspectors



Sixth Form students reading the report

noted how even though the 1998 inspection report was highly complimentary, the school has continued to improve significantly in the last few years.

The school provides a happy, safe and caring environment where pupils are valued and respected, and the teachers work consistently to enhance the pupils' self esteem, to promote personal development and to address problems of under-achievement.

The quality of teaching
is a major strength of
the school.

**“The standards of behaviour
and attitudes towards
learning are very good
throughout the school.”**

The quality of support, guidance and pupils' welfare is very good and is one of the great strengths of the school.

The standards achieved by sixth form students are good or better in 98% of classes. Very good standards are achieved in well over a third of classes. Students of all abilities in this very large sixth form, which provides a very wide range of courses, make progress that is at least good in all subjects.

The school's commitment to the personal development of its pupils is one of its strengths. It has a strong corporate ethos which is based upon mutual respect, very good relationships and a care for others.



Academic and personal progress are carefully monitored and pupils helped to reach their full potential.

“GCSE and GNVQ results have further improved from the high levels at the last inspection.”





The proportion of pupils who remain in full-time education beyond the age of 16 compares very favourably with similar schools.

Relationships between pupils and staff are very good and, as a result, there is a spirit of partnership and a pleasant learning atmosphere throughout the whole campus.

Much suitably challenging extension work is provided for high attainers.



“The school is a caring community and goes to considerable lengths to respond to a broad range of pupil needs.”

Planning at all levels in the school is a strength, consolidating its coherence and consistency.

“The developing use of ICT is a strength of the school.”

The governing body discharges its responsibilities very well.

“Planning for the development of Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig and for multiculturalism is very good.”

Financial planning and management of the school are very good.

“The whole school day operates smoothly and punctually.”

Curricular partnerships with primary schools are particularly successful and a great strength.

“The quality and range of information for parents about the work of the school is comprehensive and very good.”

Pupils are polite and friendly towards visitors and are supportive of each other. They co-operate well in group work; they listen to each other and respect each others opinions.

The school prepares its pupils very well for the world beyond school.

“The programme of extra-curricular activities organised by the school is very good.”

And finally, here’s a reminder of what they said back in 1998 “The Alun School is a thriving, popular and highly successful school, with much good practice, some of it exceptionally good.”

Inspectors have written a report to be distributed to all parents that contains the main findings and a subject by subject summary. We are sure that everyone who reads it will be as proud as we are with the comments that have been made.

Parents wishing to obtain a copy of the full detailed report can request one from the school. Alternatively it will be available to read very soon on the Estyn website where all school inspection reports are posted. The address is:

www.estyn.gov.uk/inspection_reports.asp

We would encourage everyone with access to the internet to visit the site to read our report, and any others they may be interested in. A direct link to the above address will be inserted on the school's website: www.alunschool.co.uk

This special edition of 'Alun School News' brings together some of the main quotes taken from both the parents' summary and the full report. The pupils below are seen celebrating after hearing about their school's success.



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