



Ysgol uwchradd newydd i Gaerffili

Cylchlythyr Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg Rhifyn 27, Chwefror 2012

Cyhoeddir Rhagolwg gan Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg, Tŷ Cymru, Greenwood Close, Parc Busnes Porth Caerdydd, Caerdydd CF23 8RD
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Buddugoliaeth yng Nghaerdydd

rhagolwg

Cais i droi yn ysgol benodedig

MAE RhAG yn dadlau yn gryf ei bod hi'n well i ysgolion, lle bo'n bosibl, fod yn drwyadl Gymraeg eu natur: mae disgyblion, waeth beth yw eu cefndir ieithyddol, yn gallu ymdopi gyda gwersi yn yr iaith, ac yn wir, ffynnu - dyma yw'r ffordd fwyaf effeithlon at feithrin dwyieithrwydd go iawn, chwedl RhAG.

Datblygiad calonogol iawn, felly, oedd i gorff llywodraethol Ysgol Pencae ym Mhenmaenmawr fis Mawrth y llynedd, fynd ati i gynnal ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus mewn perthynas â throsi statws ieithyddol yr ysgol yn un Gymraeg ddynodedig.

Ar hyn o bryd mae oddeutu 190 o ddisgyblion ar gofrestr yr ysgol sydd wedi'i rhannu'n ddwy yn ieithyddol - sef un ffrwd Gymraeg a ffrwd Cymraeg ail iaith - ond bod mwy o blant bellach yn trosglwyddo i'r ffrwd Gymraeg o Blwyddyn 1 ymlaen. Erbyn hyn, deallir fod 55% o holl ddisgyblion yr ysgol o Flynyddoedd 1-6 yn y ffrwd Gymraeg. Rhagwelir y bydd 60% o ddisgyblion BL.1 yn parhau a'u haddysg yn y ffrwd Gymraeg o Fedi 2011 ymlaen. Yn 2010 roedd 29 o ddisgyblion yn y Derbyn a'r rhagamcanion yn awgrymu mai 6 o blant yn unig fyddai'n trosglwyddo i'r ffrwd ail iaith yn Mlwyddyn 1 ym Medi 2011.

Deallwn mai'r cynnig gerbron sydd i ail-strwythuro'r ysgol fel mai un ffrwd fydd yn bodoli ac



Ysgol Pencae, Penmaenmawr

y bydd y mwyafrif o'r cwricwlwm yn cael ei addysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Cyflwynodd RhAG sylwadau i'r ymgynghoriad yn cefnogi bwriadau'r llywodraethwyr yn frwd ac yn annog y datblygiad.

Ym mis Medi cafwyd ar ddeall eu bod wedi penderfynu cyhoeddi rhybudd statudol yn nodi eu dyhead i newid statws ieithyddol yr ysgol a'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer ymateb oedd 14 Tachwedd 2011.

Y bwriad yn ôl y rhybudd yw gweithredu'r cynigion o'r 1 Medi 2012 ymlaen ar gyfer disgyblion fydd yn dod i ddsbarth meithrin yr ysgol ar 3 Medi 2012. Bydd pob carfan sy'n ymuno â'r ysgol ar ôl y dyddiad hwn yn cael eu haddysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Oherwydd gwrthwynebiad chwyrn o du rhai rhieni lleol ymddengys mai'r Gweinidog Addysg fydd a'r gair olaf ar y mater.

Cydnabod sefyllfa unigryw addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg

MAE RhAG wedi croesawu cyhoeddiad hir-ddisgwyliedig y Gweinidog Addysg mewn perthynas â buddsoddiad cyfalaf i addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Dywedodd Ceri Owen, Swyddog Datblygu RhAG, "Hoffwn longyfarch y Gweinidog Addysg ynghyd â Llywodraeth Cymru am osod eu gweledigaeth ar gyfer twf addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae'r cyhoeddiad yn cadarnhau fod sawl prosiect ledled Cymru wedi derbyn addewid am gyllid a fydd yn caniatáu i awdurdodau addysg fwrw 'mlaen yn awr yda'r gwaith o ddiwallu'r galw cynyddol o du rhieni. Yn y mwyafrif o achosion, bydd y cyllid yn cynnig sefydlogrwydd a'r amodau angenrheidiol i'r sector ffynnu."

"Tra'n cymeradwyo arweiniad strategol clir y llywodraeth o safbwynt cynllunio addysg Gymraeg dros y blynyddoedd nesaf, rhaid cydnabod mai dros

gyfnod estynedig o amser y caiff y cyllid ei ddynannu a hynny'n groes i'r cynllun gwreiddiol. Pwysleiswn felly fod angen cadarnhau ar unwaith pa brosiectau fydd yn cael blaenoriaeth o fewn y rhaglen a phryd yn union y bydd yr arian yn cael ei ryddhau i'r awdurdodau lleol. Heb amserlen a fframwaith bendant i gyflawni hynny, mae'n debygol y gall arwain at sefyllfa o oedi ac ansicrwydd fydd yn niweidiol i dwf addysg Gymraeg ac mewn rhai achosion yn atal rhieni rhag sicrhau mynediad at addysg Gymraeg i'w plant. Elfen allweddol arall yw fod angen sicrwydd o du'r awdurdodau lleol y byddant hwythau'n medru canfod yr arian cyfatebol sy'n angenrheidiol i wireddu'r cynlluniau dan sylw."

"Nid oes amheuaeth fod y buddsoddiad arfaethedig yn cymryd camau breision i'r cyfeiriad cywir, ond o safbwynt rhieni, yr hyn sy'n gwbl

greiddiol yw cael manylion pendant ynglyn â sut a phryd y bydd yr arian yn diogelu eu dymuniad i addysgu eu plant drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg."

Roedd RhAG wedi ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog Addysg i dynnu sylw at anghenion uniryw addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif Llywodraeth Cymru.

Meddai Ceri, "Pwysleisio ni y bydd penderfyniadau a wneid o safbwynt dosbarthu cyllid y rhaglen yn cael effaith uniongyrchol ar dymuniad rhieni i addysgu eu plant drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn sawl rhan o Gymru. Mae goblygiadau hefyd wrth gwrs o ran cyflawni egwyddorion craidd Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg y llywodraeth."

Cydnabyddir cefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cymru i'r cyhoeddiad hwn ac i'r wefan www.rhag.net
Os oes angen gwybodaeth o unrhyw fath am yr iaith Gymraeg, galwch y Llinell Gyswilt: 0845 6076070
(cyfradd galwadau lleol) Llun-Gwener 10.00am-12.30pm/1.30-3.30pm



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Profiadau rhieni yn dweud cyfrolau

Bu RhAG mewn cydweithrediad â Menter Iaith Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen a Mynwy yn gweithio ar brosiect i gynhyrchu taflen ddiennadol er mwyn hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg yn y sir. Bwriad y daflen oedd cyflwyno gwybodaeth am ddarpariaeth



cyfrwng Gymraeg yr awdurdod ynghyd â manteision cyffredinol dwyieithrwydd. Mae'n adnodd unigryw oherwydd ei fod wedi'i dargedu at bobl Torfaen trwy seilio'r cynnwys yn uniongyrchol ar profiadau personol rhieni'r ardal.

Cafwyd nawdd ariannol hael gan Gronfa Glyndŵr i'n galluogi i gyflawni'r gwaith. Yn sgîl hynny, targedwyd dros 1000 o deuluoedd a fydd yn gwneud dewisiadau addysgol ar gyfer Medi 2012 fel rhan o ymgyrch drwy'r post yn ystod mis Medi 2011. Mae Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint wedi mabwysiadu'r syniad ac wedi mynd ati i gynhyrchu taflen debyg er mwyn hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg yn eu hardal hwythau.

'ADDYSG Gymraeg yn Wrecsam a'r Gogledd Ddwyrain: Yr heriau i Gymru' oedd testun Trafodaeth Flynyddol RhAG yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol y llynedd. Y panel o siaradwyr oedd Aled Roberts AC Rhanbarth Gogledd Cymru, Ioan Rhys Jones, Rhiant, Ysgol Bodhyfryd, Wrecsam, a Huw Alun Roberts, Cadeirydd Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint.

Ail ysgol uwchradd Caerffili

MAE cynlluniau cyffrous i sefydlu ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Gymraeg newydd yng Nghaerffili wedi derbyn sêl bendith.

Cafodd cynlluniau Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Caerffili eu cymeradwyo ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn er mwyn trawsnewid safle St Ilan, sydd wedi'i lleoli ynghanol tref Caerffili, yn ysgol Gymraeg newydd.

Daw hyn yn sgîl cyhoeddiad y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Sgiliau fod ysgolion Caerffili i dderbyn £92m er mwyn ariannu prosiectau rhwng 2014-2021 fel rhan o Raglen Cyfalaf Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif.

Mae Cynghorwyr felly wedi cytuno bwrw ymlaen gyda rhan gyntaf y gwaith datblygu ar gost o £3.5m, a fydd yn caniatáu mynediad i ddisgyblion Bl.7 ym mis Medi 2013.

Furfia hyn ran o gynllun ehangach i ddatblygu campws 3-16 ar y safle, ble bydd Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili maes o law yn ymgyrchu yno. Byddant yn dechrau ar y gwaith adeiladu ym mis Ebrill.

Bu rhieni RhAG yn aros yn bryderus am y penderfyniad hwn oherwydd fod ganddo effaith uniongyrchol ar hawl rhieni i addysgu eu plant drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn y bwrdeisdref.

Heb rhoi'r cynllun dan sylw ar waith, roedd y posibilrwydd o lefydd annigonol dros y blynyddoedd nesaf yn fgythiad gwirioneddol. Yn wir, cafodd

rhieni eu siomi unwaith yn barod, pan y bu'n rhaid i'r Cyngor roi'r cynlluniau gwreiddiol ar gyfer safle St Ilan i'r neilltu oherwydd diffyg cyllid.

Mae angen cynyddu llyfnydd uwchradd ym masn Caerffili ar fyrder, er mwyn diwallu'r galw cynyddol ac er mwyn lliniaru'r pwysau ar Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, unig ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Gymraeg y Sir ar hyn o bryd. Trwy'r cynllun hwn, mae Cyngor Caerffili'n arddangos eu hymrwymiad i wireddu amcanion Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Gymraeg Llywodraeth Cymru trwy ymateb mewn ffordd wedi'i chynllunio ar gyfer y galw cynyddol am addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg.



Uchod: Ben Jones, Cadeirydd RhAG Caerffili a dirprwyath o rieni'r Sir yn y Senedd ym Mae Caerdydd yn cyflwyno deiseb i sylw William Powell AC, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau.



LEIGHTON Andrews, Gweinidog dros Addysg a Sgiliau Llywodraeth Cymru (ar y chwith), a Keith Towler, Comisiynydd Plant Cymru (ar y dde), oedd y siaradwr gwadd yng Nghynhadledd Flynyddol RhAG fis Hydref y llynedd. Testun y Gynhadledd oedd "Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Gymraeg: Ble ydyn ni ar ôl 18 mis?". Cynhaliwyd y Gynhadledd ar 15fed Hydref yn Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe, Abertawe.

Dyfodol trydedd ysgol yn ddiogel

Mae RhAG wedi croesawu'r ffaith y bydd cynlluniau Cyngor Caerdydd i agor trydedd ysgol gyfun Gymraeg y brifddinas ym Medi 2012 yn parhau yn unol â'r amserlen wreiddiol o leiaf, os nid ar y safle a addawyd.

Yn groes i'r cynllun gwreiddiol, bydd Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern yn cael ei sefydlu ar safle Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf am flwyddyn o fis Medi 2012 ymlaen, gyda'r bwriad i'w symud i safle presennol Ysgol Uwchradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Sant Teilo ym Medi 2013. Bydd disgyblion ysgolion Bro Eirwg a Berllan Deg yn bwydo'r ysgol am y ddwy flynedd gyntaf ac o 2014 bydd plant yn dod o Ysgol Pen-y-pil ac o 2016 o Ysgol Pen-y-pil yn ychwanegol.

Dyweddodd Nona Gruffudd-Evans, Cadeirydd RhAG Caerdydd, "Tra'n cydnabod bod y sefyllfa ymhell o fod yn ddefnyddol, cred RhAG fod y penderfyniad yn caniatáu'r dechrau gorau posib i Bro Edern dan yr amgylchiadau, ac fod yn rhaid canolbwyntio'n awr ar sicrhau proses drosglwyddo sydd mor esmwyth â phosib i ddisgyblion yr ysgol newydd. Ymhellach i hynny, rydym yn cydnabod cefnogaeth sylweddol Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, ac yn arbennig pennaeth yr ysgol honno, a'u rhan allweddol yn y broses o sicrhau'r datrysiaid dan sylw."

Ychwanegodd Mrs Gruffudd-Evans, "Pwysleisw'n ei bod yn gwbl hanfodol bod y Sir bellach wedi addo mai trefniant dros dro am flwyddyn yn unig fydd hyn, ac y bydd Cyngor Caerdydd yn gwireddu eu hymrwymiad i drosglwyddo Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern i'w chartref parhaol ym Medi 2013. Rydym hefyd yn galw ar y Cyngor i gadw at eu addewidion o sicrhau cyllid digonol ar gyfer trefniadau staffio ac adnoddau pwrpasol ar gyfer lletya'r ysgol newydd yn ei chartref dros dro yng Nglantaf. Addysg a lles y disgyblion yw'r flaenoriaeth uchaf ac mae'n rhaid gwneud yn siwr na fydd y trefniant yma'n andwyol i fuddiannau disgyblion y naill ysgol neu'r llall."

Nododd Michael Jones, Cydlynnydd de ddwyrain Cymru ar ran RhAG, "Dylai bwrw ymlaen gyda'r gwaith o benodi pennaeth, er mwyn llywio'r broses o ymsefydlu hunaniaeth a threfniadaeth annibynnol yr ysgol newydd erbyn Medi 2012 fod yn gam gweithredu ar fyrder gan y Sir. Yn naturiol mae gan ddarpar-rieni lawer iawn o gwestiynau a phryderon a bydd penodi pennaeth yn fodd i dawelu nifer o'r gofidiau hynny. Mae'n bryder gan RhAG mai'r teimlad cyffredinol ymysg rhieni yw un o anniddigrwydd a'u bod yn teimlo wedi'u dieithrio'n llwyr yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf."

Abertawe yn fflam

Mae datblygiadau cyffrous ar y gweill yn Abertawe. Agorodd Ysgol Gymraeg Tan-y-Lan, ysgol Gymraeg newydd Treforys ym mis Medi 2011. Sefydlwyd yr ysgol ar ôl blynyddoedd o ymgyrchu dyfal gan RhAG. Ar hyn o bryd mae 100 o ddisgyblion o Dreforys yn teithio i ysgolion Lôn-las a Thirdeunaw i gael addysg Gymraeg, ond nawr mae plant yr ardal yn gallu cael addysg Gymraeg heb orfod teithio. Mae'r ddwy ysgol honno'n orlawn, ac ugeiniau o blant wedi'u gwrthod i addysg Gymraeg yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Yn ystod tymor yr haf, aeth RhAG ati mewn cydweithrediad â'r Fenter Iaith leol a Mudiad Meithrin i gynhyrchu taflen hyrwyddo a gafodd ei dosbarthu i holl dai'r ardal.

Yr ail ddatblygiad yw'r bwriad i sefydlu Ysgol Gymraeg newydd yn y Cwm, Bonymaen. Mae rhyw gant o blant o ardal Bonymaen a St Tomos ar hyn o bryd yn cael addysg Gymraeg yn Lôn-las a Bryn-y-môr. Daeth adeilad yn y Cwm yn rhydd trwy ad-drefnu addysg Saesneg. Y bwriad yw cychwyn yr ysgol ym mis Medi 2012. Daeth y cyfnod ymgyngori cyntaf i ben ym mis Mai, a'r gobaith yw y bydd y broses ym mynd yn ei blaen yn ddirwysr.

Mantais y ddau ddatblygiad yw nad oes cost cyfalaf - adeiladau gwag sy'n cael eu defnyddio. Y gobaith felly yw y bydd addysg Gymraeg yn blodeuo mewn dwy ardal arall yn Abertawe.

Grym rhieni yn dwyn ffrwyth eto yn RhCT

MAE ardal Rhondda Cynon Tâf wastad wedi bod yn gadarnle i addysg Gymraeg.

Yma agorwyd pedair o'r ysgolion cynharaf - Ynyslwyd yn Aberdâr ym 1949, Ynyswen a Phontygwaith (Llwynneclyn erbyn hyn) yn y Rhondda ym 1950 a Pont Sion Norton ger Pontypridd ym 1951. Yn Nhâf-Elai bu'r twf wedyn gyda 5 ysgol neu uned arall erbyn 1974 pan ddaeth oes Cyngor Sir Morgannwg i ben ac aeth cyfrifoldeb dros addysg i Gyngor Canol Morgannwg. O dan y cyngor newydd, cafwyd dwy ysgol arall cyn 1980 - yn y Rhondda (Bodringallt) ac yn Llantrisant, ac uned yn Mhenderyn uwchben Cwm Cynon.

Wedyn daeth brwydr enwog Pont Sion Norton 1980-81 pan geisiodd y sir osod terfyn ar dwf addysg Gymraeg a gweithredodd y rhieni yn uniongyrchol i hawlio ei barhâd trwy feddiannu'r ysgol am fisoedd.

Penderfynodd rhieni sir Forgannwg Ganol ffurfio pwyllgor sirol i ymchwilio i'r angen am ehangu'r ddarpariaeth ar draws pob un o'r 6 ardal yn y sir, 3 ohonynt sydd yn awr yn ffurfio Bwrdeistref Rhondda Cynon Tâf, a rhwng 1980 a 1996 fe lwyddon nhw i ysgogi sefydlu 9 ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd ar draws y sir, 5 ohonynt yn ardal presennol Rhondda Cynon Tâf a'r pedwar arall yn

ardaloedd Caerffili a Phenybont.

Yn anffodus methodd RhAG â sicrhau parhâd pwyllgor sirol effeithiol yn RhCT er inni lwyddo ym Mhenybont a Chaerffili. Mae pwyllgor sirol Caerffili wedi bod yn gyson llwyddiannus wrth sicrhau agor ysgolion cynradd ychwanegol a phwyllgor Penybont wrth gael ysgol uwchradd Gymraeg yn Llangynwyd.

Ond yn Rhondda Cynon Tâf does dim ysgol gynradd wedi'i hagar ers Bronllwyn, Gelli Rhondda ym 1990. Bu ymdrech gan y sir i agor ffrwd 10 plentyn y flwyddyn yn 2005 yn Glenboi Primary School, ger Aberpennar, ond dangosodd y rhieni eu hanfodlonrwydd dros y cynnig di-werth hwn a gorfodwyd y sir i'w dynnu yn ôl.

Wedyn daeth bygythiad o gyfeiriad y sir yn 2010 i ddileu chweched dosbarth bob un o'r 4 ysgol uwchradd Gymraeg yn yr ardal a chreu yn eu lle Goleg Chweched Dosbarth Dwyieithog yn Nantgarw. Bu'r cynnig yn fodd i sbarduno'r rhieni i ffurfio pwyllgor sirol RhAG o'r diwedd. Daeth llwyddiant yn fuan wrth orfodi dileu y cynnig i sefydlu'r Coleg ond gwelodd y pwyllgor yr angen i weithio am gael rhagor o ysgolion cynradd. Gwneithpwyd hynny mewn da bryd gan i'r sir ymateb i'r gorlenwi yn Llantrisant a Phorth Rhondda trwy awgrymu'n wyneb galed i'r rieni

geisio lle yn 2011 yn yr ysgolion Saesneg. Trefnwyd gwrth-dystiad cyhoeddus iawn a arweiniodd at orfodi'r sir yn y tymor byr i ddarparu dosbarthiadau ychwanegol ac yn y tymor canol i gynllunio ysgol gynradd ychwanegol ar safle ysgol uwchradd Llanhari i'w hagar Fedi 2012. Y newyddion gwych yw bod tua 35 plentyn wedi ceisio lle yn yr ysgol newydd yn barod, rhai yn y dosbarth meithrin a rhai yn y derbyn. Mae cyfarfodydd rheolaidd yn digwydd nawr rhwng y pwyllgor sirol a swyddogion y sir. Yn y cyfarfod fis Ionawr datgelodd y sir y bwriad i godi adeilad newydd ar gyfer Tonyrefail School a dwy ysgol newydd sbon, un yn y Rhondda Fawr nepell o'r Porth a'r llall yng Nghwm Cynon lle mae'r ysgolion Cymraeg yn Aberdâr ac Abercynon wedi bod yn orlawn erystalwm. Y siom yw nad oes bwriad ar hyn o bryd i ymateb i'r galw sy wedi'i brofi gan arolwg sirol am o leiaf ffrwd arall i wasanaethu dalgylchoedd Castellau a Garth Olwg (Cynradd) yn arbennig am fod ysgol Llantrisant hefyd o dan bwysau serch agor Llanhari.

Mae addysg Gymraeg ar i fyny eto yn Rhondda Cynon Tâf (lle roedd 20% o'r plant yn barod mewn addysg Gymraeg yn 2010) ac mae'r diolch am hyn yn ddyledus i rym rhieni lleol.

Y llanw yn troi ar gynlluniau'r Fflint

BU'R flwyddyn diwethaf yn un gythryblus yn hanes addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg Sir y Fflint. Cyhoeddwyd cynlluniau gan y Sir i amalgameiddio Ysgol Terrig, Treuddyn, sy'n ysgol Gymraeg ei chyfrwng gydag Ysgol Parc y Llan sy'n ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg ac yn rhannu'r un safle, ac hefyd i greu campws dysgu gydol oes yn Nhreffynnon allai gyfuno Holywell High School a holl ysgolion cynradd y dref, gan gynnwys Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenffrwd.

Heb amheuaeth, roedd y cynigion hyn yn gosod cysnail peryglus i ddyfodol addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn sir a fu unwaith yn arwain y gad.

Cafwyd ymateb ffyrnig i'r cynlluniau a chanlyniad hynny oedd sefydlu grŵp ymgyrchu SYFFLAG (Sir y Fflint dros addysg Gymraeg) gan

rieni lleol. Wedi ymgyrchu dygn ganddynt, cafwyd cyhoeddiad ym mis Medi fod y Sir wedi rhoi'r cynlluniau i'r neilltu am y tro. Mae RhAG ar ddeall fod y syniadau o amalgameiddio a ffederaleiddio yn bendant wedi'i diystyru bellach.

Serch hynny, mae gwaith mawr eto i'w wneud i ddiwallu'r galw sydd eisoes wedi'i brofi. Cynhaliwyd arolwg mesur y galw nôl yn 2009 oedd yn dangos y byddai 33% o rieni yn dewis ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg pe byddai o fewn 2 filltir i'r cartref. Yr ardaloedd gyda'r galw uchaf ydoedd Cei Connah, Shotton a Bwcle sydd heb ddarpariaeth leol ar hyn o bryd.

Dim ond 6% o ddisgyblion Sir y Fflint sy'n mynychu ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Chwarae teg i Bowys

MAE cabinet Powys wedi rhoi sêl bendith ar gynllun i adeiladu cartref newydd sbon ar gyfer unig ysgol gynradd benodedig Gymraeg gogledd Powys.

Y bwriad yw adleoli Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd i adeilad a fydd yn medru derbyn 270 o ddisgyblion, gyda'r gallu i gynyddu ymhellach i 300 os bydd angen.

Mae'r ysgol ar hyn o bryd dan ei sang a'r adnoddau presennol yn gwbl anaddas.

Ers ei sefydlu ddeng mlynedd yn ôl, mae twf syfrdanol yr ysgol yn brawf diamheul o'r galw cynyddol am addysg Gymraeg yn y Drenewydd.

Bydd yr adeilad addas-at-bwrpas newydd hwn yn sicrhau fod addysg gynradd Gymraeg yn Nyffryn Hafren, o'r diwedd, yn derbyn buddsoddiad cwbl haeddiannol.

Ailsefydlu cangen

YN DILYN cyfarfod cyhoeddus a gynhaliwyd fis Chwefror yng Ngoety ger Pen-y-bont mae cangen RhAG bellach wedi'i ailsefydlu yn y sir.

Daeth nifer sylweddol o rieni a chefnogwyr addysg Gymraeg ynghyd a chafwyd penderfyniad unfrydol i ailgydio yng gweithgarwch RhAG ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Erbyn hyn, mae nifer y plant sy'n mynychu Ysgol Bro Ogwr ac Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger yn cynyddu'n flynyddol. Os pery'r cynnydd hwnnw, bydd sefyllfa'n codi mewn byr o dro, lle bydd ddarpariaeth bresennol y sir yn methu diwallu'r galw. Mae datblygiadau tai sylweddol yn yr ardal hefyd yn rhwym o effeithio ar y galw hwnnw dros y blynyddoedd nesaf.

Daeth yr amser felly i alw am sefydlu pumed ysgol gynradd Gymraeg yn yr awdurdod, er mwyn sicrhau fod addysg Gymraeg yn parhau i ffynnu ac fod rhieni'n medru cael mynediad at addysg Gymraeg sy'n hygyrch ac o fewn pellter rhesymol.

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Buddugoliaeth ysgubol yng Nghaerdydd

MEWN buddugoliaeth ysgubol i addysg Gymraeg yng Nghaerdydd, bydd Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd yn cael ei hail-leoli i safle presennol Eglwys Newydd Primary School fel ysgol ddwy-ffrwd â dosbarth meithrin ar y safle.

Cafodd ymgyrchwyr "Save Eglwys Newydd Action Group" ganiatâd ym mis Gorffennaf 2011 i herio penderfyniad Llywodraeth Cymru o blaid cynlluniau Cyngor Caerdydd i ad-drefnu addysg yn yr Eglwys Newydd.

Daeth yr achos gerbron yr Uchel Lys fis Rhagfyr a dyfarnwyd o blaid penderfyniad y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau i ganiatáu i Gyngor Caerdydd fwrw 'mlaen gyda'u cynlluniau.

O ganlyniad, bydd Eglwys Wen Primary ac Eglwys Newydd Primary yn cau ac o fis Medi 2012 ymlaen yn cael eu huno mewn ysgol newydd sbon wedi'i lleoli ar y safle a rennir ar hyn o bryd rhwng Eglwys Wen Primary ac Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd.

Yn ogystal, mae'r Gweinidog Addysg wedi rhoi sêl bendith ar gynlluniau eraill yng Nghaerdydd dan Raglen Ysgolion 21G sef:

- Y Wern: rhan A (i'w gwblhau erbyn Medi 2012) - gwario £977,000 i ymestyn y cynhwysedd o 1.8-ffrwd i ddwy ffrwd; rhan B - gwelliannau'n costio £2,680,000 i ymestyn y cynhwysedd i 2.5 ffrwd y flwyddyn o Fedi 2017.

- Ysgol un-ffrwd newydd yn Nhrefynach (Grangetown) i fod ar agor Fedi 2015 am gost o £6,665,000 (safle anhysbys).

- Gwelliannau i Ysgol Glan Ceubal i'w cwblhau erbyn Medi 2016 am £2,132,000.

Mae'r cynlluniau hyn ar ben cynllun arall sydd ar y gweill, sef:

- Adeiladau newydd ar gyfer Treganna a Thanyreos i fod ar agor erbyn Medi 2013 i ddarparu 3 ffrwd yn lle'r 2 presennol. Mae'r gwahoddiad i dendro wedi mynd allan ac felly gellid gobeithio y bydd y gwaith yn dechrau mewn mis neu ddau.

Mae'r rhestr hon yn ymddangos yn hir ac efallai'n ddigonol i ofalu am dwf addysg gynradd Gymraeg dros yr 8 mlynedd nesaf, ond yn anffodus dyw hyn ddim yn wir. Ar y mwyaf mae'r sir am ychwanegu 2 ffrwd at y 24 sydd ar gael pan fydd angen 14 ffrwd ychwanegol erbyn 2020 i gwrdd â'r twf presennol neu 8 ffrwd pe bai'r twf yn arafu i'r raddfa bu cyn 2006.

Nifer y newydd-ddyfodiaid y llynedd oedd 655, cynnydd o 57 dros y 598 daeth i mewn yn 2010, cynnydd bron yn 10% a adawodd 53 lle gwag yn y sector Cymraeg. Os bydd y cynydd eleni ar yr un raddfa fe fydd 720 plentyn yn ceisio'r 708 lle sy ar gael. Mae'r niferoedd yn y meithrinffeydd yn awgrymu bod twf tebygol, er na fyddai'n syndod inni gael twf is, tebycach i'r cynnydd rhwng 2009 a 2010.(29) Un rheswm am gynnydd 2011 oedd bod y sir wedi darparu dosbarth ychwanegol ym Mhwl Coch ac felly ni fu colledion yn nalgylchoedd Treganna a Phwl Coch, fel oedd yn digwydd. Ar hyn o bryd does dim cynllun i ychwanegu at y ddarpariaeth ac eithrio yn Y Wern, ac nid yw'n glir beth fydd maint yr ychwanegiad hwnnw. Ers 2006 mae nifer y newydd-ddyfodiaid ar draws Caerdydd wedi cynyddu o 464 i 655, sef cyfartaledd cynnydd ychydig dros 8% y flwyddyn.

Ers blynyddoedd nifer safonol mynediad y Wern yw 60 sef 2 ffrwd er fod cynhwysedd swyddogol yr ysgol yn 372, digon i gynnwys 12.5

dosbarth yn lle y 14 sydd eu heisiau ar gyfer 7 mlynedd x 2 ffrwd. Efallai dyna esbonio'r bwriad i gynyddu'r ysgol o 1.8 ffrwd i 2 ffrwd. Ond mae'r Wern hefyd yn etifeddu adeilad Cefn Onn a gaewyd (ac eithrio'r dosbarth meithrin) fis Gorffennaf gan ryddhau cynhwysedd o 214 i'r Wern, digon i dderbyn ffrwd arall. Ar ben hyn cyhoeddodd y sir y llynedd ei bwriad i ehangu'r Wern i fod yn ysgol 3 ffrwd ar yr un adeg â chyhoeddi'r bwriad i gael 3 ffrwd yr ysgol newydd Treganna ac ym Mhwl Coch. Mae'n bur debyg y bydd angen lle uwchben y 708 sy ar gael eleni ac roedd RhAG yn weddol hapus y byddai trydedd ffrwd yn Y Wern ar gael i gwrdd â'r angen mewn argyfwng, ond mae'n anodd deall y gwahanol negeseuon sy'n dod o'r sir parthed dyfodol Y Wern.

Newyddion da yw'r bwriad i godi ysgol newydd sbon yn Nhrefynach ar ben cael 6ed ffrwd yn yr ardal pan yr agorir Treganna newydd fel ysgol 3 ffrwd yn 2013. Ond ni fydd yr ysgol newydd yn darparu 7fed ffrwd ond yn hytrach yn galluogi Pwll Coch i fynd yn ôl i ysgol 2 ffrwd. Mae'r twf yn ardaloedd Treganna/Pontcanna/Trefynach wedi aros ar y raddfa o 10% ers 2005. Yn 2011 derbyniwyd 136 plentyn gan adael 14 lle gwag. Fe ellir disgwyl na fydd lle dros ben eleni. Erbyn 2013 bydd 30 lle ychwanegol ar gael yn Nhrefynach digon ar gyfer twf hefyd yn 2014, ond serch yr ysgol newydd bydd pethau'n argyfyngus eto yn yr ardal o 2015 ymlaen oni bai i'r sir ganiatáu i fwy na 30 ddechrau yn yr ysgol newydd o 2015 ymlaen. Ateb byr dymor wrth gwrs fyddai hynny oni bai i'r sir benderfynu ehangu'r ysgol newydd i 2 ffrwd yn fuan fel digwyddodd yn achos Pwll Coch oedd yn ysgol un ffrwd pan y'i hagogwyd.

Da hefyd yw gweld bod y sir yn symud i sicrhau dyfodol hir dymor Ysgol Glan Ceubal i dderbyn gorlif Melin Gruffydd a Phencae.

I grynhoi, mae cynlluniau'r sir yn debygol o fod

yn ddigonol am eleni a 2013 os bydd defnydd o'r lleoedd sy ar gael yn Y Wern (2012 - prin 2 ffrwd mewn llaw a ffrwd posib Y Wern; 2013 - gweddill lleoedd ychwanegol Y Wern a ffrwd newydd Treganna). Mae sefyllfa 2014 yn argyfyngus gyda thwf tebygol rhwng 50 a 60 a dim darpariaeth wedi'i rhagbaratoi a'r un yw'r sefyllfa am weddill y degawd ac eithrio'r posibilrwydd o ddefnyddio ystafelloedd gwag yr ysgol newydd tra'n aros iddi gael adeiladau ychwanegol i fod yn ysgol 2 ffrwd.

Mae'r sir wedi cynllunio i ychwanegu 2 ffrwd at y 24 sy ar gael pan gellir disgwyl y bydd angen erbyn 2020 rhwng 38 a 40 ffrwd y flwyddyn: sef cynnydd rhwng 16 ac 18 dros 8 mlynedd. Dyma sy'n debygol os bydd graddfa y tyfiant yn aros tua 8%. Wrth gwrs mae'n bosibl y daw y twf eithriadol ar raddfa 8% y flwyddyn ers 2006 i ben, fel mae'r crebachu ers 1995 ar y niferoedd cyffredinol wedi dod i ben ers 2009 (cyfanswm 3400 lan i 3875 eleni). Ers 2000 mae nifer y ffrydiau cychwynnol Cymraeg wedi cynyddu o 14 i 22 sef dros 50% ac efallai y bydd y twf dros yr 8 mlynedd hyd 2020 yn nês at 5% na 10% y flwyddyn. Os felly yr angen fydd am 8 i 9 ffrwd ychwanegol sydd eto'n nifer dwbl nifer cynllun y sir.

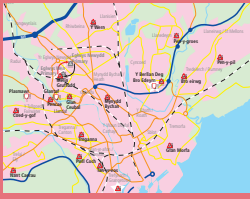
Mae'n weddol amlwg felly nad yw cynllun y sir yn un am ddegawd cyfan lle mae addysg Gymraeg yn y cwestiwn. Wrth gwrs mae'n anodd i'r sir baratoi rhestr yr ysgolion Saesneg bydd eisiau eu cau mewn 5 i 8 mlynedd i wneud lle ar gyfer plant sy eto heb eu geni i rieni na fydd yn dewis addysg Gymraeg am o leiaf 4 i 7 mlynedd. Dylem felly fod yn ddiolchgar fod cynllun o ryw fath am y dyfodol agos ac yn benderfynol o fynnu darpariaeth ychwanegol pan fydd y sefyllfa'n gliriach.

Michael Jones





New secondary for Caerphilly



Victory in Cardiff

The newsletter of RhAG, Parents for Welsh Medium Education
Issue 27, February 2012

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rhagolwg

Bid to become Welsh medium

RHAG is of the opinion that schools work best when they are thoroughly Welsh medium: pupils, whatever their linguistic background, are fully able to cope with lessons in the target language, and indeed thrive - in RhAG's opinion, this is the most effective way of nurturing true bilingualism.

It was therefore very encouraging to learn that the governors of Ysgol Pencae in Penmaenmawr, Conwy, decided to hold a public consultation last March to gauge opinion about changing the school's status to that of a designated Welsh-medium school.

The school currently has approximately 190 pupils on the register with one Welsh-medium stream and one second-language stream; in recent years more pupils have been moving up to the Welsh-language stream in Yr 1 onwards. It is understood that 55% of all pupils from Yr 1-6 are in the Welsh-medium stream. It is anticipated that from September 2011 onwards, 60% of pupils in Yr1 will continue with their education through the medium of Welsh.

In 2010, 29 pupils were admitted to the Reception and it was estimated that only 6 of those pupils would move up to the second language stream in September 2011.

RhAG understands that the proposal involves



Ysgol Pencae, Penmaenmawr

the re-structuring of the school to establish one language stream and that the majority of the curriculum would be taught through the medium of Welsh.

RhAG submitted comments to the consultation enthusiastically supporting the governors' proposals and strongly urging this development.

In September, a statutory notice was published outlining the governor's intention to convert the school's language classification and the closing

date for receiving comments was 14 November 2011.

The proposals would be implemented from 1 September 2012 and applied to all nursery aged pupils admitted on 3 September 2012. All children admitted from this date onwards will then be educated through the medium of Welsh.

Because of strong opposition from some local parents the Education Minister will now have the last say on the matter.

Unique status of Welsh medium education recognised

RhAG has welcomed the Education Minister's long-awaited announcement in relation to capital investment for Welsh-medium education.

Said Ceri Owen, RhAG Development Officer, "We wish to congratulate the Minister and Welsh Government for outlining their vision for the growth of Welsh-medium education. This announcement confirms that numerous projects across the whole of Wales have now received the promise of funding, allowing local authorities to proceed with meeting the increasing demand for Welsh-medium education. In the majority of cases, the funding will offer stability and the necessary conditions to allow the sector to thrive.

"While applauding the government's clear strategic direction in terms of the planning for Welsh-medium education over the coming years, it

is noted that funding will be allocated over a longer period of time compared to the original programme.

"We must emphasise the need to confirm at once which projects will be prioritised within the programme and when the funding will be released to local authorities. A situation without a clear framework and timeframe in place could lead to further delays and uncertainty which could have an adverse effect on the growth of Welsh-medium provision, and in some instances actually stop parents accessing Welsh-medium education for their children. Another key element is that local authorities need to identify and confirm the necessary matched funding which is crucial in getting these projects off the ground.

"This proposed investment makes significant strides in the right direction, but what is

fundamental from a parent's perspective is obtaining concrete details of how and when the funding will be in place in order to allow them to educate their children through the medium of Welsh."

RhAG had written to the Education Minister highlighting the unique needs of Welsh-medium education in terms of the Welsh Government's 21 Century School's Programme.

Said Ceri, "We emphasised that decisions taken in regards to the distribution of the programme's funding would have a direct impact on the wishes of parents, across the whole of Wales, eager to educate their children through the medium of Welsh. There are also implications in regards to achieving the principles of the government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy."

We are grateful to the Welsh Government for supporting this publication and the website www.rhag.net
If you require further information about any aspect of the Welsh language, please ring the Link Line to Welsh: 0845 6076070



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Parent's experience speaks volumes

RhAG and Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire Welsh Language Initiative (Menter Iaith) have recently collaborated on a project to produce a booklet with the aim of promoting Welsh-medium education within the county. The booklet's main objective was



to provide clear and concise information about the authority's current Welsh-medium provision as well as the general advantages of bilingualism. The resource is unique as it has been specifically created for the people of Torfaen and its content directly based on the experiences of local parents.

The booklet secured financial support from Cronfa Glyndŵr which enabled its production. The finished booklet was sent through a direct mail shot campaign to over 1000 families in the process of making decisions for September 2012 admissions. Since then, Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint has also adopted the booklet's template and adapted its content to promote Welsh-medium education in their area.

'WELSH-medium Education in Wrexham and the North East: the challenges for Wales' was the theme of the RhAG lecture at the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham last year. Guest speakers: Aled Roberts AM North East Wales, Ioan Rhys Jones, Parent at Ysgol Bodhyfryd Wrexham, Huw Alun Roberts, Chair of Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint.

Caerphilly's second secondary

EXCITING proposals to establish a new Welsh-medium secondary school in Caerphilly have been given the go-ahead.

Plans by Caerphilly County Borough Council to transform the St Ilan site, located in the centre of Caerphilly, as a Welsh school were ratified at the beginning of the year. This follows a recent announcement from the Education and Skills Minister confirming that Caerphilly schools will receive £92m to fund projects between 2014-2021 as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Councillors voted in favour of proceeding with the project's first phase, at a cost of £3.5m which will secure admission to Yr7 pupils in September 2013.

RhAG parents had been anxiously waiting for this decision as it had a direct impact on their wishes to educate their children through the medium of Welsh within the county.

Failure to implement this proposal would have meant that insufficient places within the Welsh-medium secondary sector in future was inevitable. Indeed, parents had already been let down once before, as a funding shortfall forced the authority to abandon the original proposals intended for the St Ilan site.

There is an urgent need to increase WM

secondary places within the Caerphilly Basin in order to meet parental demand and to alleviate the pressure on Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, currently the county's only WM comprehensive. This move shows Caerphilly County Borough Council's commitment to fulfilling the objectives of the government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy, which aims to see local authorities respond in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education.



Pictured above: Ben Jones, Chair of RhAG Caerphilly with a deputation of parents at the Senedd in Cardiff bay presenting a petition to William Powell AM, Chair of the Petitions Committee, at the height of the campaign to establish additional secondary school provision in Caerphilly.



LEIGHTON Andrews, Minister for Education and Skills and Keith Towler, Children's Commissioner for Wales (pictured right), were the guest speakers at the RhAG Annual Conference last October. The theme was: 'Welsh-medium Education Strategy: Where are we 18 months on?'.

The Conference was held on 15th October at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe, Swansea.

Third school's future assured

RhAG has welcomed the fact that Cardiff Council's plans to open the city's third Welsh-medium secondary school in September 2012 will at least go ahead in accordance with the original timetable, if not at first in the promised location.

Contrary to the original proposals, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern will be established on the site of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf for its inaugural year from September 2012, with the intention of relocating to the site currently occupied by St Teilos Church in Wales High School from September 2013 onwards. The feeder schools for the first two years will be Bro Eirwg and Berllan Deg with pupils transferring from Ysgol Pen-y-pil in 2014, and Ysgol Pen-y-groes in 2016 respectively.

Said Nona Gruffudd-Evans Chair person for Cardiff RhAG, "While acknowledging that the situation is far from ideal, RhAG feels that this decision ensures the best possible start under the circumstances for Bro Edern, and that all focus should now be placed on ensuring as smooth a transition process as possible for the pupils of the new school. Further to this, we especially wish to acknowledge the significant support of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, in particular the head teacher of the school, who have played a pivotal part in resolving this situation."

Added Mrs Gruffudd-Evans, "It must be emphasised that Cardiff Council has promised that this arrangement will be in place for a year only, it is therefore imperative that the Council fulfills its commitment to transfer Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern to its permanent site in September 2013. We also call on the Council to keep its promises of sufficient funding for staffing arrangements and resources to accommodate the new school at Glantaf. The education and well-being of the pupils is of the utmost priority and it must be ensured that this temporary arrangement has no adverse effects on the interests of either school."

"Said Michael Jones, RhAG co-ordinator for south east Wales, "The work of appointing a head teacher, to steer the process of establishing the independent identity and organisation of the new school by September 2012, should be acted upon immediately. Naturally, prospective parents have a number of concerns and questions, and the appointment of a head teacher will go some way towards allaying those uncertainties. It is of great concern to RhAG that the current general feeling amongst parents is that of discontentment, and that they have felt alienated during the last few weeks."

Swansea alight

EXCITING developments are in progress in Swansea. In September 2011, Ysgol Gymraeg Tan-y-Lan opened in Morristown after years of campaigning by RhAG. About 100 pupils from Morriston currently travel to Ysgol Lon-las and Tirdeunaw, but now the area's children can access Welsh-medium education in their own community.

Both schools which previously served the area are now oversubscribed and numerous children have been turned away from Welsh-medium education over recent years.

During the summer term, RhAG in collaboration with the local Menter Iaith (Welsh Language Initiative) and Mudiad Meithrin produced a leaflet to promote the school which was distributed to all houses within the area.

The second development is the intention to establish a new Welsh-medium school in Cwm, Bonymaen. Around 100 children from the Bonymaen and St Thomas areas currently attend Ysgol Lon-las and Bryn-y-mor. Ysgol Y Cwm's buildings were made available due to the reorganisation of English-medium schools in the area. The local authority's intention is that the new school should open in September 2012. The first part of the consultation process came to an end in May and it is hoped that the process will proceed unobstructed.

Parent power bears fruit again in RCT

THE Rhondda Cynon Taff area has always been a bastion of Welsh medium education.

This is where four of the earliest schools were opened - Ynyslwyd in Aberdare in 1949, Ynyswen and Pontygwaith (now called Llwyncelyn) in the Rhondda in 1950, and Pont Siion Norton near Pontypridd in 1951. The growth was then in Taff-Ely with five schools or units established by 1974 when Glamorgan County Council came to an end and the responsibility for education passed to Mid Glamorgan Council. Under the new council there were two new schools before 1980 - in Rhondda (Bodringallt) and in Llantrisant, with a unit in Penderyn above the Cynon Valley.

Then there was the famous struggle over Pont Siion Norton 1980-81 when the county attempted to limit the growth of Welsh medium education and parents moved directly to insist that it continued by taking over the school for months.

Mid Glamorgan parents decided to form a county committee to investigate the need to spread the provision throughout the six areas of the county, three of which are now within Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough, and between 1980 and 1996 they succeeded in furthering the establishment of 9 Welsh medium primary schools across the county,

five of them in the present Rhondda Cynon Taff area and the other four in Caerphilly and Bridgend areas.

Unfortunately, RhAG failed to maintain an effective county committee, despite doing so in Bridgend and Caerphilly.

But Rhondda Cynon Taff has seen no new primary school opened since Bronllwyn Gelli Rhondda, in 1990. There was an attempt by the county to open a stream for 10 children a year in 2005 in Glenboi Primary School, near Mountain Ash, but parents demonstrated their disgust over this pitiful proposal and the county was forced to withdraw it.

Then there came the threat from the local authority in 2010 to close the sixth forms of all four of the Welsh medium secondaries in the area and create a bilingual Sixth Form College in Nantgarw. This proposal was finally enough to spur parents onto reforming a RhAG county committee. Success followed swiftly and the proposal to establish the college was quashed but the committee also realised they needed to continue campaigning for more primary schools: just in time, as the county was now responding to oversubscription in Llantrisant and Porth Rhondda by bluntly

suggesting to parents that they should simply get a place for their child in the English schools. A very public demonstration was arranged leading to the county providing additional classes in the short term and in the medium term planning a new primary school on the site of Ysgol Llanhari, to be opened in September 2012. The good news is that 35 children have already applied for places at the new school, in nursery and reception. There are now regular meetings between the county committee and local authority officers. In the January meeting the county revealed its plan for a new building for Tonyrefail School and two brand new schools, one in Rhondda Fawr near Porth, the other in the Cynon Valley where the Welsh medium schools in Aberdare and Abercynon have been oversubscribed for ages. The disappointment is that there are no plans currently to respond to the requirement, demonstrated in the county's own survey, for at least another stream to serve the catchment areas of Castellau and Garth Olwg, especially since Ysgol Llantrisant is under pressure, despite opening Llanhari.

Welsh medium education is back in the agenda in RCT (with 20% of children in ysgolion in 2010) and the thanks for this goes to local parent power.

The tide turns on Flintshire's plans

LAST year was a turbulent one in the history of Welsh medium education in Flintshire. The county announced plans to amalgamate Ysgol Terrig, Treuddyn, which is a Welsh medium school, with Ysgol Parc y Llan, an English medium school sharing the same site, and also to create a life-long learning campus in Holywell that would possibly see Holywell High School being combined with all the primary schools in the town, including Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenffrwd.

Without doubt, these plans represented a threat to the future of Welsh medium schools in a county which was once led the field.

The plans received a furious reception from

a campaign group set up by local parents called SYFFLAG (Flintshire for Welsh medium education). Following a forceful campaign, the county made the announcement in September that it had shelved the plans.

Nevertheless, the important work to satisfy the demand which has already been proven is still to be done. A survey to measure demand was carried out back in 2009 and showed that 33% of parents would choose a Welsh medium school if there were one within two miles of their home. The areas with the biggest demand were Connah's Quay, Shotton and Buckley, all without provision currently.

Only 6% of Flintshire children attend Welsh medium schools currently.

Fair play for Powys

THE cabinet of Powys council has given its approval to a plan to build a brand new home for the only designated Welsh medium primary in the north of the county.

The plan is to relocate Ysgol Dadfydd Llwyd to a building which will be able to house 270 pupils, with the ability to grow further to 300 if necessary.

The school is currently overcrowded with insufficient resources.



Since it was established 10 years ago, the school's growth is incontrovertible proof of the demand for Welsh medium education in Newtown.

The new purpose-built facility will ensure that Welsh medium education at last receives the investment it deserves in the Severn Vale.


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Branch re-established

FOLLOWING a public meeting held in February in Coety near Bridgend, a RhAG local branch has now been established in the county.

A significant number of parents and Welsh medium education supporters turned up and agreed unanimously to restart RhAG activities in Bridgend county.

The number of children attending Ysgol Bro Ogwr and Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr continues to grow every year. If this growth continues, there will be a situation very soon when the current provision will be unable to accommodate demand. There are large housing developments as well which are bound to effect the demand over the coming years.

It is now high time to establish a fifth Welsh medium primary within the authority, in order to ensure that Welsh medium education continues to flourish and parents can gain entry to schools within a reasonable distance of their homes.

The first official meeting of the branch will take place during the coming weeks.



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Major victory for Welsh medium in Cardiff

IN a major victory for Welsh medium education in Cardiff, Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd is to be re-located to the site of Eglwys Newydd Primary as a two-stream school with a nursery on site.

The "Save Eglwys Newydd Action Group" was given leave to appeal in July 2011 against a decision by the Welsh Government in favour of Cardiff Council's plans to reorganise education in Whitchurch.

The case came before the High Court in December and it was decided in favour of the decision by the Minister for Education and Skills to allow Cardiff Council to continue with its plans.

As a result, Eglwys Wen Primary and Eglwys Newydd Primary will close and from September 2012 onwards be combined in a brand new school located on the site currently shared by Eglwys Wen Primary and Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd.

In addition, the Education Minister has given approval to other plans by Cardiff under the 21st Century Schools Programme which are:

- Y Wern: part 1 (to be completed by September 2012) - spend £977,000 to extend the provision from 1.8 forms a year to two forms; part 2, improvements costing £2,680,000 to extend the provision to 2.5 forms a year from September 2012.
- A new one-form school in Grangetown to open by September 2015 at a cost of £6,665,000 (location unknown).
- Improvements to Ysgol Glan Ceubal to be completed by September 2016 costing £2,132,000.

These plans come on top of another currently under way:

- New buildings for Treganna and Tanyreos to open by September 2013 to provide three forms instead of the current 2. The invitation to tender had gone out and so it can be hoped that the work will start in a month or two.

The list may appear long and perhaps sufficient to take care of the growth in Welsh medium education over the next eight years, but unfortunately that is not so. At the most, the county is to add two more forms to the 24 existing ones when there will actually be 14 additional forms required by 2020 in order to meet the current growth in demand, or 8 forms if the growth were to slow to the pre-2006 rate.

The number of new-comers last year was 655, an increase of 57 over the 598 that came in in 2010, an increase of almost 10% which left 53 empty places in the Welsh medium sector. If the increase this year is on the same scale, there will be 720 children competing for the existing 708 places. The numbers from the nurseries suggest similar growth, although it would not be surprising for us to see lower growth there, similar to the increase between 2009 and 2010. One reason for 2011's increase was that the county had provided an additional form in Pwll Coch and so there were not the losses to the catchment areas of Treganna and Pwll Coch, as happened. Currently there is no plan add to the provision except for Y Wern, and it is not clear that the increase will be there. Since 2006 the number of new-comers across Cardiff has increased from 464 to 655, an average growth of over 8% a year.

For years, the normal intake at y Wern has been 60, making two forms, although there is capacity in the school for 372, enough to accommodate

12.5 classes rather than the 14 that are needed for two forms multiplied by seven years. Perhaps that explains the plan to increase the school from 1.8 to 2 forms. But Y Wern also inherits the Cefn Onn building which was closed (apart from the nursery school) in July freeing up a capacity of 214 for Y Wern, enough to take a new form. On top of this, the county announced last year its intention to extend Y Wern into a three-form school at the same time as announcing the intention to have three forms in the new Treganna school and in Pwll Coch. It is very likely that space for more than the 708 available this year will be required and RhAG is reasonably happy that there would be a third form available in Y Wern if it came to it, but it is difficult to understand the conflicting messages coming from the county about the future of Y Wern.

The good news is the intention to build a brand new school in Grangetown as well as getting a sixth form in the area when Treganna is opened as a three form school in 2013. But the new school will not be providing a seventh form so much as allowing Pwll Coch to be a two-form school. The growth in the Treganna/Pontcanna/Grangetown area has remained at 10% since 2005. In 2011 there were 136 children given places, leaving 14 empty places. It can be expected that there will be no unused places this year. By 2013 there will be 30 additional places available in Treganna, enough for growth in 2014 as well, but despite the new school, things will reach a crisis again in the area from 2015 on, unless the county allows more than 30 to start in the new school from 2015. That would be a short term response, of course, unless the county decided to expand the new school to two streams soon, as happened in the case of Pwll Coch which was single form when it opened.

It is good to see as well that the county has ensured the long term future of Glan Ceubal to take the overflow from Melin Gruffydd and Pencae.

To summarise, the county's plans are likely to be sufficient for this year and 2013 if places available are used in Y Wern (2012 - barely two forms under way and possible form; 2013 - the rest of the additional places at Y Wern and a new form in Treganna). The situation in 2014 is looking critical with growth likely to be between 50 and 60 and no provision made and the situation is the same for the rest of the decade except for the possibility of using empty rooms in the new school whilst waiting for it to be made two-form.

The county has decided to add two forms to the 24 available when it can be expected that there will be a requirement by 2020 for between 38 and 40 classes a year, growth of between 16 and 18 over eight years. This is what is likely if the rate of growth remains at around 8%. Of course, it is possible that the exceptional growth of 8% a year since 2006 will come to an end, as the shrinkage since 1995 of the overall numbers has come to an end since 2009 (total 3400 up to 3875 this year). Since 2000 the number of Welsh medium starter classes has increased from 14 to 22, i.e. over 50% and perhaps the growth over the next 8 years up to 2020 will be nearer 5% than 10% a year. If so, there will be a requirement for 8 or 9 additional forms, again double the county's number.

It's fairly clear, then, that the county's plans are not for the whole decade as far as Welsh medium education is concerned. Of course, it is difficult for them to say which English medium schools will need to close in 5-8 years to make way for the children who are not yet born to parents who will not have chosen Welsh medium education for another 4-7 years. We should therefore be thankful that there is at least some sort of plan for the near future and be determined to see additional provision made when the situation becomes clearer.

Michael Jones

