

## New Schools Open Thanks To £70m+ Investment



Three brand new secondary schools are set to open in the County this week, thanks to an investment of more than £70 million by Pembrokeshire County Council and the Welsh Government.

Welcoming hundreds of pupils through their doors for the first time are Ysgol Harri Tudur/ Henry Tudor School in Pembroke; Ysgol Caer Elen in Haverfordwest and Ysgol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Penrhyn Dewi in St Davids.

The schools are part of the 21st Century Schools investment programme run by the County Council in collaboration with the Welsh Government.

Darren Thomas, Programme Manager and the Council's Head of Infrastructure, said he was delighted that the three major projects had been delivered successfully.

"We'd like to thank the staff, governing bodies and local communities of the three schools who have undertaken a tremendous amount of work to ensure that the new schools have opened on time and within budget," he said.

**Ysgol Harri Tudur / Henry Tudor School** is an entirely new build on the Bush school site in Pembroke, accommodating all pupils from the former Pembroke School.

The flagship project cost £38.3 million and is the largest ever project undertaken by the County Council.

The 11-19 secondary school was built by construction company Bouygues UK and provides education for 1,463 children and an autism centre for 30 learners.

Work will now begin to demolish the old Pembroke School and the former Pembroke Grammar School buildings, with the aim of completing all work on site by August, 2019.

Headteacher Fiona Kite said: "Last year we held a competition among staff and students to create a motto for our new school.

"The winning entry, 'Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow' embodies the aims of Ysgol Harri Tudur / Henry Tudor School to fulfil the potential and dreams of all pupils and students who learn with us, whether onto further academic study at A Level or undergraduate level or into employment and training.

"The impressive new school building is just the beginning of an exciting time for education for everyone who works and learns at Ysgol Harri Tudur / Henry Tudor School.

The school will open its doors to pupils on Thursday, 6th September.

**Ysgol Caer Elen** is a brand new £28.1million Welsh medium school in Haverfordwest for children aged 3-16.

The school replaces the former Welsh-language primary school in the town – Ysgol Glan Cleddau – and provides secondary education in Welsh for children aged 11-16 for the first time ever in the centre of the County.

Headteacher Mike Davies said it's an exciting time for the Welsh language in Pembrokeshire.

"The establishment of Ysgol Caer Elen is a celebration of the success of Welsh medium education in the county. 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.

“One of the main strengths of our school will be its caring, open and happy ethos where pupils feel at home and enjoy their education in a totally Welsh environment.

“One of our main aims will be to make learning an exciting and pleasurable experience and we are confident that our pupils will be proud of their new school, proud of their Cymreictod and their bilingualism.”

Ysgol Caer Elen includes a 600-place secondary provision, 315-place primary provision and 45-place nursery, as well as a 24-place Cylch Meithin (Welsh-language playgroup).

Separate entrances have been provided for the different age groups. Post-16 Welsh-medium education will continue to be provided at Ysgol y Preseli in Crymych.

Contractors Wilmott Dixon will continue to work on some parts of the site not required by the current year groups until late autumn (as scheduled).

The school’s first day of the new term is Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Ysgol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Penrhyn Dewi is a new 3-16 school for the St Davids Peninsula, operating across the three sites formerly known as Ysgol Dewi Sant, Ysgol Bro Dewi and Solva Community School.**

Penrhyn Dewi will be the first Church in Wales secondary phase school to open since the 1920s and the Church’s first 3-16 school.

The former Ysgol Dewi Sant site has seen £4 million investment into a part-new build and remodelling of teaching accommodation.

Post-16 provision for pupils is available at the new sixth form centre in Haverfordwest as part of a formal collaboration between the County Council and Pembrokeshire College.

Penrhyn Dewi will welcome its first intake of pupils across all three sites on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Headteacher David Haynes said: “I am thrilled that we are about to open the doors to Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi VA and I am sure that the pupils will benefit greatly from the improvements that have been made to the buildings.

“I would personally like to thank the older pupils who have been travelling to Haverfordwest over the last year while the work has been

completed, together with the parents and the teachers who have supported them greatly during this time.

“Many thanks also to WB Griffiths and Pembrokeshire County Council who have worked tirelessly with the temporary governing body in order to deliver the project on time.”

Pembrokeshire County Councillor David Lloyd, Cabinet Member for Education, said: “The transformation of the schools’ estate of the county is a testimony to the vision and drive of a group of officers lead by the former Leader, Councillor Jamie Adams.

“The fact that it has been the second largest 21st Century Schools Programme in Wales gives the scale of this achievement.

“It was badly needed. The Victorian primary schools and the 50’s secondary schools were no longer fit places for our children to be taught in.

“We are now able, however, to offer some of the best education centres in Wales for the benefit of future generations.”

Two more brand new schools are also coming into existence this week.

Sir Thomas Picton School and Tasker Milward VC School are merging to form Haverfordwest High VC School, with pupils continuing to receive their education on the two sites for now.

In July, at a meeting of full Council, members expressed their preference for a brand new school building at the Sir Thomas Picton site. The Council will now proceed to submit a business case for the development to the Welsh Government.

The other new school starting this week is Milford Haven Community Primary School, which will replace the Meads Infants School and Milford Haven Junior School. Pupils will continue to receive their education on the two sites.

*Caption*

Ysgol Caer Elen, Haverfordwest