

Vale 21st Century Schools Community Newsletter

Autumn 2021



The 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme is a long-term strategic investment in the educational estate throughout Wales.

The three Barry secondary schools and two Western Vale primary school projects are progressing well with **three of the buildings now handed over.**

Read on to find out more about the projects and how we're supporting wellbeing and nature along the way.

PROGRAMME COMMUNITY SUPPORT

During the summer 2021 the school contractors and 21st Century Schools team donated over 200 hours volunteer time supporting the local environment.



In June and July, the team visited Porthkerry Country Park. We created habitat piles from the remains of trees which had been felled due to Ash dieback, cleared overgrown vegetation around the Mill, and collected litter from the beach. This work helped to maintain a well-loved park for people and nature.



We also collected litter at Rhoose Point in July. We collected 9 bags of waste, preventing it from being washed out to sea and trapping or poisoning wildlife.



The school contractors took part in Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count in August, providing valuable data for a national campaign and enabling us to check how well our sites are supporting nature.



Since January 2019, the Vale's 21st Century Schools community benefits projects have delivered...

99%
Waste diverted from landfill

82%
Construction spend within Wales = **£59m**

47
Community initiatives supported

11
Supply chain engagement events

Workforce from...

Wales = 85% average	Postcode = 48% average
2,673 People	1,174 People

3,357
Hours of school STEM engagements

11,163
Pupil interactions

154 New full-time jobs = **11,226** Person weeks of new jobs
86 Apprenticeships **44** Work experience placements
5,883 Person weeks of training



WESTERN VALE PRIMARIES



Project Progress

The new building for St David's CIW Primary School was handed over in September 2021. This is the Vale's first low carbon school; it is fully electric with solar panels and energy saving devices. The building also contains a multi-use hall, classrooms with modern ICT facilities, and a central "heart" space. External works and demolition of the old buildings are ongoing.

The new Llancafarn Primary School building is now watertight, solar panels are being installed, and internal works ongoing with the classrooms being plastered ready for paintwork, carpentry, and joinery. The building is due to be handed over in the winter term.



Community Support



The team has also been busy donating materials to local schools; including drawstring bags to Gladstone primary, sports balls to St David's CIW primary, and materials for the new Ysgol Dewi Sant play area.



Find out more!

01446 709 828

21stcenturyschools@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/21st-Century-Schools

Correspondence is welcomed in Welsh.
This flyer is also available in Welsh.



Ysgolion a Cholegau yr 21ain Ganrif
21st Century Schools and Colleges



YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO MORGANNWG



Project Progress

The new and refurbished sections of the Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg building were handed over in September 2021. The school benefits from a new sports hall, remodelled learning resource centre, refreshed classrooms, and dining facilities.

The external raingardens and 3G pitch have also been completed, providing new sporting and recreation facilities. Bat, bee, and bird boxes have also been installed in external walls, creating valuable habitats for wildlife.



Community Support

Over the last year, ISG Construction has supported the 21st Century Schools team to undertake habitat surveys with Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg primary pupils. In October, April, and August the team conducted surveys of the new tree saplings, meadow, and retention basins (ponds).

Pupils enjoyed learning about the recently planted saplings and finding aquatic minibeasts. Results indicate that these habitats are improving site biodiversity and pupils have since been using these resources during playtimes.



PENCOEDTRE HIGH SCHOOL



Project Progress

The solar panels have been installed which will provide sustainable energy for the school. Internally painting, flooring, doors, and installation of fixed furniture are underway.



Community Support

Graduates of the Bouygues UK funded TACKLE programme at Pencoedtre High School, put primary school pupils through their paces on a visit to their new school.

The course, run by the Cardiff Blues, engages pupils through workshops and practical sessions geared towards career aspirations. It gives children the chance to develop their employability skills and prospects by learning through rugby values such as teamwork, respect, discipline, and passion.

Primary pupils visited the school in July ahead of joining year 7 in September. Pupils were given some fitness and teamwork tips from recent graduates of the scheme.

Eight year 10 pupils from Pencoedtre High School were given their graduation medals and certificates at the event. These pupils were congratulated on their hard work and dedication to the course.



WHITMORE HIGH SCHOOL



Project Progress

The new building for Whitmore High School was handed over in April 2021. The school was very excited to use their new facilities and the feedback has been brilliant.

New facilities include a dining hall with access to a central courtyard, specialist facilities for music, drama, science, DT, sports, and art departments, and dedicated 6th form areas. The building also contains a specialist resource base for autistic pupils, which opened in September 2021 and contains sensory rooms, a life skills room, and dedicated classrooms.

The next phase of work has started with demolition of the old buildings and creation of new sports pitches, memorial garden, and habitat areas.



Community Support

During the project, Morgan Sindall supported additional STEM teaching time within the school. Teachers provided over 2,300 hours of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focussed lessons, helping pupils to gain valuable skills for future learning and employment.

The project team recently revisited the secure planting area at Palmerston Centre for Lifelong Learning that they created at the start of 2021. The community has been busy growing food and flowers in the raised beds, and everyone is thrilled with these facilities.

