



Headteacher **Tim Williams** welcomes you to this information newsletter.

*"I am delighted to be the first Headteacher at your new school. It's not often in a teaching career that someone has the opportunity to plan for, and set up, a brand new school. I very much look forward to working with you and ensuring that your child receives the best possible learning experiences. I fully intend to make it a school truly fit for the 21st century."*

## Grand Opening September 2016



The countdown has begun on the closure of Pontllanfraith and Oakdale Comprehensive schools and the opening of the brand new Islwyn High School.

**September 2016** will see the new school open on the **two existing sites** whilst the new 21st century building gets completed. For the first two terms, **all pupils will remain at their original school building** and the new Year 7 intake's location will be dictated by their home address. **All pupils will then transfer** to the new site around May 2017. The only **exception will be Year 11 pupils** who will sit their GCSE examinations and complete their school days in their base school. This is to ensure that their critical final year is not affected by any disruption associated with the move.

## Our New School

The school will initially accommodate the 1180 pupils transferring from both schools but will be built to permanently educate 1000 mainstream pupils from the catchment area and 50 complex needs pupils from across the county. Partner primary schools include Bryn, Cwmfelinfach, Penllwyn, Pontllanfraith, Rhiw Syr Dafydd, Trinant and Ynysddu.



The main school will be three storeys high and a sports hall of a similar height will be linked to a two-storey building that will be the school's dining hall. It will be built in a modern design and plans also include a garden, an amphitheatre and a pond.

The school will also boast a floodlit 4G sports pitch and a 200 metre athletics track, along with a multi-use sports pitch for netball and tennis.

## New Uniform

The school's aim is to select a uniform that is both smart and distinctive whilst being practical, reasonably priced and readily available. Following extensive consultation, the Governing Body has approved a uniform that meets all of the criteria listed above. Full information will follow including a list of suppliers and a full price list. It is the school's intention to have specific times in the year where the uniform can be purchased at the school and that an exchange service for items such as blazers and jumpers will be provided. Please note that Year 11 pupils next year will not be expected to buy the new uniform and can finish their school days in their existing uniform.



## Times of the day

The times of the day for the whole school will change in September to allow all pupils to access the same GCSE options and to be able to participate in after school extra curricular activities.



The times are:

8.30	Registration and assembly
8.55	Lesson 1
9.45	Lesson 2
10.35	Break
10.55	Lesson 3
11.45	Lesson 4
12.35	Lunch
13.20	Lesson 5
14.10	Lesson 6
15.00	End of the day

## School Transport

A representative from Caerphilly's School Transport team recently addressed parents of the new Year 7 intake. All were asked to complete a questionnaire that had been distributed with the school place offer letter. The authority's policy is to provide free school transport for pupils who live more than two miles away from their school as long as the home address is within the Borough of Caerphilly, the family is registered for council tax at the address specified and the pupil is attending the catchment school. Any queries should be directed to the school transport department on 01495 235399.



## SNIPPETS

- Pupil representatives from both schools have been selected to be the link between the developers Willmott Dixon and the two schools. They are known as construction ambassadors and their role is to report back to their fellow pupils on the progress made on the new school building.



- The new school logo has been selected by Governors from many competition entries made by pupils in the two schools. The winning design was by Jemimah Greenwood, a Year 8 pupil in Pontllanfraith. It is based on an ancient Celtic symbol known as a triskelion and reminds her of the wind turbines visible from the new school.

- The new school website, which is constantly being updated with information on the progress being made, can be accessed on [www.islwynhigh.org](http://www.islwynhigh.org)

