



PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
11-19 ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL
HAVERFORDWEST
January 2018



Welcome to the second newsletter in relation to the new 11-19 English Medium School in Haverfordwest.

NAME OF SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that Pembrokeshire County Council's Cabinet approved the school's Instrument of Government and the official name of the school on 8 January 2018. Subject to the constitutional requirement for a calling period on Cabinet decisions, the name of the new school will be:

HAVERFORDWEST HIGH VC SCHOOL

The Temporary Governing Body hopes that all members of the community will accept the new name. It was chosen following extensive consultation which included publishing a short electronic survey, feedback from the Mayor of Haverfordwest and the trustees of the Tasker Milward and Picton Trust. The consultation did have an impact on the choice, even if your favoured name was not chosen.

The school is a Voluntary Controlled (VC) School, because of its association with the Tasker Milward and Picton Charity, which will have trustees on the Governing Body and will continue to provide some funds for the new school.

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Temporary Governing Body is also very pleased to have appointed the school's new Head teacher. She is Mrs Jane Harries, currently Head of Llanidloes High School, in Powys, who will start her new post after February half term.

Jane attended Mary Immaculate Primary School and Taskers School for Girls before completing her degree at the University of Wales, Swansea. Her teaching career started at Pembroke School before she moved into further education for a number of years. She then moved back into secondary education working at Ysgol Tregib and Ysgol Pantycelyn in Carmarthenshire. Here, she had first-hand leadership experience of the closure of the two schools when they became Ysgol Bro Dinefwr which moved into a new build in 2016.

Jane has been Headteacher at Llanidloes High School in Powys for 2 years; upon her appointment it was rated Amber and is now a Green school, having achieved 'Good' for both standards and prospects for improvement in their Estyn inspection in April 2016. Jane and her husband are looking forward to moving back to West Wales and, during this exciting time, working with stakeholders to create a school that we can all be proud of.



Mrs Jane Harries, newly appointed Head of Haverfordwest High VC School

SITE OF NEW SCHOOL

The Temporary Governing Body (TGB) recognises the frustrations in the community regarding the uncertainty of the site of the new school.

What is certain, is that in September 2018 the new school entity will open, using both of the current sites occupied by Sir Thomas Picton and Tasker Milward. Decisions on which year groups will occupy what site will be made in the near future by the TGB, in consultation with the Head teacher and Officers in the Local Authority. This decision will not be affected by the uncertainty over the single site on which the school will be situated in the long term.

The decision on the site of the new building will be made by elected members of the County Council and Officers who are currently looking at options for the Local Authority. At the last full Council meeting on 14 December 2017, Councillors resolved to create a Task and Finish Group to further examine the issues arising of the possible siting of the new school in addition to the Cabinet and the 21st Century Schools Strategic Programme Board.

Factors to be considered are: the suitability of each site for building a school for the 21st Century, including sports and other facilities; the suitability of roads in the vicinity of the school; the environmental impact of any developments; where pupils can be taught while building work is underway; the total cost of the project, which must fall within the budget allocated by Welsh Government and Local Authority and the need for the project to be completed within the timescale required by funding from the Welsh Government.

However, no one should doubt that the new school will open on both current sites in September 2018. This will allow a single governing body, leadership team and staff to work together as one school, with more efficient use of financial resources to improve provision and outcomes for pupils. It is expected that a pupil will be taught on one site only and will not have to travel between sites during the school day.

As stated earlier, decisions on where pupils will be taught will be made shortly and transition arrangements for pupils entering Year 7 in September will begin soon after this. We recognise how important this is for all pupils and especially those who may have additional learning needs.

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND LOGO

The Temporary Governing Body established a Uniform sub-committee to consult with current parents and pupils. Only 24% of parents responded to the questionnaire with the majority preferring polo shirts and sweatshirts. Responses from school councils differed from this, with the choice of shirt and tie being popular at both schools. At Tasker Milward, where blazers are currently an option, there was an even split between polo shirts and blazers.

The views of the Acting Headteachers, the LA and the Tasker Milward and Picton Trustees were also sought with a general approval for a smart uniform, with most expressing preference for a shirt and tie.

It had been suggested that blue should feature in the uniform. Whilst it is not the official town colour for Haverfordwest, the town flag features a blue colour and blue is also prominent in the town crest.

As a result of consulting the Welsh Government document '*Guidance for governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies*', consideration has been given to cost, availability of local and national options for sourcing, laundering, durability, promoting high aspiration, preparation for the professional world, a sense of pride and the ethos of school.

Following a discussion of proposals, and a vote of the full TGB, the outcome was that the new uniform would be:

- ♦ Black trousers/skirt, white shirt with school tie featuring colours of both existing schools, black blazer with crest on breast pocket and optional v neck pullover/cardigan.

Three options for the colour of the pullover/sweatshirt have been proposed - red, royal blue and light grey. These will be presented to the current pupils and a vote taken to decide the final colour. The newly appointed Head, Mrs Jane Harries, fully supports the choice of uniform.

The approximate cost of the uniform option based on three white shirts, one tie, one blazer and one v neck pullover (optional) would therefore be £65.95.

Further details regarding the uniform including arrangements for sixth form, PE kit etc. will be confirmed in due course.

Following a competition for pupils to design the new logo of the school, the TGB resolved that the final design would incorporate a dragon with Haverfordwest Castle. The winners of the design were two pupils from Sir Thomas Picton - well done to you both! This will now be finalised and professionally designed in order to be placed on items such as the school uniform.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Haverfordwest High VC School will establish its own website through which it can share information with all members of the community. This will be widely advertised through school and the media and will become the key source of information on future developments.