

27 January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

### **School Re-organisation Proposals**

As you will recall, Powys County Council took a decision in September 2015 to use their School Reorganisation Review Panel (SORP) to re-examine the options regarding Secondary School organisation in South and Mid Powys. This also included the organisation of Welsh Medium Education.

The Governors, Headteacher and Local Members were invited to a meeting with Officers of the County Council on the 26 January to receive further feedback on the proposal that the SORP has decided to recommend to Cabinet for consultation. The proposal presented was:

- **To establish a new build 11-16 English-medium Secondary School in Brecon, replacing Brecon High School and Gwernyfed High School**

Some of the reasons for this draft recommendation are as follows:

- This option will create a critical mass of pupils that meets the Authority's agreed minimum threshold of 600 pupils at KS3 and KS4;
- The option provides an opportunity for learners to have a broader post-16 curriculum in a single location, and removes the need for inter-school/college transport;
- It improves cost-effectiveness and efficiency, also eliminating current maintenance costs on both schools;
- The model will reduce overall surplus places.

However, we are aware that there will need to be a significant capital development to implement this recommendation, therefore we are proposing **an interim recommendation** which is:

- **To establish a new English-medium 11–16 Secondary School that will operate from the current sites of Brecon High School and Gwernyfed High School from September 2017. This would involve the closure of both schools.**

It had been the school's understanding that this proposal would remain confidential until the feedback meeting had taken place, unfortunately this does not appear to have been the case.

At the feedback meeting, we were informed that this proposal is to be presented to the County Council's Cabinet on 23 February 2016. Should this be approved then this will lead to a period of consultation, involving all of the affected stakeholders.

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The Governing Body, Local Members and myself raised a number of matters with the County Council Officers at the meeting, not least in regard to the future of Welsh Medium education and Post 16 provision.

The school will now look to engage with parents and other stakeholders, to enable us to share the Governing Body's position and to listen to any questions that you may have. It should be stressed that this proposal has yet to be accepted by the County Council's Cabinet, so that it can proceed with another full consultation.

Should any parents have any initial questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Rob Broadbridge  
Headteacher