

# Work underway on new 'Welsh School'

Work has started on building a new Welsh medium school for three to 16-year-olds in Haverfordwest.

A ground-breaking ceremony to signal the start of construction was hosted on St Davids Day by contractors Willmott Dixon on the site at Withybush.

The £28 million development is being built as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme - a collaboration between Welsh Government and Pembrokeshire County Council who share the cost between them.

The school is one of five new schools currently under construction in Pembrokeshire under the £120 million initiative with refurbishment work due to start on a 3 - 16 school in St Davids this summer.

Four new schools have already opened.

The new school includes a:

- 45-place nursery
- 315-place primary provision
- 600-place secondary school
- 24-place playgroup (Cylch Meithrin).

Also included is an all-weather sports pitch and associated facilities.

County Council Leader, Jamie Adams, told guests at the ceremony that the school represented the first ever investment in Welsh language secondary education in that particular part of the county.

The only other Welsh medium secondary provision in Pembrokeshire is based in Crymch, with travel times from the mid and south of the county in excess of 45 minutes.

The Council's Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language, Huw George, welcomed pupils from Ysgol Glan Cleddau in Haverfordwest - whose pupils will transfer to the new school once it is open - and pupils from Gelli Aur in Pembroke and Narberth which will act as feeder schools for the 11 - 16 element.

Ysgol Hafan y Môr in Tenby, which is also a feeder school, was unable to attend.

Before cutting the first sod of turf with Councillor Adams, Preconstruction Director for Willmott Dixon Wales and the West, Andrew Dobbs, told guests that ground-breaking was an important milestone celebrating the start of construction for an exciting new school.

He added: "This modern, state-of-the-art facility will provide the very best environment for learning. Willmott Dixon will maximise local spend whilst providing opportunities for local employment and training to ensure that we leave a lasting legacy for the community."

The school is due to open in September, 2018.





*Captions*

- 1) Andrew Dobbs (left) and Councillor Adams perform the ground-cutting ceremony.
- 2) Pupils from three local primary schools witnessed the ceremony.