

# School & Governor News

Autumn Term 2010



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## RECONFIGURATION OF THE SCHOOLS AND INCLUSION SERVICE

I am pleased to confirm the completion of the first phase of reconfiguring the Schools and Inclusion Service. From the 1st September 2010 the service will be renamed the Schools Service to reflect the start of a new relationship between the Authority and its schools as described within the **School Effectiveness Framework**.

The Framework stresses the importance of collaborative working across a wide range of services. To provide a robust and demonstrable level of collaboration and joint working between the Local Authority and schools, four '**School Effectiveness Teams**' (SET) have been established to lead this new way of working.

The teams will be managed by two Senior Education Officers - Ian Roberts, who has responsibility for 2 teams in the north of Powys and John Barker, who has a similar responsibility in the mid/south of Powys. The areas covered by the teams are:

- Area 1 – Llanfyllin, Caereinion and Bro Ddyfi
- Area 2 – Welshpool, Newtown and Llanidloes.
- Area 3 – Llandrindod, Builth and John Beddoes
- Area 4 – Brecon, Gwernyfed, Crickhowell and Maesydderwen

The initial focus of the School Effectiveness Teams is:

- Leadership – supporting class teachers, middle managers, senior managers and Governors to develop their capacity and expertise.
- Standards, Teaching and Learning – ensuring the curriculum is relevant and personalised to the needs of the child or young person and that the highest quality teaching is delivered.
- Working with Others – supporting schools to develop their community focus; their engagement with children, young people and families during and beyond the school day; their engagement with other service providers.

All schools should have received more detailed information about the work of the School Effectiveness Teams and hopefully this will have been shared with all Governors. If this is not the case I am sure a conversation with the Headteacher will resolve this. Further information is also available on the Council's intranet site where the full Schools Service structure and the job descriptions of the SET Officers can be found.

Phase 2 of the reconfiguration of the Schools Service will take place over the next academic year. This will bring services such as Educational Psychology; Hearing Impaired/Visual Impaired; Athrawon Bro Service; Education Welfare and others into alignment with the new School Effectiveness Teams. Further information on this will be issued in due course.

**Douglas Wilson, Head of Schools and Inclusion**

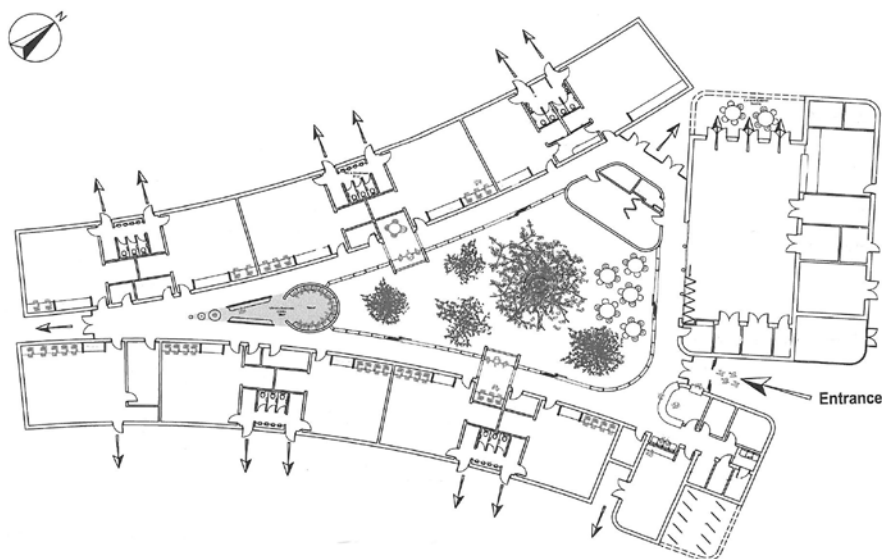
# SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME

## Ystradgynlais – Maesydderwen Catchment Review

Following agreement of the Council's Board on 30th March 2010 to begin consultation on the closure of ten primary schools and the opening of four new ones, a series of consultation meetings took place in each school during the Summer Term 2010. Each consultation event included a meeting with staff, governors and parents and the wider community.

Interested parties had until 16th July to make their comments in response to the review. All comments received and an officer response will be reported to Board on 14th September. If approval to the continuation of the rationalisation is given by Board then the formal process of publishing school closure notices will begin.

Sketch designs for the new schools and illustrative layouts showing their alignment on the four sites have been produced. The new schools are still on target for opening by September 2012.



Proposed footprint of new primary schools in Ystradgynlais. The four schools will be built to the design shown adjusted to take into account school size and facilities

## Gwernyfed Catchment Review

Five meetings of the Area Project Board have taken place, involving local members, the voluntary sector, the diocesan authority, the local health board and heads and/or chairs of governors of the schools. There has been a general agreement about the need to replace the existing ten schools in the catchment with three to five refurbished ones. There has however been no formal agreement as yet.

## John Beddoes Catchment Review

The inaugural meeting of the Area Project Board was held in May. It is still very early days in the process but it is intended to follow a similar pattern to previous reviews with information presented on pupil numbers and location, condition of schools and surplus places with a subsequent discussion of possible future sites for new schools.

## Trefonnen Church in Wales School, Llandrindod Wells

The new school is due for completion by December 2010 with occupation by the school due in January 2011. The rest of the development including car park and playing field will be completed by April 2011.

Discussions have recently begun around management of the building in the future as a community focused school. There are several child and parent support agencies (Play Radnor, Action for Children, Barnardo's, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) who are interested in having office space or a presence at the school.

**Owen James**  
School Modernisation Support Manager

## POWYS SECONDARY & POST-16 EDUCATION MODERNISATION PROGRAMME

We would like to thank you for your feedback regarding the Strategic Outline Programme that was published in June. We are very grateful for the response as it will help to inform the development of the Modernisation Programme. We believe that it is important that we work together to address the challenges that are facing the education sector in the county, and we look forward to further discussions with you as we progress. A summary of all the responses will be posted on the Council's website.

Please continue to send us your views and comments – you can write in, you can e-mail [secondarieschool.modernisation@powys.gov.uk](mailto:secondarieschool.modernisation@powys.gov.uk) or you can respond directly on the secondary modernisation pages of the Powys website [www.powys.gov.uk](http://www.powys.gov.uk).

The Secondary Modernisation Team has been meeting a number of different people to gather views and opinions about education in Powys and the Modernisation Programme. These include secondary school governors, Powys Youth Forum, teaching unions, headteachers, politicians, diocesan representatives, the 14–19 Network, the Children and Young People's Partnership and key partners such as Coleg Powys. We will be continuing to meet with interested parties this term, so if you'd like us to meet with you then please get in touch – you can e-mail us or ring on **01597 826155**.

Over the summer, officers have been carrying out a detailed evaluation of all the options. A further consultation document with detailed proposals will be issued later this term and a lengthy formal consultation period will commence. We will keep you informed about this.

The School Modernisation Team now incorporates the officers responsible for managing the Powys 14-19 Network, bringing these two important programmes together. Jennifer Owen Adams will have responsibility for overseeing both the Primary and Secondary Modernisation Programmes, as well as continuing with her responsibilities as the 14-19 Network Manager. She is supported by Nici Jones, who has a specific remit to oversee the quality of 14–19 provision and the development of e-learning. Nici is currently on secondment from Coleg Powys.

**Marianne Evans**  
**Secondary School Organisation Project Manager**

Further information on the school modernisation programme can be viewed on the Powys website at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=3851&L=0>

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## SUCCESSFUL GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

The first ever Powys Governors' Conference to be held under the auspices of the Powys Governors Association (PGA) was held at Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells on Saturday June the 19th. The Conference followed the first Annual General Meeting of the Association, at which the main business was to agree the terms of reference for the PGA with a few small but important changes.

The Conference itself began with the keynote speaker, Mr Mike Maguire from Estyn - an extremely experienced Schools Inspector. He very effectively outlined the objectives and framework of the next cycle of schools inspections in Wales followed by a lively question and answer session.

The Conference then broke into a series of workshops, ably facilitated by Authority personnel on each of the three key questions in the new Estyn framework: Outcomes, Provision and Leadership & Management. The workshop topics followed on very naturally from Mr Maguire's address and this was positively received as a logical, informative and functional format for the Conference.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the PGA I would firstly like to thank all the staff at Powys County Hall for their care and support during the Conference. I would particularly like to thank Ian Roberts, Beth Groves and their teams for the thought, planning and organisation they committed to a very successful Conference and for their continued and on-going support of the PGA.

## **SUCCESSFUL GOVERNORS CONFERENCE CONTINUED...**

The attendance at the Conference was very heartening with Governors attending from all over the county and representing all types of school. Being a school Governor by its very nature involves committing time, energy and expertise to maintain and develop the highest possible standards of education and governance in Powys. We therefore appreciate the additional time given to attend this year's Conference, trust that you found it useful and look forward to seeing even more Governors at the next Conference in June 2011.

In the meantime, please make every effort to ensure that your school is represented at the regional Governors meetings in November so that we can continue to develop the PGA's effectiveness as an Association to promote best practice in governance in Powys schools, strengthen links between Governors in Powys and act as a conduit between Powys Governors and the local authority.

**Wyn Owen**  
**Chair of the PGA executive committee**

## **POWYS GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION AGM/CONFERENCE – SATURDAY 19TH JUNE 2010**

Having been an active member of the School Council at Builth Wells High School for 7 years, becoming an Associate Pupil Governor seemed like the logical next stage.

Having been an Associate Pupil Governor for two years, attending the Powys Governors' Association AGM, especially the first, seemed like a really good opportunity to meet other Governors. Perhaps also meeting other Associate Pupil Governors as well, to discuss what they did in their schools compared to ours.

Before the day I didn't really know what to expect but I did think that I would probably be the only pupil governor there and that most of those attending would be adult Governors, who would take one look at me and stereotype me. But I was really pleasantly surprised as I think that most of the Governors there thought that I was a 'real' Governor.

The AGM was really interesting because it gave me and I think the other Governors there a real insight into how Powys felt about Governors. It was also a good chance to see just how passionate some Governors are.

I found the Esyn talk particularly interesting, especially as I am hoping to be a teacher when I am older if all goes well at university in the coming years! The other workshops were interesting as well and definitely made me think twice about becoming a teacher!

The day was a really useful insight into the role of a Governor; however, I must say that the graphs used during the Workshop on the Inspection Key Question 1: Standards and Wellbeing were very complicated and quite hard to understand – I hope I wasn't alone in thinking this!

May I take this opportunity to thank Powys for giving me this opportunity and for allowing me to learn more about the role of a Governor.

**Miss Claire James**  
**Associate Pupil Governor, Builth Wells High School**

## ACTIVE YOUNG PEOPLE PE & SCHOOL SPORT UPDATE

In the last issue we introduced you to our Active Young People projects, in this issue we are going to tell you about a few of the successes of the PESS project.

### PESS FACT

36 courses have run during 2009/10, with 504 attendances across primary and secondary schools, at no cost to the school. Courses ranged from Mid day supervisor training for In the Zone to Outdoor Learning Cards and Gymnastics for Teachers.

### Clwb Dal I Fynd

Clwb Dal I Fynd is a resource that's been produced by PESS. It looks at getting children, parents and teachers fit, by running, walking, skipping or however they feel comfortable completing designated laps around the school grounds.

Caehopkin Primary School in the Ystragynlais cluster has really put its energy into developing Clwb Dal I Fynd. Having had a track marked by Powys Highways Department, the scheme was implemented on a termly rota basis, linked to a common theme. The children have really engaged in the project and recently took part in the sport relief mile, using their track to calculate mileage.

In order to encourage children to take part Headteacher, Chris Barton, put a fancy dress theme in place to make it fun and interesting. The children really enjoy taking part and are more active as a result.



Crossgates Primary School decided to use Clwb Dal I Fynd during their lessons - each child was given a booklet which looked at the benefits and long term effects of exercise. Then over a number of weeks the children were given 20 minutes to run or walk around their school trail. Each week they had to record how many laps they had achieved, they would then set themselves personal targets. I was lucky enough to visit Crossgates and the children invited me to run with them, which was great fun!

### Here are what some of the children think about Clwb Dal I Fynd...

"It makes me feel proud, energetic and fit." Dominic. "It's really good fun doing it with your friends." Chloe, Emily and Siobhan. "It makes me fitter and it makes me feel good." Tom.

Active Young People Team

## INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS AWARD FOR WALES (ISAW)

Llandrindod Wells CP School Cefnlllys piloted a new accreditation scheme and has achieved the Inclusive Schools Award for Wales (ISAW) Gold Award. The ISAW is awarded to schools and other learning settings in recognition of their inclusive cultures, policies and practices.



The school was expecting to receive the Bronze Award in the pilot. However, independent assessors felt that as the school's inclusive practices were completely embedded into its ethos they recommended the school for the Gold Award.

Pictured are pupils from Llandrindod Wells CP School Cefnlllys with their Inclusive Schools Award for Wales Gold Award, together with Chris Tonkin, Headteacher, and officers from the Schools Service.

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## POWYS GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Agendas, minutes and paperwork relating to the executive committee and each regional meeting are available to download from the Governors section of the Powys website, <http://www.powys.gov.uk> Dates for the autumn, spring and summer terms have been set and are detailed below:

### **Dates for Executive Meetings during 2010/11**

Wednesday, 22nd September 2010, Wednesday, 9th February 2011

### **Dates for Governors' Association Meetings during 2010/11**

South – Thursday, 18th November 2010 (Brecon High School, LD3 9SR) please note change of date

Mid – Thursday, 11th November 2010 (County Hall, Llandrindod, LD1 5LG)

North – Thursday, 18th November 2010 (Neuadd Maldwyn, Welshpool, SY21 7AS)

South – Thursday, 17th March 2011 (Brecon High School, LD3 9SR)

Mid – Tuesday, 22nd March 2011 (County Hall, Llandrindod, LD1 5LG)

North – Thursday, 24th March 2011 (Neuadd Maldwyn, Welshpool, SY21 7AS)

**AGM/Conference – Saturday, 18th June 2011 (venue to be confirmed)**

The agenda for the autumn Association Meetings will be distributed to chairs at the beginning of October.

# GOVERNOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## SEPTEMBER 2010 – APRIL 2011

During the autumn and spring terms we will be running Clerks Training, Roles and Responsibilities training for new governors and training on the New Common Inspection Framework and the School Effectiveness Framework.

### Roles & Responsibilities

Date	Venue
9th November 2010	Penrhos C.P. School, SA9 1QT
16th November, 2010	County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG
30th November, 2010	Dyffryn Banw C.P., Llangadfan, SY21 0NW
2nd December, 2010	Plas Dolerw, Newtown, SY21 2EH
7th December, 2010	Teacher Centre, Brecon, LD3 8EB

### The New Common Inspection Framework & The School Effectiveness Framework

Date	Venue
2nd March, 2011	Penrhos C.P. School, SA9 1QT
7th March, 2011	County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG
9th March, 2011	Dyffryn Banw C.P., Llangadfan, SY21 0NW
14th March, 2011	Teachers Centre, Brecon, LD3 8EB
16th March, 2011	Plas Dolerw, Newtown, SY21 2EH

Further course information and dates can be downloaded from the Powys Governors website at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=3061&L=0>.

If you would like to book onto any of the sessions please contact the Training Unit on 01597 826716 or email [bsftraining@powys.gov.uk](mailto:bsftraining@powys.gov.uk). If you would like to discuss any training requirements please contact Beth Groves, Training & Development Officer – Governors on 01597 826402 or email [beth.groves@powys.gov.uk](mailto:beth.groves@powys.gov.uk).

We are constantly seeking to improve the training opportunities available to governors and welcome any comments you have on existing training, as well as suggestions for topics to be covered in future programmes.

### GOVERNORS GUIDE TO THE LAW

The Welsh Assembly has made amendments to chapters 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23 & 25 of the Governors Guide to the Law. Amended chapters can be found on the Powys Governors website at <http://www.powys.gov.uk>

# EXAMINATION RESULTS 2010

## A-LEVEL WJEC

More than 5 out of every 10 results (54%) were at grades A\*, A and B, with 6% at the new A\* grade and a further 18% at grade A. Almost everyone who took an A-level in Powys passed (98%). The results for 2010 are slightly lower than in 2009, mirroring the all Wales trend, however Powys results are once again significantly higher than those for Wales and England. The Powys WJEC results at grades A\*-B are more than 4% higher than the all-Wales figures (all Examination Boards) maintaining the outstanding progress seen since 2001.

WJEC entries represent approximately 70% of the total A-level entries in Powys. Provisional all-Board figures indicate that 56% of results were at grades A\*, A and B grades, with 5% at the new A\* grade and a further 25% at grade A.

## GCSE WJEC

Almost 7 out of 10 results (69%) were at grades A\*-C, maintaining the excellent performance of Powys schools. Results at grades A\*-C decreased slightly from 2009 as did the results at the higher grades A\*-B. The percentage of grades A\*-C in Powys is nearly 3% more than in Wales as a whole. The overall pass rate of grades A\*-G is similar to last year's level at just over 99%, almost 1% higher than the all-Wales pass rate of a little over 98%.

This year's results at the highest grades A\*-A at 21% are almost 2% more than in Wales as a whole. The percentage of results at grades A\*-B at 41% is more than 2% higher than in Wales.

Provisional all-Board figures indicate that 72% of results were at A\*-C, with 24% at A\*-A. These results maintain the high standards seen in previous years' performance and remain consistently above the all-Wales averages.

In addition, many pupils have also achieved equivalent qualifications in vocational subjects.

## NATIONAL CURRICULUM ASSESSMENTS 2010

There has been an improvement at all key stages in the outcomes of the teacher assessments in Powys in 2010. Full details of the Powys results have been sent to all schools.

## SUMMARY

The percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected level is as follows (2009 figures in brackets):

	English	Cymraeg	Maths	Science	Core Subject Indicator
<b>Key Stage 1</b>	84.2% (82.5%)	88.5% (87.2%)	88.7% (86.8%)	90.0% (90.5%)	82.2% (80.5%)
<b>Key Stage 2</b>	83.6% (80.3%)	85.7% (80.6%)	83.4% (81.6%)	89.0% (86.7%)	79.4% (75.3%)
<b>Key Stage 3</b>	81.6% (77.9%)	85.4% (78.0%)	81.8% (79.8%)	84.7% (82.1%)	73.8% (69.7%)

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