

Appendix 2B – Notes of Meeting with School Council of Aberdare Community School

Date	8 th January 2025
Time	14:00
Venue	Aberdare Community School

Attendance		
Name	Initials	Title
Kate Owen	KO	14 to 19 Future Pathways Officer
Catherine Williams	CW	21 st Century Schools Project Officer
Karen Leyshon	KW	Acting Deputy Headteacher
28 members of the Aberdare Community School Council.		

1. Welcome and Introductions

KO welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. Introductions were made.

2. Consultation Overview

KO provided the meeting with an overview of the proposal being made and the consultation process to be followed, as set out in the Consultation Document.

3. School Council Questions

The School Council of Aberdare Community School were invited to ask questions. The questions raised and comments made by the School Council, and responses provided are summarised in the table that follows.

Number	Question/Comment	Response
1	Whilst not opposed to the idea, I'm concerned that there is not enough space in the current sixth form area to accommodate additional pupils (tables, chairs, etc). There is not enough IT equipment, either. We already need to share equipment in some subjects (e.g. science) and the sixth form café is always full. This will all get worse if there are more sixth form pupils.	Schools receive post-16 funding based on the number of post-16 pupils they have on roll. If Aberdare Community School has more sixth form pupils, their funding will increase, and they will have more money to spend on post-16 provision and make any necessary changes to accommodate all pupils.
2	Criminology courses are full at both Aberdare Community School and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School. We only have two criminology teachers. Would they be able to teach everyone?	See above response re: funding. Should the proposal proceed, Aberdare Community School will do its best to meet the needs of all pupils when planning the post-16 curriculum.
3	Pupils from Mountain Ash Comprehensive School come here already for some subjects, but we have	Noted. Should the proposal proceed, some pupils might find the change difficult to begin with, however, support

	two quite different cultures. We wear different uniforms, run separate charity days, etc.	will be provided. We hope that in the longer term, this proposal would have a positive impact and bring the two cultures together.
4	Just like we do with pupils joining in year seven, we could hold open days for year 11 pupils from Mountain Ash Comprehensive School to visit and get used to Aberdare Community School.	That's a particularly good idea and would be a great way of increasing collaboration between both schools.
5	The jump up from GCSEs to A Levels is already daunting. We would want Mountain Ash Comprehensive School pupils joining us to feel as comfortable as possible and have the same opportunities as we do.	Noted.
6	Are there any other options for the pupils from Mountain Ash Comprehensive School if their sixth form closes, or would they have to come to Aberdare Community School?	It's crucial that <u>all</u> pupils (from Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, and elsewhere) are supported to choose the right pathway after year 11. For some, this will be sixth form at school but for others, it could be attending a course at a local college.
7	If pupils choose to go to college, will they be provided with free transport?	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's (RCTCBC's) Home to School Transport Policy states that free transport will be provided to full time post-16 pupils who live more than three miles away from the nearest suitable school or college at which the approved course of study that they wish to pursue is offered.</p> <p>This means that free transport would only be provided if the course they wish to study at college is not offered by the Cynon Valley Consortium the Cynon Valley Post-16 Consortium arrangements (i.e. Aberdare Community School and St. John Baptist Church in Wales High School).</p>

4. Closing Remarks

The School Council members were encouraged to engage in the consultation process through completing the online survey or putting comments in writing to schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk.

All attendees were thanked for participating in the meeting.

Meeting closed at 15:00.