

Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Torfaen County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to make a regulated alteration to Croesyceiliog School, Woodland Road, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran, Torfaen NP44 2YB, Cwmbran High School, Ty Gwyn Way, Fairwater, Cwmbran, Torfaen NP44 4YZ and St Alban's RC High School, The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG so that the age range of the pupils they can admit is amended to 11 – 16 years and that the 6th form provision is removed.

It is further proposed that the 6th form provision previously accommodated at the above mentioned schools shall transfer to a 6th Form Centre to serve the whole of Torfaen. The new provision will be able to accommodate up to 1000 post-16 students and the proposed location is in Cwmbran town centre on a site adjacent to the Morrison Store.

Croesyceiliog School and Cwmbran High School are currently maintained by Torfaen County Borough Council. St Alban's RC High School is a Voluntary Aided School.

Torfaen County Borough Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish these proposals. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on:
<http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/EducationLearning/21st-Century-Learning/Latest-News.aspx>

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2019

The proposed capacity for Croesyceiliog School after these proposals are implemented is 1200 pupil places. The proposal in relation to Croesyceiliog is subject to a separate statutory notice (further information can be found on the Torfaen council website via the above link). From September 2018 the proposed admission number for the school will be 240 for pupils aged 11 (Year 7).

For Cwmbran High School the proposed capacity is approximately 1300 pupil places (based on the existing building and its accommodation). The capacity for St Alban's RC High School is yet to be determined and may be subject to further proposals by the Diocese and Governing Body, but based on the current admission number (145) would be at least 725.

The admission numbers for year 7 and each year group up to and including Year 11 in the first school year in which the proposals have been implemented will be:-

240 (8 form entry) at Croesyceiliog School
260 (8/9 form entry) at Cwmbran High School
145 (5 form entry) at St Alban's RC High School

Pupils/students will be provided with transport in accordance with the council's Transport Policy. At present, the council provides free transport for 11 – 16 aged pupils who attend their relevant secondary school if they reside more than 3 miles walking distance to that school. The relevant school is the catchment school or the nearest school. This distance criterion is also applied to transport provision for post – 16 students at present.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which these proposals are published, that is to say by Thursday 23rd February 2017 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Alison Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6YB. Email: secondaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk

Torfaen County Borough council will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

The local authority will submit the proposals to Welsh Ministers for approval together with any other proposals that it considers are linked to these proposals.

Signed: Alison Ward, Chief Executive Officer

For the Torfaen County Borough Council

Date: Thursday 26th January 2017

Explanatory Note

This statutory notice is the outcome of discussions to bring forward proposals to change the way that post 16 education is delivered in Torfaen. The proposals arise from the Authority's 21st Century Schools Programme. This is a strategic plan to create a generation of 21st Century Schools across the Borough.

Consultation in relation to this proposal was held during November and December 2016.

This proposal will see Torfaen County Borough Council build a purpose built 6th form centre in Cwmbran which will open in September 2019 and cost £20M. It will be run by Coleg Gwent on behalf of the council through a partnership agreement between the two organisations which will ensure the best possible scope and standard of provision for learners in the county borough.

The 6th form centre will replace English Medium school 6th forms and benefit post 16 learners from across the county borough, including those with additional learning needs. It will deliver a mix of A & AS level courses and the Welsh Bacallaureate along with a range of complementary Level 2 & 3 qualifications.

Welsh medium post 16 provision would continue at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw.

The main driving forces behind these proposals are:

- the need to improve retention and stay - on rates and learner outcomes
- the need to transform post 16 education in line with Welsh Government's vision
- the need to replace 6th forms with a more efficient and sustainable delivery mode
- Linkages with other projects within the council's 21st Century Schools Programme, most notably the provision of a new school for Croesyceiliog School costing £30M.

Further information on these and other school reorganisation proposals can be found here:

<http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/EducationLearning/21st-Century-Learning/Latest-News.aspx>

A Welsh version of this notice can be obtained by telephoning 01495 766910 or by visiting the Council's website: www.torfaen.gov.uk

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