



# Vale School Governors' Association Cymdeithas Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion y Fro and Governor Support Unit **Newsletter**

## Note from the Chair

We were shocked to hear the tragic news of the sudden accidental death of the Vale Director of Education Director - Jennifer Hill. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

Jennifer was a good friend of the Vale Governors Association. She understood the importance of good governance in schools and was very supportive of Governors. She was a hard-working and very effective Director and her mark is seen in the impressive standards and strong school system here in The Vale. She will be sorely missed.

The new Education Secretary at the National Assembly – Kirsty Williams - made an announcement just before the summer recess about proposed changes in how schools are governed. There were some tantalising glimpses of what will appear in a consultation paper in the Autumn.

Some of the suggested reforms in her statement about the proposals for Governing Bodies include:

Greater flexibility to make their own

decisions about their structure and membership, with a focus on skilled governors.

A new category of 'co-opted governors' recruited specifically for their skills with no upper limit on the overall size of any type of Governing Body, with a minimum of seven members.

Audits of members to identify any gaps in the skills they need to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

Extending the category of parent governor so there will be appointed parent governors alongside their elected colleagues.

Please look out for the detailed consultation paper in the Autumn term and make sure you express your views on what may be controversial changes to School Governance.

**Dr Martin Price**

Chair of VSGA and Vice-Chair of Governors, St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High School, Barry

## Issue 36 Summer Term 2016

### Special points of interest:

- AVAGO was formed in 1996 and re-launched in 2006 as Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA)
- The Management Committee is made up of 15 elected governors together with 2 elected parent governor representatives

### VSGA was set up to:

- Promote best practice in governance in schools within the Vale of Glamorgan LEA
- To promote partnership amongst schools and between schools and the LEA
- To work with stakeholders to ensure adequate resources for schools within the LEA
- To represent the Association's views on issues relating to school governance and the management and resourcing of schools to relevant authorities and organisations

## In association with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Governor Support Unit

### Contact Details:

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VSGA has an email address that you may contact us on. It's [VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at:

**VSGA**  
Governor Support Unit  
Learning & Development Dept.  
Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Provincial House, Kendrick Road  
Barry CF62 8BF



## Vale Catering Services Changing Times

School Meals have great pleasure in announcing that four dining centres in the western vale have been transformed into kitchens over the past seven months. These sites previously had hot meals transported to them from central kitchens which were the only options available. Following discussions with head teachers we were able to acquire store cupboards, redundant spaces and even encroach into existing small cloakrooms and make doorways into solid walls to achieve just enough space to work miracles by turning these spaces into on site cooking facilities.

Schools with these new facilities are Llangan, Llansannor, Llancarfan and Llanfair. Children are enjoying the new facilities and this is reflected by the increase in hot meals being served.



# Vale of Glamorgan Governors offered free e-learning on Governor Dashboard

School Governors in Vale of Glamorgan can get to grips with their school's Governor Dashboard by making the most of FFT's free e-learning Tool.

FFT's Governor Dashboard is part of reporting and data tool for schools, local authorities and Academy Trusts - FFT Aspire. Governors of schools which subscribe to FFT Aspire can easily register for the on-line modules.

FFT's user friendly e-learning tool consists of modules which help governors get the most out of their school's Governor Dashboard by showing them how to interpret data and raise standards in their school.

Easy to navigate, a friendly voice guides governors through each module, which can be repeated if necessary. Simple interactive tests bring learning to life and help Governors get to grips with dashboard data. Interactive graphs and examples from a fictional school help users to understand the information provided in the Governor Dashboard, which in turn helps them to support and challenge their school.

The Governor Dashboard uses colourful gauges to display headline indicators and whether actual results and pupils' progress are in line with the national average, or significantly above or below the national average, helping governors to compare their school to others across Wales and England.

The e-learning tool includes an Essentials module and one Additional module for each of the Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 Governor Dashboards.

The modules provide clear information on how the Governor Dashboard provides key details such as School Performance Summary, Relative Strengths and Weaknesses, Subject Performance, Pupil Groups Pupil Context and Attendance.

Busy governors can exit the e-learning at any time and return to complete modules they have ten minutes to spare. Once completed governors even get a certificate to download.

To register for e-learning please visit <http://elearning.fft.org.uk/>

To subscribe to FFT Aspire or for more information on direct subscriptions, please email [subscriptions@fft.org.uk](mailto:subscriptions@fft.org.uk) or call 01446 776262.

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## Management Committee Membership 2014-16

The Management Committee is comprised of 15 elected governors plus the two Parent Governor Representatives (one each from the Primary and Secondary sectors). Nominations are currently being sought for 2016/18

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
2	Mrs	H	Drew	Cowbridge Comp
3	Cllr Mr	C	Elmore	Barry Comp & Holton Primary
4	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Llantwit Major Comp & Romilly Primary
5	Mrs	S	Hodges	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant & Ysgol Sant Baruc
5	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
7	Mrs	A	Males	Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comp
8	Mr	M	Mason	Llanilltud Fawr Prim & Ysgol Dewi Sant
9	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
10	Mrs	C	Roach	Llangan Primary
11	Mr	C	Laity	Cadoxton Primary
12	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Prim & Ysgol Gwaun y Nant
13	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
14	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Victoria Primary
15	VACANCY			
PGR - Prim	Mr	L	Kellaway	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg
PGR - Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive

Any governors interested in becoming a member of the VSGA Management Committee should contact John Sparks by email at [JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

# FOR YOUR DIARY

## Education Update & Briefing Sessions 2016/17

Dear Governor

Please note the new dates for the Education Update & Briefing sessions for 2016/17.

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Tue 6 Dec 16	6-7.30pm	Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Barry
Tue 20 Jun 17	6-8.30pm	Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Barry

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## Expansion of Welsh Medium Secondary Schools in the Vale

### Proposal to increase the number of Welsh Medium Secondary School Places

Ysgol Bro Morgannwg could be set to receive a £19.3m investment as part of proposals to expand the school, in order to help it meet the growing demand for Welsh medium education in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Vale of Glamorgan's Cabinet will next week consider whether to begin public consultation on a proposal that would eventually see the school's capacity increase by 299 places.

Currently, 1361 places are available at the school, of which 210 places are in the primary phase and 1151 in the secondary phase. It is anticipated that the increase in demand, will require the school to accommodate 1450 pupils of secondary age. The school would continue to provide 210 primary places.

The proposal to expand the current site of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, would allow the increasing demand for places to be met. As the proposal recommends that the school's capacity is increased by more than 200 places, a statutory consultation process would be required.

Included in the expansion proposals, are a new 3G pitch for the school and improvements to the reception, parking area and external spaces.

It is proposed that the consultation process would begin on Sunday 26 June and run for a period of 6 weeks. During this time, meetings with parents, pupil representatives, the governing body and staff of the school would take place, to provide additional information.

Rob Evans, Chair of Governors, said, "After listening to the responses from our last consultation on the transformation of secondary schools in Barry, we decided that we needed to look at the options in more detail. The formation of the West Barry Secondary Schools Advisory Board has helped us to engage with the public and stakeholders, to identify new options to meet the needs of secondary education in the area."

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education, Cllr Lis Burnett, said: "We recognise the importance of listening carefully to our residents on key issues, such as education. With changing demands on our education system, it is only right that we consider the opinions of everyone that has an interest, to enable us to provide the best education for our children in the Vale of Glamorgan."

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## Staff changes

Morwen Hudson has recently been appointed as the new Lead Officer for School Improvement/Senior Challenge Advisor. This joint post will see Morwen working for both the Central South Consortium and the Vale Council. Morwen is currently the challenge advisor for a number of Vale schools

Mike Glavin recently took up post as Assistant Director with Central South Consortium. We are very grateful to Mike for his work in the Vale.

## Communication Brief

The Advisory Board developing proposals to transform secondary schools in Barry met for the fifth time on 24 May.

Members of the Board who include the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of Barry Comprehensive School, Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School and Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg as well as representatives of primary schools and further and higher education, received feedback from meetings with governors from the three schools about the emerging plans. They discussed the anxieties that had been raised by some staff governors about the uncertainties associated with change.

The Board were clear that the ambition to transform educational outcomes needs the very best staff to remain working in local schools. They were keen to reassure teachers and other employees that there would be attractive jobs at the expanded and transformed schools. Whilst change was never easy, success in the future depended on great staff. There would continue to be clear communication about future plans for investment in the future over the next few weeks.

The Board then considered four options for the catchment areas that would form part of the admission arrangements for the two proposed English-medium schools and agreed a preferred option.

The Board was clear that all schools need to provide an excellent education for all their learners including more able and talented pupils as well as those with additional learning needs. Particular attention is being given to developing excellent support for learners with emotional and behavioural needs across the Vale from a team to be based at the new school on the Barry Comprehensive site.

Members also considered a further report about transition arrangements for the English-medium schools. They agreed an outline programme that would make continuity of learning for students. It would mean that most students in years 7 - 10 will be studying in mixed sex classes from September 2018. Students in year 11 would continue in their current classes until after their GCSE examinations in 2019.

On 6 June the Council's Cabinet is expected to consider the proposal to carry out formal consultation to expand Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. If that is agreed consultation involving children and young people, parents and staff would get underway in late June.

Proposals to start consultation about the transformed English medium schools are likely to be considered on 4 July. Consultation could then start in September.

The Council is grateful to all Members of the Advisory Board for their assistance in creating ambitious and exciting plans to transform education in Barry.

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## Go ahead has been approved of the amalgamation of Cadoxton Primary and Cadoxton Nursery School

### Proposal to amalgamate Cadoxton Primary and Nursery Schools

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Cabinet will again discuss proposals to amalgamate Cadoxton Primary School and Cadoxton Nursery School at its meeting on Monday 6 June.

Following a comprehensive consultation held at the beginning of 2016, a consultation report containing the feedback was discussed at the Council's March Cabinet meeting.

Current discussions reflect the Council's approach over recent years to employ a primary school model providing education for 3 to 11 years, by amalgamating separate infant, nursery and junior schools. It approved the two schools would amalgamate on 1 September 2016, and would see Cadoxton Primary School established as a community school catering for pupils aged 3 to 11.

If the Council gives the go-ahead at its meeting on Monday, the new school's capacity would remain the same with 420 primary school places and 100 nursery places. It would continue to operate from the current nursery and primary school buildings and all pupils will automatically transfer to the new school.

Cadoxton Primary School's existing Headteacher, Janet Hayward, would oversee the newly merged schools alongside the existing governing body of the primary school.

CLLr Lis Burnett, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education said: "The amalgamation of Cadoxton's Primary and Nursery Schools will see two high performing schools join, to share and build on their strengths and vision for the future.

"It will provide the children with a strong foundation to their education with a consistent curriculum and school ethos throughout this important stage of their school life."

Admission arrangements for the amalgamated school will remain unchanged.