

Date · Dyddiad 16 December 2020  
Your ref · Eich cyfeimod  
My ref · Fy nghyfeirnod SRD/HJ/KR  
Telephone · Ffôn 01437 775861  
Email · Ebst [Steven.richards-downes@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.richards-downes@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)  
[www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk) / [www.sir-benfro.gov.uk](http://www.sir-benfro.gov.uk)



## Pembrokeshire County Council Cyngor Sir Penfro

IAN WESTLEY, M.A. B.Eng.(Hons), C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E., M.C.I.B.S.E.  
Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

STEVEN RICHARDS-DOWNES  
Director of Education  
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg

Pembrokeshire County Council,  
County Hall, HAVERFORDWEST,  
Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP

Cyngor Sir Penfro,  
Neuadd y Sir, HWLFFORDD,  
Sir Benfro, SA61 1TP

Telephone / Ffôn 01437 764551

Please ask for  
Os gwelwch yn dda gofynnwch am

### To all statutory consultees

Dear Sir/Madam

### Amalgamation of Ysgol y Frenni and Ysgol y Preseli to form a new 3-19 school in Crymych

I write to inform you that at its meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Pembrokeshire County Council considered and approved the following published proposal:

- i. To discontinue Ysgol y Preseli and Ysgol y Frenni on 24th April 2022, and
- ii. To establish a new 3-19 school using both current school sites on 25th April 2022. The primary element (3-11) of the school will be designated as Welsh Medium, and the secondary element (11-19) will be designated as Bilingual (2A).
- iii. That the Director of Education, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Education, be allowed to further modify the implementation date if required.

Prior to reaching its decision, the Council took account of the comments received as part of statutory consultation, the proposer's responses thereon, and also noted that no objections (not withdrawn) were received following the publication of the statutory notice. Furthermore the Council were satisfied that the proposal will address the key issues identified in the case for change. A summary of the reasons for the Council's decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code is given below; the full version is available to be viewed at

[www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/have-your-say/school-reorganisation](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/have-your-say/school-reorganisation).

### Quality and Standards of Education

The proposal will have a positive impact on standards and progress of all pupils due to the sharing of expertise, and specific skills set of staff across all age ranges and settings (currently Ysgol Y Preseli, Y Porth and Ysgol Y Frenni). As a result, the increased opportunities for the sharing of good practice across settings and age ranges will improve provision for specific groups of learners for example those with additional learning needs and more able learners. Wellbeing and attitudes to learning will improve in the main with enhanced opportunities for effective transition between key stages. The overall quality of teaching will be sustained, however the development of the new curriculum will be the focus for both schools over the next few years. The proposal will support the development of the new curriculum in the secondary sector based on the current strong practice at Ysgol Y Frenni, extending the

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English, and will respond within a maximum of 15 working days. We will respond in the language in which the correspondence is received (unless you ask us to do otherwise). / Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

For a copy in large print, easy-read, Braille, audio, or an alternative language, please contact Pembrokeshire County Council on the number above. / Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â Chyngor Sir Penfro ar y rhif uchod.

educational continuum and improving the provision of skills. The proposal will also allow additional pupil enrichment opportunities for example the potential introduction of a modern foreign language to the primary sector utilising the expertise from the secondary sector, and ensuring curricular breadth.

The proposal would provide a leadership structure that would incorporate knowledge and expertise of all age ranges, subject areas and specialisms. This would ensure a vision based on developing coherence, incorporating a broad and balanced understanding of pupil outcomes based on a wide range of monitoring activities across all age ranges, and stages of development.

### **Need for places and the impact on the accessibility of schools**

There is no proposal to remove provision – alternative school-based provision is therefore not necessary. Primary and secondary provision will remain but in the form of an all-through school. The proposal will not affect the Council's obligations in relation to transport provision.

The language categories of the primary and secondary phases of the proposed school will remain the same as the constituent schools.

### **Resourcing of education**

In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Financing Schools, all schools are funded according to a formula which is largely pupil based and this is the funding which is delegated to school governing bodies for schools' revenue expenditure. The new school will receive funding based on the number of pupils on roll, and on the basis of other factors such as buildings and site areas. On the basis of the current funding formula, it is unlikely that savings will arise as a result of the proposal.

### **Other general factors**

The establishment of a new school will allow for the full range of provision to be available to children from economically deprived backgrounds. Furthermore, the equality impact assessment has identified no new negative impact on any vulnerable or minority groups.

### **Specific factors in the consideration of school closures**

Both Ysgol y Frenni and Ysgol y Preseli will cease as individual entities as a result of this proposal. However, primary and secondary provision will be maintained as part of a combined, all-through 3-19 school on the premises of the constituent schools. The proposed school will enhance the Crymych campus which already includes day nursery, Cylch Meithrin, established adult learning provision, community library, leisure centre and swimming pool, and a recently installed all-weather sports pitch.

### **Presumption against the closure of rural schools**

Whilst Ysgol y Frenni is defined as a rural school, its closure as part of this proposal does not constitute any loss of primary provision.

### **Specific factors to be taken into account for proposals to reorganise secondary schools or to add or remove sixth forms**

Secondary education provision, including the sixth form, will continue to be delivered, albeit as part of an all-through 3-19 school. This will continue to be the only Welsh medium sixth form provision in Pembrokeshire.

To conclude, a temporary governing body for the new school will be appointed in due course in order to carry out the appropriate implementation arrangements.

Yours faithfully



**Steven Richards-Downes**  
**Director of Education**