



PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
YSGOL CAER ELEN
January 2018



Welcome to our latest newsletter regarding recent developments at Ysgol Caer Elen.

FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEAD

"It is an honour and a privilege to have accepted the Temporary Governing Body and Pembrokeshire's Local Education Authority's invitation to become the Executive Head teacher of Ysgol Caer Elen and Ysgol y Preseli.

I am looking forward to the challenge of establishing and developing Ysgol Caer Elen as well as ensuring that Ysgol y Preseli's standards continue to place it amongst the top schools in the country.

The establishment of Ysgol Caer Elen is a celebration of the success of Welsh-medium education in Pembrokeshire. Our aim will be to develop a pioneering 3-16 school which will deliver Welsh-medium education of the highest quality in partnership with the feeder primary schools and Ysgol y Preseli.

The priorities for December/January have been based on meeting with stakeholders and sharing the vision for developing the school with prospective parents and pupils; preparing a temporary school prospectus; marketing the school in the community; planning a new staffing structure; and preparing an exciting curriculum.

Thank you for your co-operation and support during the first few months of this project."

Mr Michael Davies

NAME OF THE SCHOOL

Following a meeting of Pembrokeshire County Council's cabinet members on Monday 8th January 2018, the new 3-16 Welsh medium school was officially named Ysgol Caer Elen. Thanks to everyone who responded to the consultation and we hope you are happy with the name. Ysgol Caer Elen has received very positive feedback from the public and local community.

The story surrounding Caer Elen dates back to Roman times. Elen was a Welsh princess who lived locally. She married Magnus Maximus (Macsen Wledig), the last Roman emperor of Britain. According to legend, Macsen named the town in honour of his wife Elen, and therefore the original name for Haverfordwest was Caer Elen.

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND LOGO

Following a series of meetings of the Marketing and Communications sub-committee in December/January, discussions have taken place regarding the colour and styles for the new school uniform. It is the temporary governing body's intention to consult with both parents and pupils during the coming weeks in order to collect stakeholders' views on the uniform before it makes a final decision. At present, the main colours to be included as part of the uniform are navy/sapphire blue/grey/gold/white. They intend to place primary/secondary mannequins in each feeder primary school as soon as possible in order to gain feedback from parents and pupils. Examples of the proposed school uniform will also appear on the Facebook page. Further details regarding the uniform including arrangements for PE kit etc. will be confirmed in due course.

Following further discussions, the Marketing and Communications sub-committee has decided to hold a competition for prospective pupils of Ysgol Caer Elen to design a logo for the new school uniform. An adjudication panel of governors will then decide the winning logo before it will be professionally designed and placed on items such as the school uniform.

LOOK OUT FOR...

- ◆ A Draft School Prospectus will be published by February 2018 for prospective pupils. This will include important information such as the school ethos, the school language policy, behaviour code, school uniform, school hours and teaching times, the primary and secondary curriculum and much more. Copies of the prospectus will be distributed through the feeder primary schools.
- ◆ Confirmation on 1 March 2018 whether your child has been allocated a place for year 7 at Ysgol Caer Elen.

FACEBOOK PAGE / SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Temporary Governing Body has recently set up a Facebook page in order to regularly provide updates on important information in relation to Ysgol Caer Elen. Please visit '**Ysgol Caer Elen**' and like the page for updates.

Ysgol Caer Elen will also establish its own website through which it can share information with all stakeholders. This will be widely advertised in the media and will become the key source of information on future school developments.



TOPPING OUT CEREMONY

A successful 'topping out ceremony' took place on Monday 20 November 2017 at the Ysgol Caer Elen site. Eluned Morgan AM, Minister for the Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning, was in attendance for the ceremony along with County Councillors, the Heads and pupils of each of the four primary schools, LA Officers, and members of the construction team. The ancient ceremony marked the structural completion of the highest point of the building and is said to ward off evil spirits and bestow good fortune on a property. Pupils from each of the four schools took part in the ceremony by placing wine, oil, corn and salt on a yew tree which was placed at the highest part of the new construction.

The Minister said: "It is a pleasure to mark such an important occasion in the construction of this new school, the first investment in Welsh medium secondary education in this part of Pembrokeshire. It is an excellent example of what the Welsh Government is achieving by working in partnership with local government and schools. It is a testament to the hard work of many who have been fighting for Welsh medium education in the area and this school in particular for some time that this topping out ceremony is taking place today. Schools like this are crucial to our aim of a million Welsh speakers by 2050."



Minister Eluned Morgan AM with Cllr David Lloyd (second from right), Council Chairman, Cllr Paul Harries, Ian Jones, Willmott Dixon's Operations Director, and pupils from the four primary schools.

OPEN EVENINGS / TOURS OF SITE

The open evenings which were organised at the feeder primary schools at the beginning of December 2017 were very well attended. This provided an opportunity for parents to question the new Executive Head on his vision for the school. Ms Cath Davies, 21st Century Schools Programme Coordinator for Pembrokeshire County Council, also outlined the site plans for Ysgol Caer Elen.

A successful open day was also organised on Saturday 9 December 2017 where over 60 people attended and toured the site where they had the opportunity to see recent developments. Pictures of the open day can be viewed on the school's Facebook page.

The aim is to organise additional open evenings and tours of the site during the spring and summer terms in order for parents to be continually updated on the most recent developments at Ysgol Caer Elen. More information on future dates will be provided in due course.

PROGRESS OF THE BUILDING WORK AT YSGOL CAER ELEN

The contractors have provided the information below on the latest work on site.

At present there are over 120 operatives on site with works progressing both internally and externally.

At present the majority of operatives are working within the building. The main body of work is the construction of drywall partitions and installation of the mechanical and electrical infrastructure that will provide power, water, heating, data etc. to the extent of the building. At present works to the primary wing are furthest advanced with screed being completed this week in preparation for the first coat of paint in early February.

Externally, we have progressed as well as can be expected despite the wet weather conditions. At present we have roofing and cladding, brickwork, and structural framing system and board ongoing to the façade of the building. We also have preparation works in readiness for tarmac taking place around the perimeter of the primary school whilst works to the 3G pitch are progressing well.

In the coming month we will be looking to start painting to the primary school which will allow ceiling grids to be installed. Dry lining and mechanical and electrical works will continue within the secondary whilst externally we will continue to work on the envelope of the building which will ensure we achieve water tightness by the end of February.

Please see below some pictures of the latest work.



WILLMOTT DIXON

SINCE 1852