

SCHOOL REPORT

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

Welcome to School

Report. This new term represents a new era in Island education with the first step towards a new two-tier system. The main aim of schools' reorganisation is of course to raise standards and it is particularly encouraging to see such a major improvement in the recent GCSE results across the Island.

Like with any new term there is a lot of new information to take in, and this School Report is no exception. We cover admissions for year 6 and 7 in 2011, as well as school transport arrangements. We have also launched a new dedicated website, www.iwight.com, where you can explore the developments in more detail.

If you do have any questions about the changes to Island schools or would like to offer some feedback on the content of this newsletter please

email us at
schoolreport@iow.gov.uk.



Colin Peak

Director of services for
children and young people

Major improvements in Island's GCSE results

The number of Isle of Wight students achieving the key indicator of five or more A* to C grades at GCSE has risen sharply compared with 2009.

The percentage of students achieving five or more A* to C grades including English and maths also rose significantly from 41.6 per cent to 45.3 per cent in 2010, which represents a rise of almost four per cent.

All the Island's five high schools have shown improvements on the key indicator of five or more A* to C grades. Ryde and Sandown have shown a rise of almost 16 per cent on last year, both achieving 67 per cent at five A* to C grades.

Cowes has achieved 75 per cent at five A* to C grades, while Medina has risen to 74 per cent. This is a particularly notable improvement for Medina, which is up from 56 per cent in 2009.

Carisbrooke High School is the Island's highest performing school for both indicators.

Welcoming the results, Isle of Wight Council director of children and young people services, Colin Peak, said: "I am delighted with the increased overall performance of our high schools. I am particularly pleased with the improvements at Ryde and Sandown, where results against both indicators have increased dramatically.

"We have now narrowed the gap, with our young people achieving results much closer to the national average."

Isle of Wight Council leader, David Pugh, said: "I offer my congratulations to all the students, parents and staff who have helped achieve these unprecedented results. For many years the Island was flat-lining at 44 to

45 per cent on five A* to C grades. Over the past five years we have worked steadily to improve our results, culminating in this huge increase in 2010.

"This significant improvement has been secured while the Island's education community prepares for the first stage of the schools' reorganisation programme coming into place.

"These results provide a strong base for further improvements under the two-tier system. Our new secondary providers will build on this success from September 2011, drawing on the strengths that already exist in these school communities, and at the IW College. I am particularly pleased that our new academy sponsor – the Academies Enterprise Trust – has contributed to these results. This bodes well for their future management of Ryde and Sandown.

"The future of Island schools has been subject to much debate over recent years. Our clear direction for primary and secondary education, coupled with this welcome major uplift in results, shows that we remain on the right course



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

Teacher returns to his roots to head new secondary school

A former Isle of Wight teacher is returning to the Island to lead the new Cowes Secondary School.

Jonathan Russell, who was coordinator of graphics at Sandown High School between 1995 to 1997, will take up the position of principal designate from January 2011. He currently works as headteacher at the Brabazon Family Unit in Kent, and is a former deputy headteacher at Springfield Technology College in Portsmouth.

He has been appointed by the interim governing body of Cowes High School ahead of when the Cowes Pathfinder Trust will become responsible for running the new Cowes Secondary School from September 2011.

The interview panel was made up of representatives from the interim governing body and also the Isle of Wight Council.

Speaking of his appointment, Jonathan Russell said: "I am honoured to be appointed to this prestigious role at Cowes. Both myself and the Pathfinder Trust share the same vision and, with my core educational beliefs alongside the unanimous support from the Trust and governors in me, we will provide a solid foundation to manage the change not only to the new school and its building but on our journey to become outstanding."

"I was also fortunate to meet many of the young people at Cowes and I felt that they were confident and articulate ambassadors for the Island who, like myself, are very ambitious about the future".

Alan Wells, chair of the interim governing body, said: "I am delighted that we have made the appointment of Jonathan Russell. I believe he will be



an outstanding leader of the new school and he has the full support of the interim governing body.

"With his past experience of merging middle schools into a secondary model he will understand the pressures and sensitivities. We look forward to welcoming him into our community, which he intends to make his home."

The council's director of children and young people's services, Colin Peak, said: "The interview panel was very impressed by Jonathan's approach and clear passion for education. We welcome him to his new role and look forward to working with him in future."

Cowes High School will become Cowes Secondary School from September 2011.

A new, state of the art school is due to be built on the current Cowes High School site, ready for 2012, under the government's One School Pathfinder scheme. Construction work on the new school is due to start in October.

Home to school transport **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** special

Please note that during the autumn term 2010, the local authority will be carrying out a consultation on proposals regarding the future of discretionary transport, and the arrangements detailed below may change during the academic year.

Q: When can my child get free transport?

Primary Schools

We will provide free transport:

- if your child lives more than two miles from your priority area primary school;
- if your child attends a Church of England or Catholic aided primary on religious grounds (as set out in the admissions policy of these schools). To qualify, your child must attend the aided primary school which serves your home address and live more than two miles from the school. For Catholic schools, children must be baptised in the Catholic tradition to qualify.

Middle Schools

A bus pass will be given if your child:

- attends his/her priority area middle school and lives more than three miles away; or
- attends Christ the King College and lives more than three miles away.

In addition to the above a bus pass will be given:

- to pupils in year 6 in middle school who are entitled to free school meals, or whose family is entitled to the maximum level of working tax credit, and live more than two miles from their priority area middle school, or Christ the King College and;
- to pupils in years 7 and 8 who are entitled to free school meals, or whose family is entitled to their maximum level of working tax credit, and attend any one of three nearest middle schools which is more than two but less than six miles from their home.

High Schools

A bus pass will be given if your child:

- attends his/her priority area high school and lives more than three miles away; or
- attends a non-priority area high school and lives more than three miles from that school and three miles from his/her

priority area high school as well; or

- attends Cowes High school and lives in the part of East Cowes which falls within the priority area of Cowes High.

In addition to the above a bus pass will be given:

- to high school pupils in years 9, 10 and 11 who are entitled to free school meals, or whose family is entitled to the maximum level of working tax credit and attend any one of three nearest high schools which is more than two but less than six miles from their home.

Q: How are distances measured?

Distance for eligibility will be measured by the local authority's geographical information system (GIS) from the centre of the building of the home address to the centre of the school building by the shortest available walking route using Ordnance Survey, Isle of Wight definitive Rights of Way and National Land and Property (NLPG) data. The system measures using geocodes or grid references and these relate to an address point. Each house has a unique reference and this is used to calculate the distance. The shortest available walking route will be defined in accordance with the Local Authority Road Safety Officers' Association (LARSA) guidelines.*

**Except in the case of free transport to pupils in years 7 and 8 at middle school and all high school pupils from low income families, where the two mile limit is the shortest route available walking route but the upper limit of six miles must be measured along road routes. Please note that this will not necessarily be the route that the buses operate along.*

If your child qualifies for free transport this will be provided from the nearest available public bus stop to your home. Parents are responsible for getting their child to the bus stop each day and collecting them when they return from school.

Q: What happens if I move house into the priority area of my local school and cannot get a place there?

If you move into the priority area of your local primary school and cannot get a place there because it is oversubscribed, we will offer you a bus pass for your child to go to the nearest alternative school, where a place and public transport arrangements are available, as long as that school is at least two miles from your home address.

If you refuse the place at the nearest alternative school, you will have to arrange and pay for transport to and from the school you would prefer your child to go to.

Any younger siblings will not get free transport to the same school if places are available in a nearer school.

Q: What if I move house out of the priority area of the primary school my child is attending?

If you move out of the priority area of a school your child is attending, they can stay at that school, but we will only provide free transport in the following situations:

- If your child is in year 10 or 11 at high school and your move takes place after the start of year 10 in September; or
- If you are made homeless and have requested to be re-housed back in your previous area (transport will be paid for a maximum of six months).
- If the child is in the care of the local authority.

This is provided that your new address is more than the qualifying distance for free travel to the school.

Q: How do I apply for free transport?

You can get an application form from your child's proposed primary school, the school admissions office, County Hall, Newport or you can apply

online at eduwight.iow.gov.uk. After you have filled it in you should send it to us at County Hall, Newport. If your child qualifies for free transport, he or she should travel in school uniform on the first morning of term in September. They will not be charged a fare. A bus pass will then be given to your child at school during the day. You must pay a replacement fee of £10 if your child's bus pass is lost or damaged.

Q: My application for free transport has been refused – can I appeal?

If you have applied for free transport and been refused you can appeal to the transport appeal panel. You can obtain a form from the school admissions office.

Q: What if my child needs special transport arrangements?

If your child goes to a school for special educational or medical reasons, we may agree to provide free transport even though you may live fewer than two miles from the school. This applies in particular to younger pupils at Medina House School.

Q: What about safety on buses to school?

The safety of pupils travelling to and from school is paramount to the Isle of Wight Council. We also expect all pupils to behave in a responsible way. If your child does misbehave, we could withdraw their bus pass which means that you will have to make, and pay for, their transport arrangements. It is very important, therefore, that you make sure your child behaves responsibly when travelling to and from school. Please make sure that you read our school transport code of good practice booklet, which we will give you if your child qualifies for free transport.

Q: What if my child goes on work experience?

Please contact your child's high school about help with travel costs to work experience placements.

Admission arrangements for years 6 and 7 in September 2011 only



This September, year 5 pupils remained in primary schools instead of transferring to middle schools as in the past. In September 2011, all middle schools will close and five new secondary schools will open. Pupils in year 8 will apply for a place in year 9 at their preferred secondary through the usual admissions process; pupils finishing in years 6 and 7 will be allocated a place in the secondary school which was linked to their current middle school, as outlined in the reorganisation statutory notices and detailed below:

Middle school	Secondary school
Bishop Lovett Mayfield CE Swanmore	Ryde Academy
Downside – Furrongs campus Downside – Kitbridge campus Ventnor Osborne**	Newport (Fairlee) Secondary
Forelands Lake Sandham	Sandown Academy
Nodehill West Wight	Newport (Carisbrooke) Secondary
Solent Somerton Osborne**	Cowes Secondary

** Pupils in years 6 and 7 at Osborne Middle School will be allocated places at either Cowes or Newport (Fairlee) secondary schools. The initial allocation will be based on the priority areas for the current Cowes and Medina high schools.

Connexions – advice for young people

The Isle of Wight Council's Youth Connexions service provides free information, advice and guidance for young people. Careers and personal advisers are on hand to offer help. Appointments can be arranged at the Youth Connexions Centre in Newport by calling (01983) 823490, via email to youthconnexions@iow.gov.uk or through schools and the IW College. The service is available to all young people aged 13 to 19 (up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties/disabilities).

Go online for the latest information

To keep up-to-date on developments regarding the schools' reorganisation, get the latest news and find out more about some of the topics published in School Report, special web pages have now been made available on the Isle of Wight Council's website [iwight.com](http://www.iwight.com). To find out more visit www.iwight.com/education/schoolsreorganisation.

Q: How do I apply for a place at an alternative secondary school?

Once you have been notified of the school at which your child has been allocated a place, you have the option to apply for a place at an alternative secondary school from September 2011, subject to availability of places. You can do this by:

- completing the application form designed for this purpose, which is available from the admissions team at County Hall, tel: (01983) 823455. The form, plus any supporting evidence must be returned to the Admissions Office, County Hall, Newport, PO30 1UD by **4.30pm** on **29 October 2010** at the very latest.

Please note that we cannot take responsibility for forms posted, or submitted online, but not received by the closing date. We advise you to return your form in good time (**with the correct postage – please note that postage is based on the size and weight of the envelope and may need to be weighed at the post office**) and enclose a stamped addressed envelope so we can confirm it has been received in the school admissions office. Further information about school admissions is available at www.iwight.com/education/schoolsreorganisation/ where you will find answers to the following questions:

- How many schools can I state a preference for?
- How are places at a school allocated?
- When will I hear whether I have got the place I wanted?
- My application has been refused – can I appeal?
- What is fair access protocol?

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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