

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



This newsletter will be issued on a termly basis to provide an overview of the work that is ongoing to implement the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

More information and a copy of the strategy is available at www.powys.gov.uk/transformingeducation

Sennybridge C.P. School



Exciting plans for a new school building for learners in south Powys have taken another significant step forward with the submission of a planning application.

The Council has submitted its planning application to build a new 120-place primary school to replace Sennybridge C.P. School's current building, which is no longer suitable to meet the needs of a 21st Century curriculum or the well-being requirements of pupils.

The planning application will be considered by the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority.

Earlier this term, an open evening was held at the school which gave the school community and members of the public the opportunity to view the designs for the new building as part of the pre-planning application consultation (PAC).

The new building will provide modern, fit-for-purpose facilities that will enable the curriculum to be delivered in a continuous and coherent way from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 2. Early years childcare provision will also be located on the site as part of these plans.

The building is being designed to meet high environmental standards to achieve Net Zero Carbon in Operation and BREEAM 'Excellent', which is a measure of the school's holistic sustainability.

Kier Construction have been appointed to construct the new school building, and construction is expected to commence in 2026.



Plans for Ysgol Calon Cymru and Builth C.P. School

Further to the consultation on proposals affecting Ysgol Calon Cymru and Builth Wells C.P. School in the summer, a Consultation Report was considered by Cabinet in October. Cabinet decided to proceed with the process by publishing a Statutory Notice.

The objection period for this proposal ended on the 12th December. Cabinet will consider as Objection Report in the new year.

The proposal is to establish a Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells from September 2027, with Builth Wells C.P. School becoming an English-medium school. There would also be capital investment to improve facilities on the Ysgol Calon Cymru campus in Llandrindod Wells, and eventually Ysgol Calon Cymru would become an English-medium secondary school, operating solely from the Llandrindod site.

Alongside this process, a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been developed. This is the first of a series of three business cases that have to be approved by Welsh Government to secure funding for capital projects as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This will be submitted to Welsh Government in the new year.

Brynlywarch Hall School

Designs for a new school building at Brynlywarch have been finalised and construction will start next term.

This is an important development for this school that provides specialist provision for learners with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties.

Trochi provision introduced in South Powys



In November, a Welsh immersion centre opened in South Powys, providing an opportunity for learners in this area to transition into Welsh-medium education.

Located at Brecon's Ysgol y Bannau, Canolfan Iaith Brycheiniog a Maesyfed offers 'trochi' (immersion) provision for learners in years 2 to 6 wishing to transition into Welsh-medium education.

Pupils attend the centre from Monday to Thursday for 12 weeks, returning to their home school on Fridays. At the centre, they receive intensive language lessons designed to build fluency, confidence and enjoyment in using Welsh, enabling the development of oracy and language patterns through engaging, lively experiences across the curriculum.

Establishing Welsh immersion centres is a key part of the council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), which supports the Welsh Government's ambition to reach one million Welsh speakers by 2050. Canolfan Iaith Maldwyn opened in North Powys in 2022, and the establishment of a centre in South Powys means that this provision is now available to learners across Powys.

More information about 'trochi' provision is available online: [Canolfan Iaith - Language Immersion Centre - Powys County Council](#)

Recognition for Ysgol Robert Owen's new building



Ysgol Robert Owen's new building, which opened its doors in September 2024, recently received a prestigious award from CLAW, a collaborative organisation that brings together local authorities to share best practice in the Design, Construction and Maintenance of public buildings.

The building was Highly Commended for Project of the Year 2025 in the CLAW Awards 2025, which celebrate excellence in building projects across Wales, recognising innovation, sustainability and the delivery of high-quality facilities that meet community needs.

Congratulations to all involved with this project!

Llandinam C.P. School

Consultation has taken place on a proposal to close Llandinam C.P. School from the end of August 2026. Cabinet considered the findings of the consultation on 16th December and agreed to proceed with the process.

A Statutory Notice will be published in the new year, which will give the public an opportunity to submit any objections to this proposal.

Cabinet will then consider any objections received, before making a final decision in the Spring.

Post-16 Review

The review of post-16 provision has continued this term, with work focussed on engaging with learners and parents/carers.

Opinion Research Services (ORS) were appointed to lead on the engagement work, which included an online questionnaire and in-person focus groups. The purpose was to understand what learners and parents/carers need from a post-16 education system, and what factors affect their decision making when deciding where to attend. The questionnaire closed at the end of November, and feedback is now being evaluated. A report will be available in the Spring.

A Headteacher Working Group, which includes representatives from all secondary providers, has also been established. The group has focussed on strengthening the existing collaborative model for the 2026-27 curriculum offer.

The Post-16 Review is an exciting opportunity for stakeholders to work with the Council to collectively find a way forward to improve outcomes for our post-16 learners, improve the curriculum offer, and develop a model that is sustainable for the future. The work remains at an early stage, and should the Council want to proceed with any county wide changes to Post-16 education, it's likely to be many years – 2030 at the earliest – before any formal changes are implemented.

Further information about the review is available on the Council's website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/18867/Review-of-Post-16-Education>

ALN Strategic Plan

Progress continues to strengthen provision and ensure equitable support for learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) across all settings. Key developments include:

- **Early Years ALN Support Systems:** Enhanced systems are in place to identify needs early and embed Additional Learning Provision (ALP) in early years settings.
- **Travel Training for Sensory Learners:** Employment of a dedicated trainer supporting the development of independent travel skills and confidence.
- **Transition Panel:** Structured oversight of placement decisions, ensuring smooth transitions for ALN pupils.
- **EBSA Pilot Programme:** Ten secondary schools have participated in a holistic initiative to support reintegration for learners with Emotionally Based School Avoidance.
- **EOTAS Co-ordinator:** This appointment has strengthened liaison across provisions, ensuring services are coordinated and tailored to diverse learner needs.
- **Behaviour Working Group:** Developing a comprehensive behaviour strategy, including exclusion criteria, PSP analysis, and staff training needs.
- **Adele Bates Programme:** Four secondary schools have engaged with the programme, embedding whole-school approaches to behaviour management and strengthening staff capacity.
- **ALN Scoping Exercise:** A review of incidence and severity of ALN across all clusters. The findings will inform the equitable development of specialist provision, to ensure capacity meets increasing demand.

Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

Plans for the replacement building for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in Machynlleth are continuing to move forward.

A revised Outline Business Case (OBC) has been approved by Cabinet and will be considered by Welsh Government in the new year. This is the second of three business cases the Council is required to prepare to secure capital funding as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

Subject to Welsh Government approval of the OBC, the intention is to carry out a tendering process next year, to appoint a contractor to work with the Council on this project.

Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan

Consultation has taken place on a proposal to close the Cradoc site of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan, Brecon, due to a significant decrease in pupil numbers on the site.

This consultation will end on 18th December, and Cabinet will consider the findings in the new year.

At the same time, development of a replacement building for the school is moving forward, with a contractor to be appointed in the new year. The contractor will then finalise the designs for the new building, which will include accommodation for primary pupils, early years and community facilities.