

# **REORGANISATION of SCHOOLS in PONTYPRIDD**

## **AN INFORMATION GUIDE for PARENTS and CARERS**



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(NB: Proposal 2 and 4 relate only to Hawthorn High School and Welsh medium education)

#### **Documents referred to in this response include:**

- 1. Local Authority 'Consultation on the reorganisation of primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form provision in the Pontypridd area**
- 2. A report to Council members with the purpose of seeking their approval to begin the relevant and required statutory consultations for the proposals**
- 3. Welsh Assembly Government National School Categorisation Guide**
- 4. Prosperity for All – A National Strategy' (2017)**
- 5. Education in Wales – Our National Mission (2017-2021)**

## **PROPOSAL 1**

<b>Proposal 1 : Removal of the Sixth Form of Pontypridd High with post-16 students attending an alternative school or college that offers the choice of courses they require.</b>			
<b>Agree with this proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NOT SURE</b>

### **About the Pontypridd Sixth Form**

For 10 years we have operated a joint sixth form provision with Hawthorn High School Together we call our partnership the 'Pontypridd Sixth Form'. By working together we are able to offer students a broader range of subjects at either school and we can also maximise the use of staff and facilities across the two schools. Students travel the short distance between sites by bus, provided as required and free of charge. This is a well established provision and we continually review it and make changes to ensure it is successful and meets the needs of our students.

What is significant and right is that by working together we are providing a school based sixth form provision within and around the town of Pontypridd.

We are objecting to the proposal to close the Pontypridd Sixth Form and relocate our students to Sixth Form 'Centres of Excellence' at either Bryncelynog Comprehensive School (BCS) or Coleg y Cymoedd (CyC) for the following reasons;

### **REASON 1**

The first reason is related to the Partnership working that has already been attempted with the BCS / Y Pant Sixth Form partnership

- The fact that partnership working with BCS has been discussed in the past and joint work did not materialise because of the distance between the school sites
- BCS works in partnership with Y Pant CS. LA Officers confirmed in the meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> that it was likely students would also travel to Y Pant CS for their A Levels because they will continue to work in partnership with BCS. This will lead to additional transport for those students.
- The fact that only 5 students out of nearly 900 of the students at Pontypridd High have expressed any interest to make this move to BCS. A similar number responded in that way at HHS.
- In the meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>, Officers were not able to guarantee that the £10 million proposed for BCS would actually be spent on a Sixth Form Centre of Excellence' but could be used to finance general improvements to poor building quality at BCS.
- Because of the points above, the question must be asked whether £10 million spent at BCS would ever be accessed by PHS students

## **REASON 2**

The second reason we do not accept this proposal as it is presented is because the consultation document makes a number of statements about poor standards at Pontypridd High and the Pontypridd Sixth Form which are inaccurate and misleading.

It appears that the intention of the document is to give an impression that standards are higher elsewhere and that a move to a Sixth Form Centre in another part of RCT should be welcomed by parents / carers and their children.

Examples of such statements about standards at Pontypridd High include:

### **a). Firstly from Page 10 of the Consultation Document with regards to GCSE outcomes**

*'The educational performance and pupil attendance of the 2 LA maintained secondary schools at Key Stage 4 is consistently in the third and fourth quartiles when compared to similar schools in Wales'*

The two LA maintained schools referred to in this quote are Pontypridd High and Hawthorn High. Both schools feel extremely disappointed by this factually inaccurate analysis of performance and would point out that the Welsh Assembly has categorized both as being 'Yellow' schools for each of the last three academic years. The Welsh Assembly defines Yellow schools as being those that **"Have secured good levels of learner outcomes in key performance indicators."** (Page 19 of the WAG National School Categorisation Guide)

What is meant by 'quartiles' and how such a reference is a negative rather than a positive statement ?

All secondary schools in Wales are divided into groups depending on the number of children who receive free school meals. This is averaged out over a 3 year period to give a single figure. For the years 2015 and 2016 the average for Pontypridd High School (PHS) was 20.8%. For 2016 and 2018 this average fell to 19.8%. Since September 2018 the figure for PHS is 20.2%

As a result, between 2015 and 2016 PHS was in a group of Schools with a FSM entitlement of 20-30%. Between 2017 and 2018 we have been in a group of Schools between 15-20%. These are the groups in which comparisons are made of 'similar' schools'. Similar does not necessarily mean local, as they could be located anywhere in Wales.

Between 2015 and 2016 you would expect PHS to be in quartile 1 or 2 for all performance indicators given the average FSM entitlement of 20.8%. As this figure decreased to 19.8% for 2017 and 2018 you would expect any comparison with similar schools to be more in quartiles 3 and 4.

BCS is placed in a group of schools with 10-15% FSM entitlement. To that extent BCS is not a 'similar' school to Pontypridd High and as such no direct comparisons in relation to student outcomes should be made between the two schools.

The table below shows GCSE outcomes at PHS over the period 2015 to 2017.

Welsh Government Performance Indicator	2015 Compared to schools who were 20-30% eFSM	2016 Compared to schools who were 20-30% eFSM	2017 Compared to schools who were 15-20% eFSM	2017 Compared to schools who were 20-30% eFSM
5 A* to C at GCSE (with Eng/Maths)	2	1	3	2
5 A* to C at GCSE or better	1	1	4	2
5 A* to G at GCSE or better	2	1	2	2
Capped 8/9 average GCSE points	1	1	3	1
Best English A* to C %	3	1	4	2
Best Maths A* to C %	1	1	2	1
Best Science A* to C %	4	3	3	2

You will note that PHS has been in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quartile on 8/21 occasions during this 3 year period. To draw the conclusion that PHS is consistently in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quartile is therefore inaccurate and very misleading. It would be more accurate to state the positive view that in 13/21 occasions, PHS has been in quartiles 1 and 2 but the consultation document did not do that. The figures for BCS are the same.

ii). Secondly, misleading and inaccurate contextual information was given to Council members through an initial report regarding A Level standards at PHS and the Pontypridd Sixth Form. These include:

**From the report to Council members paragraph 4.2**

*'The educational achievement and success at Key Stage 5 (in respect of the A Level results) of Hawthorn and Pontypridd High Schools are consistently below the Welsh averages and are amongst the lowest in RCT and Wales.'*

**From the report to Council members paragraph 4.7**

*'The educational performance of the sixth forms has been mixed with two of the secondary schools (Pontypridd High and Hawthorn High ?) consistently being amongst the worst performing schools in respect of A Level performance'*

These statements are inaccurate and misleading because they do not reflect actual outcomes at A Level when measured and compared against different performance indicators. Thorough and accurate analysis of this data which is shown in the table below reveals that:

## Comparative A Level outcomes in Year 13

		L3	AWPS	3 A*/A	3 A*/C
2015	Pontypridd High	95.2	856	3.2	68.3
	RCT lowest			0	27.0
	RCT average	96.9	730	3.1	57.9
	Wales average	96.9	799	7.9	68.1
2016	Pontypridd High	100	928	5.9	64.7
	RCT lowest			0	40.2
	RCT average	97.0	765	4.0	65.2
	Wales average	98.0	823	6.7	70.6
2017	Pontypridd High	100	820	5.6	42.6
	RCT lowest			0	16.3
	RCT average	96.3	678	5.5	45.1
	Wales average	97.1	731	10.5	54.7

i). Between 2015 and 2017, PHS and the Pontypridd Sixth Form achieved A Level outcomes that on 9/12 occasions were above the RCT average and 6/12 occasions above the Wales average. The term 'consistent' and 'below' are totally inappropriate, very negative and not a true representation of the actual outcomes within the Pontypridd Sixth Form. The figures for BCS are the same.

iii). In the meeting with senior LA Officers on November 12<sup>th</sup> these points were raised by the Student Council, staff and governors and not questioned. However, Officers raised the fact that BCS had achieved better results in 2018. It was noted that the document had been written and proposals agreed based on data up to 2017. If 2018 data was to be considered then PHS and the Pontypridd Sixth Form would also have been seen to have improved.

**The following is taken from Pages 13 and 28 of the Consultation Document**

*'The educational achievement and success at Key Stage 5 (in relation to the Average Wider Points Score) in the County Borough is well below Welsh averages and among the lowest in Wales.'*

Please see the student outcome data for Pontypridd High in comparison with RCT and Wales below:

## Average Wider Points Score in Year 13

Year		AWPS
2015	Pontypridd High	856
	RCT average	725
	Wales average	787
2016	Pontypridd High	928
	RCT average	765
	Wales average	823
2017	Pontypridd High	820
	RCT average	679
	Wales average	733

Each A Level grade that a student achieves is equal to a certain number of points. (For example, an A grade at A Level is worth 120 points, a B grade 100 points and so on). All of these grades / points are added up to give a total points score. The Average Wider Points Score is made up of the total points achieved by each student which is then divided by the number of A Level students in the year group. Points are awarded for A/S results in Year 12 and for the WBQ and Skills Challenge Certificate. They are one of the key factors in meeting the requirements of a successful University or College application

Whilst this statement makes no specific reference to PHS and the Pontypridd Sixth Form, more thorough and detailed analysis would show that:

- PHS and the Pontypridd Sixth Form exceed both the Wales and RCT averages every year, on most occasions by more than 100 points which is very significant.
- This reflects the fact that each student is given quality learning experiences and a range of support and guidance which enables them to study different courses and complete them successfully.

**iii). Thirdly, in relation to contextual information which was given to Council members prior to presenting the proposals for reorganisation in the Pontypridd area**

### **From the report to Council members paragraph 4.2**

**'However, Bryncelynog Comprehensive School is an improving school and has consistently performed above the Welsh average for A level provision.'**

- The data presented would appear to show parity between PHS, the Pontypridd Sixth Form and BCS.
- Despite improvements in outcomes at PHS and the Pontypridd Sixth Form there is no reference to PHS being an 'improved school' which again creates the impression that an unfair comparison is being made, justified by an inaccurate analysis and interpretation of data.

iv). Finally, in relation to standards there is no reference at all to outcomes at Coleg Y Cymoedd (CyC) despite the fact that this institution is proposed to be an option for PHS students as a 'Sixth Form Centre of Excellence'. This is a concern because;

- The A Level provision at CyC has been in place since it was built as part of a £45million investment 8 years ago. It is intended to be a minimum of 350 students which is only 3% of the total student roll at CyC.
- Cardinal Newman Sixth Form was based at CyC for 5 years until 2015. They withdrew at that time over concerns about the quality of A Level provision.
- The consultation document contains no information on A Level standards at CyC. Despite requests at the meeting with LA Officers on November 12<sup>th</sup> they were unable to present any information on outcomes which is interesting given they have committed our students to going there should this proposal be accepted.
- In the meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> LA Officers referred to excellent results at CyC in 2018. This is reference to 98% 'pass rate' reported through a press release on exam results day in August 2018. PHS achieved 98.5% for this indicator. The fact remains these proposals were confirmed prior to the 2018 results being available and commentary in the document relates to data up to 2017.
- In 2017 an Estyn report on provision at CyC concluded that overall standards were **ADEQUATE**. This was because the majority of '*learning areas have success rates significantly below national averages. In addition, standards on academic programmes, including AS and A levels, are well below national comparators*'. This is not referred to in either document even though standards in PHS were referred to as 'below average' and 'amongst the worst in Wales' on different occasions.
- Amongst others, Estyn made the following recommendations following their inspection of CyC in 2017;

*R1 : Improve standards and outcomes achieved by learners on AS and A level courses*

- In the meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>, LA Officers were asked what action they had led in response to this inspection report. They confirmed that they have no significant role in managing and leading provision at CyC and as such the LA had not responded in any way to the Estyn recommendations. This is a concern because it shows there is no clear line of accountability from the Local Authority to any PHS students who could attend CyC if this Sixth Form proposal to be a Centre of Excellence is accepted.

### **REASON 3**

The third reason why we object to the proposed removal of a Sixth Form from Pontypridd High is related to the inaccurate and misleading information provided in the consultation document in relation to educational and financial viability of our present sixth form.

a). In relation to viability, Page 10 of the Consultation document states that;

'Hawthorn and Pontypridd High Schools combined have small sixth forms of less than 250 pupils (the national recommended minimum number for an efficient and effective sixth form), and with relatively poor educational performance.'

And on page Page 13 of the consultation document;

'A viable sixth form, both educationally and financially should, ideally, have at least 250 students; In January 2018 (source : PLASC return), Hawthorn High had 114 sixth form students attending and Pontypridd High 131, just 245 in total between the two schools. Bryncelynog Comprehensive had 147 sixth form students at the same point in time.'

It is recognised that both PHS and HHS are in a budget deficit situation and that BCS is presently in a surplus situation. However, we question these statements because;

- It is unclear where a figure of 250 for a viable Sixth Form has been taken. This could not be verified in the meeting with LA Officers on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Pontypridd Sixth Form with 245 students is presently the most viable and a good basis for a £10 million investment.
- **The figures in the table below** illustrate the advantages of working in partnership and how the Pontypridd Sixth Form of 245 students is more viable. The number of classes with less than 5 students has been reduced significantly by sharing provision. RCT calculations only consider each school and take no account of students from both schools in each class and the efficiencies to be gained through such a partnership. This creates a misleading picture of the Pontypridd Sixth Form.

#### **Number of A Level classes with 5 students or less**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b><i>RCT Calculation</i></b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b><i>Pontypridd Sixth Form actual number</i></b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>

- **The table below** shows the average A Level class size which has grown over the three years, again as a result of sharing provision. RCT calculations only consider each school and take no account of students from both schools in each class.

#### **Average A Level classes size**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b><i>RCT Calculation</i></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b><i>Pontypridd Sixth Form actual number</i></b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>



**And on Page 26 of the consultation document**

'This proposal will create a school based sixth form at Bryncelynnog of over 350 students (this will depend on student choice) and further enhance the sixth form and vocational offer at Coleg Y Cymoedd's Nantgarw Campus that already has 350 post 16 students studying traditional A Level subjects and over 1,000 post 16 students studying vocational subjects.'

The table below shows the planned Sixth Form numbers should this proposal be accepted.

**Proposed Sixth Form Numbers**

School	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022	January 2023
Bryncelynnog	152	167	174	172	178
Newman	65	70	73	83	93
Hawthorn	98	107	100	92	105
Pontypridd	111	112	112	108	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>481</b>

School	January 2023	January 2024	January 2025
<b>Bryncelynnog Sixth Form</b>	388	408	428

We question the strategic value of this statement and its claim that significant numbers of students (210) from PHS and HHS will attend a sixth form at BCS because;

- Previous attempts at partnership workings with BCS have not materialised because of the additional travel time for students
- In a survey of all PHS students only 5 expressed any interest in attending a Sixth form at BCS
- Experience in the Rhondda suggests that significant numbers of students do not transfer to another school for post-16, preferring instead to attend a college environment, an option already questioned in this document. If similar choices are made by Pontypridd students (as they are being encouraged to do in the Council's proposals) the projected numbers at BCS' 'Centre of Excellence' in 2022 will be nothing like the Council's projections.
- The LA also accept that should this proposal be accepted it is likely students will move elsewhere over the next 3 to 4 years to the extent that an alternative post-16 destination will already have been established should the new Centre of Excellence at BCS open in 2022
- For these reasons it is unlikely that the proposed figure of 388 Sixth Form students at BCS in January of 2023 will be reached through additional students from the Pontypridd Sixth Form.

## **REASON 4**

The fourth reason is related to the equity of provision that our students will have access to if proposal 1 regarding the Sixth Form is accepted in its present format. Within Pontypridd High and the Pontypridd Sixth Form we are committed to:

- Giving learners from deprived backgrounds access to the highest quality learning and teaching so that the individual's learning pathway meets their needs and aspirations
- Providing the support and guidance to each student to ensure a seamless progression and transition from school to school and from school to further and higher education

We are very pleased that standards achieved by those students who are entitled to FSM have improved at GCSE and A Level each year. Our aims support Welsh Government priorities and the present proposal for removing Sixth Forms from PHS and other Pontypridd schools questions how this can be achieved in the future. Such priorities are outlined in two government reports:

**1. 'Prosperity for All – A National Strategy' (2017)** sets out a long-term aim to make Wales healthy and active, prosperous and secure, ambitious and learning, and united and connected. It aims to do this by:

- supporting young people to make the most of their potential
- building ambition and encouraging learning for life
- equipping everyone with the right skills for a changing world.

**2. Education in Wales – Our national Mission (2017-2021)** has two related objectives:

### **Enabling objective 1: Developing a high-quality education profession**

To continue the 21st Century Schools and Education Capital Programme in order to deliver learning environments that meet the needs of all learners

### **Enabling objective 3: Strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity and well-being**

All learners must be supported to be emotionally and physically ready to learn in a safe and supportive environment. Equity requires that we ensure that the system, at school, local and national level takes account of and responds to the unique challenges that present themselves to individuals or groups of learners.

The proposal to remove the Sixth Form from Pontypridd does not fit with the priorities of the Welsh government as it reduces choice, builds barriers to extended learning options and therefore reduces the likelihood of a student progressing into a school based Sixth Form within the Pontypridd area. This becomes more relevant when consideration is given for the increasing number of children entitled to FSM at Pontypridd High as shown below:

	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>
<b>eFSM %</b>	28%	26%	20%	12%	15%

The table shows that Years 9, 8 and 7 are almost double the % FSM for Years 10 and 11. This is a concern because the younger year groups will be those most directly affected by the proposed changes in Sixth Form from September 2022.

Our success in improving outcomes for such learners has been based on familiarity, specific roles for staff, family engagement and raising aspirations. The proposal for changes in Sixth Form will not support this well established way of working and to that extent it questions whether the key government priorities can also be met.

### **PROPOSAL 3**

<b>Proposal 3 : Create a new, 3-16 'all through' school for Pontypridd High</b>			
<b>Agree with this proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NOT SURE</b>

We accept this proposal but recognise the views of those connected with Cilfynydd PS who may have to experience a significant change should this be the case.

We also only accept this proposal on the basis that suitable arrangements can be made for our post-16 students in the Pontypridd locality which are under the influence of RCT. In agreeing with this proposal we do not by implication accept proposal 1 in its current form.

We understand that this proposal is very much in line with the strategic change across RCT and that the timescale for implementation sits alongside significant curriculum change and learning experiences planned across in Wales in 2022.

The Governing Body has reservations that the level of investment proposed (£4.7 million) may not be sufficient to develop all aspects of the Pontypridd High site to '21<sup>st</sup> Century' standards

To that extent we would accept this proposal whilst also recognising that all planning and delivery will be the responsibility of a new School in 2022. It will be for them to meet the demands of such a change as outlined in the following statements;

#### **On Page 8 of the consultation document;**

'A single workforce in a school reflecting on and jointly developing and designing what works for five-year olds, teenagers and young adults is capable of a wider range of points of reference and a wider range of practices that a smaller group of teachers with a one-phase window to consider. These changes to what pupils learn and how they learn it are easier to manage in an all-through environment than in a single-phase school or group of schools.'

#### **And on Page 16 of the consultation document;**

'Other partner/associated primary schools in each community will also benefit from the proposal. Pupil transition is important and the Council, through its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band A programme has instigated some innovative programmes to ensure the quality of integration at Year 7 was seamless regardless of where they have received their primary experience. No pupil will be disadvantaged when they join the new school at Year 7.'

Transition work with all cluster schools is essential so that all children have similar experiences and access to quality resources in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environment. To achieve this the LA must ensure sufficient funding exists that enables each child to make use of such resources at the new school from September 2022.

## **PROPOSAL 5**

<b>Proposal 5 : Amendment of the catchment area Pontypridd High School</b>			
<b>Agree with this proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NOT SURE</b>

We accept this proposal but recognise the views of those connected with the primary schools and parents / carers involved who may have to experience a significant change should this be the case.

### **On Page 54 in the consultation document**

'The catchment area of the new Pontypridd 3-16 school will be as follows:

- Admission for 3-11 pupils – the existing catchment area of Cilfynydd PS
- The Graig area of Pontypridd that is currently part of the catchment area of Maesycloed Primary School
- The catchment area of Coedpenmaen Primary School'

We understand that this proposal is very much in line with the strategic change across RCT. It is also a solution to a longer-term issue with the catchment boundaries between ourselves and Hawthorn HS.

To that extent we would accept this proposal and can give our full assurance to the transition process that will allow all children to be successful at Pontypridd High from 2020 and then on in a new 3-16 (or 3-18) school from September, 2022.

### **Other considerations in relation to Proposals 3 and 5**

We welcome the commitment to improved road safety measures where appropriate to any implementation of these proposals. This was made clear by the statement below;

#### **On Page 7 of the consultation document**

'A review of the safe routes to school, and improvements to walkways, road crossings and road speed management measures will be made to ensure the required safety standards are met. This is the approach we have implemented in other communities in earlier school reorganisation proposals with significant improvements being made to safe routes to schools.'

LA Officers on November 12<sup>th</sup> acknowledged the cost of ensuring such measures are put in place and confirmed **that the funding to undertake such work will not be taken from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools funding already outlined as a commitment to our school.**

## Conclusions

**Pontypridd High School does not accept Proposal 1 to remove the Sixth Form provision because the two alternatives given in the consultation document are not acceptable for different reasons.** These include:

- The tone through much of the consultation document appears to question standards achieved by PHS. Unfair and statistically inaccurate comparisons are implied in the initial report to Council members and in the consultation document about standards and outcomes between Pontypridd High School, the Pontypridd Sixth Form and other institutions, the LA and Welsh figures.
- According to the consultation document this is a plan for schools in Pontypridd and geographically a Centre of Excellence at BCS will not serve students from Pontypridd. Nor will such a distant provision encourage different groups of learners to be aspirational about their own futures by furthering their studies at A Level.
- Evidence already shows that students are highly unlikely to take up the option of a Sixth Form Centre at BCS. Strategically this must question the allocation of £10million of funding and the fact that such funding will not be accessed by our students.
- It has been confirmed that no guarantee can be given as yet that such funding for BCS will be used specifically for a Sixth Form Centre or in a more general way to address the poor state of school buildings. Such a statement is at odds with the commentary in the document and the spirit of a Centre of Excellence for post-16 students.
- The Pontypridd Sixth Form at present is a more viable one through its partnership working. This is a foundation for further investment.
- It is not clear what pastoral, support and transition arrangements would be available through Sixth Form Centres of Excellence. This is important to all students and in particular the most vulnerable for whom a safe transition into post-16 in familiar surroundings and where staff know each individual and their family well.
- The Estyn report of 2017 would suggest that CyC is no better placed than the present Pontypridd Sixth Form partnership to become a Centre of Excellence.
- In comparison to a School based Sixth Form, the level of accountability that CyC has to RCT is a concern.

**Pontypridd High School accepts Proposal 3 to become a 3-16 (or 3-18) 'all through' school within the context of Sixth Form proposals being reviewed.**

**Pontypridd High School accepts Proposal 5 to amend catchment areas as outlined in the consultation document.**

## **What happens next ?**

- i). Following the deadline for responses in January 2019 all information will be recorded, reported and discussed.
- ii). A decision will be made by the Council Cabinet in March, 2019. Following this there is a period when objections can be heard.
- iii). If proposals are agreed then the initial stage, most likely in the Autumn of 2020 will be to appoint a temporary governing body for the new school and staff appointments will take place from that time.
- iv). Changes to catchment areas will take effect from September, 2020
- v). Below is a copy of the Consultation response form that needs to be used as part of this process. **Please use:**
  - **information on pages 6 to 14 to answer question 1 on Proposal 1**
  - **information on page 14 and 15 to answer question 2 on Proposal 3**
  - **information on page 15 to answer question 3 on Proposal 5**

## Questions for the Local Authority

- Pontypridd is a university town and it should be offering a vibrant Sixth Form provision for children who grow up and live in Pontypridd. This is what the student voice says they want.

**What is the justification for moving all Sixth Form provision out of the town area of Pontypridd ? This is not clear from the documents provided or from responses given in meetings with LA Officers.**

- Within this proposal there needs to be new consideration for an appropriate and suitable location in Pontypridd using 21<sup>st</sup> Century funding to deliver post-16 provision which can be built around the 3-16 model and which is delivered by staff who are known to students and who have A Level teaching experience.

**How can a Centre of Excellence at Coleg Y Cymoedd be created when the LA has no significant input into how that is created, monitored or measured ?**

- Such a Sixth Form provision should have a leadership and management structure which is accountable to the LA, meets the aspirations of students and makes use of facilities and future investment planned for this important and well serviced central location within RCT.

**Should the £10million earmarked for Bryncelynnog CS actually be used to develop a Sixth Form provision within the Pontypridd area, at a site appropriate to both PHS and HHS ?**

## The Consultation Response Form

In order to comply with its legal duty under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and help the Council reach a decision on the proposal below, it would be very helpful if you could answer the following questions. Please note, any personal information given by you will not be shared and only used to provide you with feedback, should you request it. Any comments that could identify you will be anonymised in the consultation report produced.

**Completed questionnaires should be returned to:**

**Director of Education and Inclusion Services**

**21st Century Schools Team**

**Ty Trevithick**

**Abercynon**

**CF45 4UQ**

**or email [schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk)**

### The Proposals

**Proposal 1: Removal of the sixth forms of Hawthorn High, Pontypridd High and Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive, with post 16 students attending a centre of excellence at Bryncelynnog CS or Coleg Y Cymoedd.**

**1. Do you agree with proposal 1? YES / NO / NOT SURE**

**Please let us know the reasons for your choice**

**[A summary of reasons why the school does not accept this proposal are included on the consultation response summary page which can be found on the school website](#)**

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**Proposal 3: Create a new, 3 – 16 ‘all through’ school for Pontypridd**

**2. Do you agree with proposal 3? YES / NO / NOT SURE**

**Please let us know the reasons for your choice**

**A summary of reasons why the school accepts this proposal given agreement on the Sixth Form are included on the consultation response summary page which can be found on the school website**

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**Proposal 5: Amendment of the catchment areas of Hawthorn High and Pontypridd High Schools and the 6th form catchment area of Bryncelynog Comprehensive School, as outlined in this document.**

**3. Do you agree with proposal 5? YES / NO / NOT SURE**

**Please let us know the reasons for your choice**

**A summary of reasons why the school accepts this proposal are included on the consultation response summary page which can be found on the school website**

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**4. Please state any alternative views or points which you would like to be taken into account**

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**5. Please indicate who you are (e.g. parent of a pupil at named school, governor at named school etc.)**

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**6. Name (optional)**

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**7. Please provide contact details if you wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report**

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**Please forward completed questionnaires to the above address no later than Thursday, 31st January 2019**

The Council is committed to keeping your personal information safe and secure and keeping you informed about how we use your information. To learn about how your privacy is protected and how and why we use your personal information to provide you with services, please visit our Consultation privacy notice here: [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/serviceprivacynotice](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/serviceprivacynotice) and the Council's data protection pages here: [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/dataprotection](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/dataprotection).

**Additional Information Sheet**

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