



Wales HIGH SCHOOL



The Ofsted Special

A TRADITION OF **EXCELLENCE** AND **RESPECT**





INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I am pleased to share with you an overview of our recent Ofsted inspection that took place in October 2023.

Inspectors held meetings with myself, senior colleagues and members of the Governing Body. They also observed lessons, students' work and spoke with teachers, students and parents.

I am delighted with the final report which is effusive in its praise and captures so much that we are proud of about 'The Wales Way'.



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Everyone is welcome in this inclusive school. Leaders are steadfast in their commitment to inclusivity for all pupils and the wider community of Wales High School, they have created a positive culture that spreads through every aspect of the school community

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VISION AND VALUES



Wales High School is a friendly and vibrant school. Pupils understand the importance of tolerance and respect.

“The inclusive culture and ethos is lived not laminated!”

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“Those responsible for governance provide effective support and challenge and have an accurate view of the school’s strengths and areas for development.”

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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The school is focused on giving pupils experiences beyond academic learning. They learn to respect and celebrate difference.

The school prioritises pupils' personal development. All pupils learn about important issues such as respectful relationships, financial management and discrimination. They are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development is enhanced through a cohesive programme of assemblies that complement the taught curriculum.



“Leaders plan carefully to make sure all pupils develop into well-rounded individuals with a strong sense of community.”



Pupils benefit from a highly effective careers programme. They are well prepared for their next steps in education, training or employment. Sixth Form students work with local businesses to develop projects which enrich their understanding of the world of work.



SUPPORT FOR LEARNING



The school has designed an ambitious curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils, including pupils with SEND. Leaders provide precise guidance for teachers to help them to support pupils with SEND, this extends to pupils who access the school's specialist resource provision, who are skilfully supported by well-trained staff to thrive in school.

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“The school’s work to promote mental health is noteworthy. Pupils and staff are supported well by a team of counsellors and trained staff”.

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QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Teachers have very strong subject knowledge. They use this to ensure that learning is matched well to pupils' capabilities using assessment well to identify any gaps in pupils' knowledge. Leaders enable teachers to work together so that they can continually refine the curriculum to better meet pupils' needs. New knowledge builds effectively on what pupils already know because teachers have a clear understanding of the curriculum from Year 7 to the Sixth Form.



“All staff follow a strong programme of professional learning which is matched to the school’s improvement priorities and the interests of individual staff.”



Leaders have allocated curriculum time to enhance pupils' reading. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 are encouraged to read texts by a range of authors and of different genres through the 'GROW' curriculum. Where pupils are at an early stage of learning to read, leaders quickly identify the barriers that prevent pupils from reading fluently. Pupils receive the support that they need to become confident readers.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT WALES HIGH SCHOOL

PARENTS/CARERS:

- *'My daughter enjoys coming to this school'*
- *'Fantastic - child extremely happy. He loves the school.'*
- *'Wales High is a fantastic school: nurturing and caring'*
- *'What an amazing teacher. Thank you'*
- *'Very supportive teachers and approachable'*

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"When your son walks into school saying he is worried about scraping through a particular subject and walks out with a 9 in it! Priceless!"

- Parent

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STUDENTS:

- *'I'm happy with everything - love the school'*
- *'This is a lovely school to be at and it makes me feel grown up. So glad I came to this school'*
- *'Teachers care and help me'*
- *'Thank you so much for being the best teacher ever and making exams less stressful'*
- *'Proud of myself'*
- *'Over the moon with my results - the hard work has finally paid off'*
- *At Wales High School's Sixth Form, you will be empowered to unlock your full potential, embrace new challenges, and stretch the boundaries of your capabilities. You will have the opportunity to explore new realms of knowledge and interesting subjects that will challenge and engage you on creative level's.*

FOUNDED IN 1970



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

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