

SCHOOL REPORT

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9 • 2010 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ABOUT THE REORGANISATION OF THE ISLAND'S SCHOOLS

Welcome to School Report.

This time of year, people's thoughts are about Christmas, both in the traditional sense and how it has evolved in modern times. It is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look forward to what the new year will bring.

This year we have seen major improvements in the Island's GCSE results and the start of the two-tier system. Work has started on a new school and, next year, developments and improvements will continue to be made to existing primary schools and in September the new secondary schools will open with their full 11 to 19 age range.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the reorganisation, from pupils to parents, teachers to our own staff, for working so hard to

see a successful start to the process. I wish you all a happy Christmas and a successful New Year.



Janet Newton

Project director schools' capital programme

⊖ Could do better...

In the last issue of *School Report*, an error was made regarding which high school was the highest performing for both 5+ A* to C grades and also 5+ A* to C grades (including English and maths).

Recent confirmation of the results shows that Carisbrooke High was the highest performing school in both areas for GCSEs and not Cowes High.

An apology has been sent to the head, staff and pupils at Carisbrooke High.

Construction of new landmark school begins



Pictured (left to right): Aird Buist, Pihl UK director; Rachael Fidler, Cowes Pathfinder Trust; and Isle of Wight Council leader, David Pugh, break the ground for the new school.

A landmark occasion in the construction of the new Cowes secondary school has taken place. A ground breaking ceremony, marking the start of the construction of the £30m plus facility, was held on Friday 19 November.

Council leader David Pugh broke the ground, accompanied by representatives from construction firm Pihl UK, Cowes Pathfinder Trust, current Cowes High students and governors and trustees of the new coalition school.

Councillor Pugh said: "It's great to finally see the start of the construction of the new secondary school at Cowes. The facility is one of the key parts of the school reorganisation programme

and will be one of the most modern and environmentally friendly educational facilities in the whole country when built.

"It's a very exciting day and the Island will soon have a community facility it can be proud of."

Rachael Fidler from the Cowes Pathfinder Trust (CPT) said: "The CPT is very pleased to be working in partnership with the local authority to develop this wonderful new school for the Cowes community and the Island."

The school, which has been funded under the Building Schools for the Future scheme, will feature a range of facilities, not just for students but also for the general public to use.

The school will be handed over to the Isle of Wight Council and Cowes Pathfinder Trust ahead of the start of the 2012/2013 academic year.

If you would like to be kept informed of the latest updates please email schoolreport@iow.gov.uk

What's happening in your area...

The new providers for Cowes High School, Carisbrooke and Medina high schools, and Ryde and Sandown Bay academies, have all been invited to tell us their latest news.

Cowes High School – Cowes Pathfinder Trust



Cowes Pathfinder Trust, as the new provider of secondary education for Cowes and the surrounding area, will take over Cowes High School from September 2011, when the school will be renamed **Cowes Enterprise College**.

For the first year under the new trust, the school will remain in its current building, but from September 2012 (as reported elsewhere in this edition of *School Report*) it will move into the new £30 million One School Pathfinder complex, currently under construction alongside the existing school.

The new governing body, appointed by the Cowes Pathfinder Trust and working closely with the trust and Isle of Wight Council, already has in place a principal designate. He is Jonathan Russell, and is working hard to ensure that the transfer from the existing high school will take place with minimum disruption.

Consultation is underway with parents about a new, smart school

uniform, which will help to give the new college a progressive and exciting new image. A parent forum has also already been set up in advance of a full parent council to be introduced next year. Engaging with the local community is a high



priority of the new trust.

The raising of standards for the secondary school pupils and the integration of the current middle school year groups will be a high priority as the new college amalgamates with its three feeder middle schools: Osborne, Solent and Somerton.

Currently the new governing body is working with the principal designate and the council to transfer staff across to the new college. Alongside this work, the trust, new governing body and the principal designate are working to achieve an exciting curriculum and a staffing structure which embodies the ethos of the One School Pathfinder project.

These are exciting times for the education of children across the Island, and the new Cowes Enterprise College intends to set a standard that will improve the chances and levels of success for Island young people with the help of an innovative building, sound curriculum and an enthusiastic staff team.

Introducing Ryde and Sandown Bay academies – AET



Pictured above left: Sandown High school students in a recent performance of *Godspell*.

Ryde and Sandown are preparing for the launch of the Island's first two academies to be opened in September 2011, as part of a major school reorganisation by the Isle of Wight Council.

Academies are state-maintained but independently run schools in England set up with the help of outside sponsors, and with more freedoms than those under local authority control. They have greater independence over what they teach, as well as greater flexibility over staff pay and conditions.

The approved sponsor is the Academies Enterprise Trust (AET), which sponsors four in Essex, one in Richmond, West London, and co-sponsors with the London Development Agency the first two Mayoral Academies in North London. The AET is committed to 'making the best better' for all its students and in the four academies open last summer examination results rose well above national levels.

The AET is committed to working as closely as possible with the local school communities in Ryde and Sandown, both in the preparations for the opening and in the day to day management of both schools when they are fully operational.

Decisions on their identities are

crucial and a major survey among the local school communities has reached clear decisions on their proposed names. They will be called Ryde Academy and Sandown Bay Academy. The next stage is to seek ideas and designs among students and staff for a school badge, or logo. And from this, the academy uniforms and colours will be established.

Representatives from the local community, governors, staff, parents and students meet with the AET termly to monitor progress and give their views on preparing for the new academies.

The sponsor's clear vision for Ryde Academy and Sandown Bay Academy is to see students achieve world class outcomes by developing world class teachers in a world class community.

Both will be able to build on their recent successes in raising standards by providing a second specialism; develop a unique character to cater for the needs of their students and communities, and use this to drive up standards still further; and become part of a growing network of AET Academies to enable them to share expertise, learning programmes, learning resources and teachers' professional development programmes.

Carisbrooke and Medina high schools – Island Innovation Trust

New joint sixth form

Senior staff at Carisbrooke and Medina high schools are currently

planning the joint sixth form provision for the Nodehill site. Two information evenings are to be held for students and their parents: at Carisbrooke on 31 January and at Medina on 2 February. The presentations and displays at both schools will be the same, to emphasise that this is a joint venture to develop a large, successful sixth form.

The new sixth form expects to offer all the subjects offered by each of the current schools, including the International Baccalaureate. In addition, if there is sufficient student interest, A levels in geology, economics and environmental studies will also be offered. Consideration will be given to introducing the extended project for those planning to go to university.

One difference to the current schools' post 16 offer will be the further development of the range of enrichment activities already on offer. It is hoped to be able to offer Young Enterprise, a work experience/work shadowing programme, sport and fitness, financial skills, a 'welcome to the world of work' with a focus on employment skills such as writing CVs, interview techniques and so on. The Island Innovation Trust (IIT) partners, Yokogawa Marex Limited, the NHS PCT, Quay Arts, Solo, The Quarr Group and The University of Portsmouth are keen to support these developments.

Appointments of key staff to the new sixth form will be made by Christmas. Most sixth form teachers will teach across the main school site and at Nodehill, with a team of sixth form tutors available to support students on a day-to-day basis.

Local authority colleagues are currently exploring the resource needs for the sixth form to ensure the facilities are well-placed to meet students' expectations. Students will be consulted upon their catering needs, dress code and name for the sixth form (consultation on the latter finishes on 25 November).

There is an air of excitement and expectation surrounding this new provision. Reports on progress will feature in IIT's half termly newsletter. To view the latest edition, click on www.islandinnovationtrust.org.uk and see the 'schools' page.



Changes to admissions arrangements for year 6 pupils transferring to secondary school in 2011

YEAR 7 AND 8 PUPILS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THESE CHANGES

The Isle of Wight Council has written to parents to say that the schools adjudicator had received an objection to the arrangements that the council had put in place for the transfer of pupils to secondary school in September 2011.

When the current arrangements were originally proposed they were approved by the adjudicator, but since then a test case has taken place in respect of similar arrangements that had been put in place by another authority, which has resulted in a change to the advice now given by the adjudicator.

The result of this change is that the authority must now make some changes to the admission arrangements for year 6 pupils, to the extent that we are required to ask **all** parents of year 6 pupils to apply for a place at the secondary school of their choice.

This means that for parents of year



6 pupils there is a need to re-run the admissions application process. Therefore, the letters which were sent to parents of year 6 pupils at the start of the term allocating their child a place at their feeder secondary school should now be ignored. Similarly, any forms previously received from parents of year 6 pupils requesting a place at an

alternative secondary school will now **not** be used by the school admissions team.

Instead, parents of year 6 pupils should submit an application for a place using the form included in the *Educating your child* booklet or online at www.eduwight.iow.gov.uk/admissions

All applications should have been received by 4.30pm on 17 December 2010, at the very latest. Any applications received after this will be treated as late and will not be considered until after all of the applications received on time have been processed.

In addition to this change, the adjudicator has also made some other changes to the information contained in the *Educating your child* admissions booklet. Details will have been sent to parents and are available to view on the website eduwight.iow.gov.uk/parent/admissions

Development projects' update

In July, the Isle of Wight Council appointed Willmott Dixon as its development partner for the delivery of phases two and three of the schools' reorganisation programme.

Founded in 1852, Willmott Dixon is one of the country's most recognisable and successful names for the built environment.

South coast firm of architects, HNW, has also been appointed, together with Island-based engineers Green Wood Building

Services and Tari Willis. HNW is highly regarded for its expertise in education design, and brings continuity of knowledge from the phase one programme.

The school reorganisation team and Willmott Dixon are working closely to establish and develop the scope and programme of works. The first planning applications will be made this month.

The school reorganisation and Willmott Dixon teams have moved into combined offices at Medina Road,

Newport to ensure a close working relationship and an efficient and co-ordinated approach.

The Willmott Dixon team is headed by operations manager Neville Dale, with support from a specialist team of design, procurement and construction managers.

The phase two works, which essentially involve the initial expansion of the existing primary schools to accommodate the 2011 year 6 pupils, will start in the spring and be complete for

September 2011.

The phase three works will see the former middle school sites redeveloped providing expanded primary provision as well as the construction of two brand new exemplar primary schools at Ventnor and Ryde. These works will start in the summer of 2011 for completion by the end of 2012. The two new schools will set the standards for the ongoing re-development and provision of schools under the schools' reorganisation programme.

This publication is available on request in large print, in Braille and on audiotape. For further details, please call the Isle of Wight Council on (01983) 821000. Typetalk available.

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