

YSGOL BRO TAF

The new 3 – 16 school in Pontypridd,
Opening September 2024

JULY
2023

NEWSLETTER

#01

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter.



As this is my first opportunity to write to you, I wanted to tell you how privileged I feel to have been appointed as Headteacher of our new school. I am determined to ensure that we create a school community where our pupils have everything they need to thrive. We will discover brilliance in every child and provide them with every opportunity to succeed and be happy in life - whatever their ambitions and goals.

I am pleased to announce that our new 3 – 16 school has been officially named **Ysgol Bro Taf** (Taff Vale School). This name was initially put forward by pupils in the School Council at Pontypridd High School and was supported unanimously by the Pupil Parliament at Cilfynydd Primary School.

As we approach the eagerly anticipated opening in September 2024, I am excited to keep you updated on the progress of our new school. I look forward to working closely together to ensure the very best for your child.

Mr Mark Thomas
Headteacher

The Bro Taf Senedd

Pupils in Year 4 – 6 at Cilfynydd Primary School and Year 7 – 8 at Pontypridd High School have come together to represent the views of all pupils and have their say on their new school.



The Senedd have met several times and have recently worked with graphic designers on the branding for Ysgol Bro Taf. They launched a logo design competition for pupils recently and we would like to thank everyone who submitted their ideas, which we will incorporate into the final branding guidelines.

The Senedd has also been gathering the views of pupils on the new school uniform; focusing on creating a smart and affordable uniform that is suitable for all ages 3 – 16. We look forward to consulting on the new uniform with pupils, parents and carers next academic year.

Note: Pupils will be able to buy the new uniform before the school opens but may also wear the old uniform for the first year if they choose.





Over £18-million to be spent on the creation of a 21st Century learning environment at Ysgol Bro Taf

Ysgol Bro Taf will open with a substantial £18.5-million investment in the site. This will create a modern 21st Century learning environment that reflects our commitment to excellence. We are grateful to RCT Council and Welsh Government for their increased investment in our new school.

In Lower School (Nursery – Year 6)

Ysgol Bro Taf will have a designated primary phase area, which will aim to achieve net zero carbon in operation.

Our Lower School pupils will have access to brand-new classrooms, canteen, gymnasium, nurture and skills support, library, IT, outdoor play areas, courtyard and toilets.

Pupils will also have carefully managed access to specialist staff and facilities in the curriculum zones below.

In Middle School (Year 7 – 8) and Upper School (Year 9 – 11)

Humanities and Mathematics and Numeracy

Pupils learning in Humanities and Mathematics will benefit from newly refurbished general teaching rooms, with new interactive whiteboards.

Languages, Literacy and Communication

In addition to refurbished general teaching rooms, pupils will have access to a brand-new library within Languages, Literacy and Communication.

Science and Technology

Our designated STEM block will be home to specialist facilities that will enhance pupils' learning in Science and Technology. This includes new rooms for engineering, product design, construction (plumbing, tiling, bricklaying, plastering and electrical), CAD suite and new science laboratories. Pupils will also develop their digital skills in three brand-new IT suites.





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Expressive Arts

Pupils learning in Expressive Arts will benefit from brand-new art rooms and an exhibition gallery, an Apple Mac IT suite for creative digital media, drama studio, and music studio with breakout practice rooms.

Health and Well-being

Within Health and Well-being, pupils will benefit from using our brand-new 3G pitch and multi-use games area (MUGA), which complement existing playing fields. Pupils will also have access to a gymnasium, sports hall and two brand-new food technology rooms.

General

We will have designated facilities to support our most vulnerable pupils, including those with additional learning needs.

The car park will be reconfigured to accommodate additional parking, electric vehicle charging points, new parent drop-off zone and a designated bus bay that prioritises safety and effective flow of traffic.

Without doubt Ysgol Bro Taf will be a modern, inspiring learning environment, in which all our young people can enjoy the experiences they need to thrive.



NOTE: Some of the new facilities will be ready for pupils to use at Pontypridd High School from September 2023. The new 3G pitch will open Easter 2024 - community booking details to follow.

Important changes to the Pontypridd High School site

The safety of pupils and staff is our top priority. Most of the renovation work will be completed during school holidays, but there will be some changes to the site when pupils return after the summer break.

The road to Cilfynydd Rugby field beyond the main school gates will be closed to vehicles (not pedestrians) until Easter 2024. This is necessary to widen the road and create the new parent drop-off zone and bus bays.



We ask parents and carers to please consider this when planning for pupils to return in September. We apologise for the temporary inconvenience but believe the long-term benefits make this worthwhile.