

Coleg Elidyr Prospectus



**A Specialist Residential &
Further Education College**

A Fantastic Place to Live & Learn!

So proud of my boy and the team around him
for giving him a supportive environment that has
delivered great achievements and self-belief.

A true gift for him, my family and all families
that need inclusion and hope.



Sector Leading Provision

Building Potential & Changing Lives

We are a residential, specialist college of further education and training, providing tailored learning programmes and residential care for young people with autism and complex additional learning needs. We are part of Elidyr Communities Trust.

With expert support, learners develop their knowledge and skills to reach their full potential, while living and working in a community. We're an experienced provider, we've been working from our main site near Llandovery for almost 50 years.

We offer a Foundation Education Programme and a Skills for Life Programme - with learning hugely adapted to make sure everyone has a positive experience.



A wonderful place ... our son has achieved things we never dreamed he could. He's been so happy!

Judged 'Excellent' by Estyn

We've been judged as 'excellent' by Estyn in both 2014 and 2019 and have advanced accreditation from the National Autistic Society. We're constantly refining our curriculum and approach, to incorporate new ways of engaging our learners. This means we work closely with other colleges, organisations and government to make sure we remain leaders in the sector.



The college provides learners with highly stimulating experiences that help them engage fully in their learning to make exceptional progress.

Estyn Inspector



Person-Centred Learning

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum, with the individual at the centre of their own learning.

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, are resourceful and able to solve problems.
- Confident individuals who can live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Responsible citizens who respect others and make positive contributions to society.

Everything we offer reflects this ambition.

Refined Over Decades

We are known for an approach that's deep-rooted in the landscape. We offer a hands-on, community-feel education that uses our vast 180 acre site to inspire people to live and learn more independently.

Our learners work daily in our new education hub, craft workshops, smallholding, shop, gardens and gym. They move around the site from place-to-place, spending time in different environments, experimenting with greater independence, as they grow in confidence. It's a village setting, with learners 'going out' to their learning areas and returning home for meals, and socialising.

I never thought my daughter would be able to walk independently to a shop. It's been so good for her to have that freedom but in a totally safe environment.

In-House Therapy Team

Professional Support Designed to Enable Learning

Everyone who comes to Coleg Elidyr has access to a highly trained onsite therapy team. This means that specialists covering speech and language, total communication, occupational therapy and behaviour, form part of our core team.

Each person's learning is scaffolded by an appropriate therapy package to enable them to learn to the best of their ability. All learners are given speech and language therapy (SaLT) targets to support this.



Everyone is trained in our total communication approach, which gives learners every chance to understand and to be understood, avoiding frustration and anxiety – building opportunities for social interaction.

Being able to tell people what you want is something most of us take for granted. It's so simple but absolutely fundamental to being able to function in life. We use signing alongside verbal communication with a breadth of other tools. We have communication boards in houses, workshops and learning areas. We use 'now and next' boards, task lists, sequence sliders and talking mats.

We've seen our son develop a range of new skills. He is so much more confident and independent.

He's having a great range of experiences ... and is clearly enjoying himself!

Homely Accommodation

Fantastic Family-Feel Place to Call Home

We have seven houses, each one with its own; dedicated house manager, kitchen, office, laundry room and choice of communal areas.

Most have a large kitchen/dining area with adjoining living space, which helps large groups to socialise. Young people are encouraged and helped to do their own laundry, cooking and cleaning.



A safe, compassionate and happy household ... more than we ever could have wished for.

Six of our houses incorporate independent flats that are used to support our young people in further developing life skills for their post-college lives. We maintain a rolling programme of refurbishment and redecoration.

Our houses are run as warm, supportive households where young people can be themselves. We eat, socialise and undertake household chores together, sharing experiences and making decisions on household matters including menus and leisure activities.



Nant Gwyn



Ty Barnabas



Gardevias



Ty Pickwick



Ty Rhieni



Ty Iori



Gwernpwll

Two Life-Enhancing Programmes

Adapting to the Needs of Learners

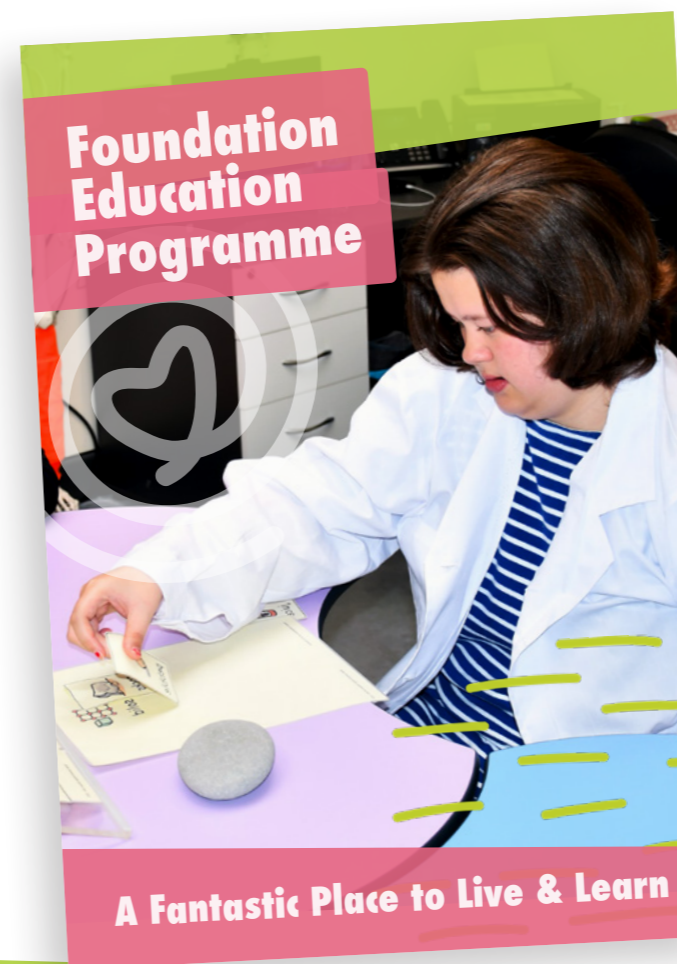
Coleg Elidyr offers a Foundation Education Programme and a Skills for Life Programme.

Everyone has an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) with goals that span all aspects of life at Coleg Elidyr.

Learning takes place 24/7 – both in activities and classes during the day, but also in houses.

In both programmes, learners are placed in small tutor groups at the start of the year, these have been carefully selected to balance personalities and interests.

My son has been at Coleg Elidyr for some time. He is very happy and is supported to develop in a ways I didn't think would ever happen.



St David's Day Cultural Trip
Our first post-pandemic group outing.

Foundation Education Programme

Building Skills & Well-Being ... Inspiring Excitement to Learn!

Most learners join Coleg Elidyr for our Foundation Education Programme.

The curriculum aligns with the requirements outlined in each person's Education Healthcare Plan (EHCP) or Individual Development Plan (IDP)

Everyone has their own person-centred Individual Learning Plan (ILP). No two people have the same plan, everyone gets a mix of what's right for them.



1 Health & Wellbeing

We instil a good attitude to healthy living – it's an important foundation for learning. Understanding the positive impact of looking after your body and mind is crucial to keeping people happy, and able to progress.

2 Essential Skills

Literacy, Numeracy & Digital Literacy

These skills, coupled with communication, are integrated into learning and living environments. Our curriculum operates around the clock. Every experience is a learning opportunity.

3 Independent Living Skills

Many learners arrive with basic or non-existent independent living skills. It is one of the areas of progress that parents are most delighted by! We have a structured approach to teaching household and life skills, to enable small regular improvements.

4 Community Participation

Understanding the concept of 'community' and how different groups interact and work together helps create a broader world view. It builds an appreciation of the views of others, improves social interaction and teaches how decision-making works.

5 Employability

Employability skills prepare our learners to progress in a chosen field and approach further study, or the world of work, with more confidence.



An Elidyr Experience

Happy to Help
Ready to Work

We've got an ever growing group of local employers and organisations that offer work experience opportunities.

Over the years our learners have spent time in National Botanic Garden of Wales, Lluest Pony Trust, Many Tears Animal Rescue, The Plough Inn and Myddfai Trading. Co-op in Llandovery is also a firm favourite with learners!

We bring in experts, such as Legacy in the Community, to run activities focusing on work-related skills-building. These sessions range from understanding the concept of 'good first impression' through to attending an interview. There's also role-play where learners can get in to character in different jobs.

Work experience, social interaction, and confidence, in a safe and comfortable working environment.

Skills for Life Programme

Consolidating Knowledge, Refining Skills & Increasing Opportunities

Skills for Life is a 1 or 2 year residential programme, delivered over 37 weeks with extended provision, up to 52 weeks. Although we continue to build the basics – digital skills, numeracy and literacy – this provision focuses on life after Coleg Elidyr.

The objective of the programme is preparation for the next step in life, whatever that might be! We recognise that this will vary hugely from person-to-person. We aim to arm learners with the tools to build a clearer picture of their future and prepare them with skills to be healthy and happy.

Each learner has their own Individual Learning Programme (ILP) with targets grouped into four key areas.

1 Home & Community Skills

Encouraging learners to become more confident in the home and also to think about what kind of home environment they enjoy, and what living arrangements might suit them in the future.

2 Lifestyle Skills

Promoting the importance of healthy lifestyle choices, enjoyment of healthy activities, and good mental health.

3 Social & Interpersonal Skills

Recognising the importance of productive downtime. Building hobbies, and advocating choices is crucial for learners to be able to live fulfilling and active lifestyles in the future.

4 Career Skills (Work Experience, Employability, Enterprise & Volunteering)

Developing employability and enterprise skills, which includes work experience whenever possible. Skills competitions also provide opportunities for learners to develop vocational skills, wider skills for work, personal, social and independence skills.

An Elidyr Experience

So Much to Say... Student Council

The student forum is the place where learners are encouraged to express their opinions and influence change.

We have a group of young people who are supported to take responsibility for issues, concerns and suggestions gathered through house meetings. During these meetings young people discuss potential social activities – swimming, visiting the beach, going to the cinema, pub or coffee shop. They have the chance to air their views and discuss and solve any issues raised.

There have been some fantastic additions to our community following ideas generated by learners. The group also get involved in the NATSPEC Parliament where they meet young people from all over the country, to discuss common issues.



An Elidyr Experience

Skills Competitions Going for Gold

We use the structure of organised competitions, through Skills Wales and WorldSkills, to give our learners the opportunity to access experiences well beyond the parameters of our campus.

These competitions inspire, encourage, and motivate individuals to push themselves to new heights, and recognise excellence in their chosen field.

We've pushed against the stereotype that 'competing' is too complex for our learners. We've demonstrated that if the competition brief is suitably adapted, we can mitigate elements, such as time pressure, that our learners find tough.

We create experiences that our learners are able to engage with, allowing them to perform at a national level – something many of our young people have never imagined.

Coleg Elidyr have managed to embed competitions into their day-to-day learning. The facilities here and the opportunities for learners to try new things are outstanding.

Deputy Director
Further Education & Apprenticeships
Welsh Government



When I found out I'd won the gold medal, I was completely speechless and shocked.

But, it's the taking part that really counts to me.



Lots of Interactive Learning Facilities

The ability to access many different learning environments and experiences on one site is crucial to our approach. Our learning programmes encourage learners to develop their knowledge and skills in areas that interest them.

In addition to specific skills development, these areas provide opportunities for shared activities and projects, aiding communication and social skills including peer learning, turn taking and listening.



Smallholding & Garden

Our unique site provides learners with safe and diverse land-related learning experiences. As each season gives way to another, proximity to the land provides reassurance and predictability contributing to the development of the individual's self-confidence and awareness. Whether it's weighing out animal feed, ensuring animal welfare, working on the estate, or cultivating herbs and vegetables in our kitchen garden, learners are provided with purposeful real-world living and learning opportunities. We even have dedicated garden and farm classrooms!



IT & Communications

We have a designated ICT suite and ICT Coordinator in place, for learners to access through the week. Skills introduced in ICT sessions are then transferred into a practical 'real life' context within other work areas.



Catering & Hospitality

Our state of the art teaching kitchen allows learners to effectively develop their independent living skills including, cooking, hospitality, household tasks and health and safety. For many of our learners, the kitchen provides an area for them to hone creative and fine motor skills. Tutors can also subtly embed numeracy skill development, with tasks such as weighing ingredients or calculating cooking times.

Textiles & Woodwork

The college has many years' expertise in understanding and promoting the therapeutic benefits of craft as a vehicle for wider learning. The traditional crafts of weaving, green woodwork and carpentry are offered alongside more contemporary art and design, printmaking, candle and soap making.

For many of our learners, not least those with autism, the processes and rhythm associated with the creation of crafts serves to enhance individuals' abilities to manage anxieties.

Equally, craft activities can improve gross and fine motor skills and increase attention and focus. They also enhance hand to eye coordination and the ability to use both hands simultaneously.

An Elidyr Experience

Outdoor Adventure Duke of Edinburgh

Our location, deep in the Welsh countryside, means we have easy access for outdoor activities, and we offer a jam-packed Duke of Edinburgh programme.

Our young people read maps, climb mountains, cross valleys, cycle, prepare food, plan routes and keep each other going! They display leadership and determination – building skills and confidence.

The DofE Award is very inclusive and allows specialist providers to make adaptations, this ensures that everybody, whatever their ability can access the award. Participants must complete sections in volunteering, practical skills, physical activity and an expedition to gain the award.

Gold participants must also do an additional residential section or participate in an activity week, again staying away from home. Every year we have learners who gain Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

DofE is the most fantastic opportunity for our young people to tackle challenges and build confidence. It's tough, but when they reach their goals they are so proud ... and so are we.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager



Proud to be Welsh

Committed to Welsh Heritage
& a Thriving Welsh Culture

Welsh language and culture is part of our lives at Coleg Elidyr.

Although we have learners from all over the UK, we are proud to be a part of the cultural and educational landscape of Wales. Embracing the Welsh language is normal practice for Welsh learners, and builds on what they experienced in their previous schools.



I like this place.
I just love it!

Coleg Elidyr Learner in a BBC interview



In addition, an appreciation of Welsh language and culture opens doors for personal growth for all learners, wherever they come from. It fosters a sense of belonging and strengthens ties with our local community. All Welsh speakers are paired up with Welsh speaking tutors and key workers. We have bilingual signage across the site and everyone has Welsh cultural activities as part of their programme – whether it's a visit to the National Museum of Wales, or attending big events like the Eisteddfod.

Creating Lives Full of Meaning & Purpose



Come & See for Yourself

There's no better way to appreciate how wonderful Elidyr really is...

Application forms for Coleg Elidyr are on our website, but, if you're interested in securing a place, the best next step is to come and visit! We absolutely love showing people around our wonderful site and nothing shows-off our approach better than taking a tour of the facilities – meeting staff, learners and residents.

If you'd like to discuss an application or arrange a visit, please contact our team on 01550 760400.

<https://elidyrct.ac.uk/admissions/funding-information>



My son has never been happier or more fulfilled than he is living at Elidyr.



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Charity Number: 502742. Company Number: 1215997.

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