

Hawthorn High School summary response to RCT's 21st Century schools proposals

Proposal 1 – The removal of Sixth Form provision from all English medium schools in Pontypridd

We do not accept this proposal for the following reasons:

- Previous attempts at linking our Sixth Form with Bryncelynnog (BCS) have not materialised because of the distance between the schools and areas students travel from
- Students have expressed clearly that they will not want to travel to a BCS sixth form
- Standards at GCSE at Hawthorn High School and at A Level in the Pontypridd Sixth Form are at a much higher standard than the consultation document suggests
- The Estyn report of 2017 would suggest that Coleg y Cymoedd is no better placed than the present Pontypridd Sixth Form partnership to become a 'Centre of Excellence'.
- Present partnership working within the Pontypridd Sixth Form enables a broad subject choice to be offered and class sizes to be significantly higher than the LA suggests
- Pontypridd is an important central place in RCT and a university town which should have a Sixth Form provision
- Equity of provision for our students is at the heart of Welsh Government policy for young people in Wales and the lack of a Sixth Form in Pontypridd town does not support this national priority.

Proposal 2 – to create a 3-16 school on the Hawthorn campus

As long as a suitable Sixth Form provision for Pontypridd can be found and the level of investment to create a 21st Century school campus secured, **in principle we accept this proposal** because:

- The Hawthorn site is in need of significant capital investment to bring it up to the standards required of a 21st Century school.
- We understand the benefits to both students and staff of access to improved facilities and the progression that can be made through such learning experiences
- However, if such a change is to benefit the whole Hawthorn High cluster then the LA will need to commit significant additional funding to ensure all 3-11 children have access to the same 21st Century facilities.

Proposal 5 – to reorganise the catchment of the new Hawthorn school to include Gwauncelyn Primary School in Tonteg.

We accept this proposal because:

- We have discussed a resolution to the historical problems of our catchment area caused by the relocation of both HHS and PHS for a number of years
- It will help to support better progression and transition into Year 7