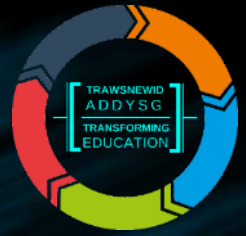


TRANSFORMING EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



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

Transformation plans for Ysgol Calon Cymru and Builth C.P. School approved

In February, Cabinet approved moving forward with implementation of exciting plans to transform secondary education in Mid Powys.

Following consideration of an Objection Report, which outlined the feedback received in the 28 day Objection Period, Cabinet agreed to proceed with implementation of the proposals.

The proposals will result in:

- Establishing a Welsh-medium all-age school on Ysgol Calon Cymru's current site in Builth Wells from September 2027, with Builth Wells C.P. School becoming an English-medium school.
- Significant capital investment, to include construction of a new secondary school building on Ysgol Calon Cymru's current campus in Llandrindod Wells, meaning that Ysgol Calon Cymru will eventually become an English-medium secondary school, operating solely from the Llandrindod site.

The Council is now working with the affected schools to prepare for implementation of the proposals. The first step will be to appoint a temporary governing body for the

new Welsh-medium school, and steps to identify members are already underway, with the intention that a first meeting is held in the Summer Term.

In addition, the plans for capital investment in both Builth and Llandrindod are continuing to move forward, with Cabinet and Welsh Government approval of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for the plans. This is the first of three business cases that will need to be prepared to secure capital funding for the developments, and approval of the SOC enables other work on the capital developments to move forward.

Initial designs have been developed to remodel the Builth campus to accommodate primary aged pupils, and a tendering exercise for a contractor to implement the designs is expected to take place later this year. Alongside this, a tendering process is currently underway for a design and build contractor to work with the Council on the construction of a new secondary building in Llandrindod Wells.

We look forward to continuing to work with the school communities on implementation of these exciting plans over the coming months.

Brynllwarch Hall School

Following completion of design work, SJ Roberts Construction was formally appointed to develop new accommodation for Brynllwarch Hall School in January, enabling construction to start on this much needed facility.

The project will see a modern, purpose-built school delivered on the current site, including specialist teaching areas, breakout spaces, outdoor learning zones and facilities designed to fully support the new national curriculum. Community groups will also be able to access elements of the site outside school hours.

The new building will include sustainability features such as air source heat pumps, solar panels and mechanical ventilation heat recovery systems, ensuring that the building achieves Net Zero Carbon in operation.

Work on site has now started, and this will continue through the spring. The expectation is that construction will be complete in late 2027.



Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan

A tendering process has been carried out for a design and build contractor for a replacement building for Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan, which currently operates from 3 sites in the Brecon catchment.

The tenders are currently being evaluated, with the intention that the tender is awarded in the summer term. Appointment of a contractor is a key milestone in this project, which will enable progress to be made on the plans to provide a replacement building for the school.

In February, Cabinet considered a Consultation Report outlining feedback received on the proposal to close Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan's Cradoc campus from the end of August 2026, following a significant reduction in pupil numbers on the campus. Cabinet agreed to proceed with the process.

A Statutory Notice was published in March, and the 28 day Objection Period will end on the 2nd April. Cabinet is expected to make a final decision on the proposal in May.

Llandinam C.P. School

Following a consultation process, Cabinet recently considered an Objection Report related to the proposal to close Llandinam C.P. School, which currently has 35 pupils on its roll. Cabinet agreed to implement the proposal to close the school from the 31st of August 2026. This means that pupils currently attending the school will transfer to alternative schools from September.

The Council will now work with the school and its pupils to prepare for this transition.

Post-16 Review

The Council's review of Post-16 provision has continued this term, and in March, Cabinet considered a paper which set out a proposed programme of work to develop a fairer, broader and more sustainable 14+ offer for learners over the coming year. This includes:

- Continuing to strengthen the Chweched Powys Sixth model.
- Establishing a new Future Pathways Board with Further Education, Higher Education, employers and the Regional Skills Partnership.
- Creating a governor steering group and an ALN post-16 working group to shape improved pathways.
- Engagement with primary schools and employers later in 2026 to ensure future pathways reflect local needs and the county's future economy.

The findings of the engagement exercise carried out by Opinion Research Services (ORS) in the autumn have also been published. This summarises feedback received from 3,700 young people, parents, carers, staff, governors and employers.

We will now continue to work with stakeholders over the next 12 months to develop recommendations for possible future delivery models. Long-term options are expected to be brought forward for further consideration in summer 2027, followed by wider engagement in autumn 2027, consultation on any formal proposal in 2028, and implementation expected between 2029 and 2031.

Further information, including a copy of the ORS report, is available on our website: [Post-16 Review - Powys County Council](#).

Sennybridge C.P. School

Ambitious plans for a new school building for Sennybridge C.P. School have taken a major step forward, as Welsh Government funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme has been secured, following approval of the Final Business Case (FBC) relating to this project.

Welsh Government will fund 65% of the £9.6m project through its Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, including £6.2m towards the main project costs and over £500,000 towards the Net Zero Carbon elements of the build. The council will fund 35% of the project.

Kier Construction have been appointed to build the new school. They will begin setting up on site from Monday, March 30 with main works scheduled to start in early May.

The project will deliver a new 120-place primary school, replacing the current building with modern, energy-efficient and fit-for-purpose facilities that support high-quality teaching and learning from the Foundation Phase through to the end of Key Stage 2. Early years childcare provision will also be co-located on the same site.

This is fantastic news for the school and the community in Sennybridge, and we look forward to continuing to work with the school over the coming months as the construction moves forward.

In February, Cabinet also agreed to start consultation on a proposal to move the school along the Welsh language continuum, so that it would eventually become a Welsh-medium school. This consultation will begin after the Easter holidays.

Opening Ceremony held at Ysgol Robert Owen

A major milestone was marked recently as Ysgol Robert Owen in Newtown officially opened its new school building.

The event celebrated the completion of a modern, accessible learning environment designed to meet the needs of learners with additional learning needs, which opened to pupils and staff in September 2024.

The building provides modern facilities, including a hydrotherapy pool, sensory and physiotherapy rooms, rebound therapy spaces, and community café. External areas provide sports, learning and social areas, some of which are shared with Maesyrhandir C.P. School, which include extensive soft play facilities for foundation phase pupils.

Built by Wynne Construction, the new building was jointly funded by the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (75%) and Powys County Council (25%).

At the event, a plaque was unveiled by Cllr Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council, and learners from the school performed a poem they had prepared. Visitors then had an opportunity to tour the new school building.



Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

Following Cabinet approval of a revised Outline Business Case (OBC) for a replacement building for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in December, this has now been approved by Welsh Government.

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.

Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is an all-age school which operates from two sites in Machynlleth. It is currently moving along the continuum to become a Welsh-medium school.

The next step will be to carry out a tendering process to appoint a contractor to work with the Council on this exciting project. This is expected to commence in the summer term.

Welsh immersion provision

Following the successful introduction of trochi provision for primary aged learners across Powys, late immersion provision ('Trochi Hwyr') will be offered at Ysgol Bro Caereinion later this year, enabling learners to transfer to Welsh-medium provision in year 7. This will support the school's move along the language continuum towards becoming a Welsh-medium school.

Pupils currently attending English-medium provision will be able to attend a 6 week course at the school, to enable them to improve their Welsh language skills so that they can access Welsh-medium provision in the school from year 7 onwards.

More information about how to access the provision will be shared in the summer term.