



October 2014

NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

INTERIM GOVERNING BODY UPDATE

Opening
Sept 2015

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SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM APPOINTMENTS AT THE NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

The appointments panel of the New Secondary School Interim Governing Body have been kept busy during October. Consisting of the Head Teacher, Mrs Helen Coulson, along with two governors from each of the existing schools, Llantarnam and Fairwater, the panel have been interviewing candidates for the senior leadership positions of Deputy Head and Assistant Head Teachers within the new school.

DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER APPOINTED

On 13th October the five-person panel were pleased to appoint Mr Geoff Dixon as the Deputy Head Teacher of the new school after a rigorous interview process. The interview consisted of a presentation outlining Mr Dixons philosophy and vision followed by an in depth question and answer session.

ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHERS APPOINTED

The panel met again on 21st October to interview and appoint four Assistant Head Teachers. Again, philosophy and vision presentations along with in depth question and answer sessions followed for all candidates. After a long day and a deliberation session, governors were pleased to unanimously appoint four of the candidates. The four appointees will all serve as Assistant Head Teachers in the new school, each with a specific whole school responsibility.

Governors are pleased to announce Mrs Claire Ager has been appointed with responsibility for Curriculum, Mr Jeff Savory for Skills, Mr Jack Lewis for Standards and Mr Bernie Smith for Vulnerable Pupils.

Many congratulations to all successful candidates. There is now only one post remaining to be filled on the Senior Leadership Team of the new school. Interviews for the Business Manager post will take place after the Autumn half term break.

New School Name and Uniform

Councillor David Yeowell, The Executive Member for Education in Torfaen, will make the final selection of the official name of the new school.

Governors are in the process of receiving proposals for the name from the Llantarnam and Fairwater joint school student council. Proposals for the name are to be forwarded to Councillor Yeowell in mid-November.

The style and colour of the new uniform will also be announced around the same time.

NEW SCHOOL INTERIM GOVERNORS

Mrs Sue Baugh	Mr Khagendra Begha
Mr Scott Case	Mrs Helen Coulson
Cllr David Daniels	Mrs Gaynor Evans
Mr Gavin Horton	Mrs Sharon Jordan
Mr Paul Kindred	Mrs Ann Lawrence
Cllr Brian Mawby	Mrs Teri McDonald
Mr James Oliver	Mr Mark Poulton
Mr Paul Schofield	Mrs Rose Seabourne
Mrs Sue Tamplin	Mr John Turner
Mr Mark Ward-Jones	
Mr Stuart Foster - Clerk	



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Refurbishment of the New School

Local Authority officers have held detailed discussions with staff members from every department in both Llantarnam and Fairwater schools. Every department has put forward their proposals for their ideal environment, with traffic and walking routes also included. Aspirational plans have been produced which are currently with contractors for costing and review. It is hoped that work can start on site in January 2016.

Multi Stakeholder Transition Group

A transition group of local authority and school stakeholders is meeting monthly to ensure that everything is on track for a smooth opening in September 2015. This group monitors the Transition Plan in order to identify and manage the key issues, actions, timescales and accountabilities which need to be completed to ensure a successful transition for pupils and staff, the successful completion of the refurbishment of the Fairwater site and successful management of tasks relating to the handover of the Llantarnam site to Asset Management.

Where possible, posts within the new schools staff structure, that can legally be ring-fenced to staff in the existing two schools, will be ring-fenced to those staff.

New School Staffing Structure

The Head Teacher presented a draft staffing structure to Governors at the end of September. The structure is not based on either of the current school structures. It is based on a curriculum model constructed to provide the best opportunity for students in the new school. The structure has been discussed with the local authority Education Finance team, who confirmed it was affordable. The draft structure was adopted as a working structure. Senior positions would be filled before the Autumn half-term with heads of department and leadership positions to be filled at a progressive pace during November and December.

The protocols and criteria for ring fencing and slotting in of existing staff has been discussed and agreed by all parties from both existing schools and the local authority HR.



Open Evening

The new school open evening in October was a huge success with over 400 parents attending. Students and staff from both Fairwater and Llantarnam schools worked extremely well together during the evening. Prospective parents and students were accompanied in groups around the Fairwater site while demonstrations of subjects took place in their various areas. Prospective parents were made aware that the building would be completely remodeled in the future.

Release of Head Teacher

Fairwater High School governors have agreed for the release of Mrs Coulson for two days per week to work exclusively on the preparation of the new school. The local authority have agreed to the arrangement and Mr Geoff Dixon will stand in as Head Teacher at Fairwater High for two days per week as cover.

Curriculum Alignment

Work is at an advanced stage in respect of aligning the curriculums of the current Fairwater and Llantarnam schools in readiness of a cohesive start to the new school. Discussion has taken place in all subject areas and most curriculum areas have been aligned.