

This is a brief newsletter to give staff and parents/guardians of pupils at Ysgol Treferthyr an update on the new school's development and other relevant matters.

We are pleased to be able to share the good news that the work to develop the new Ysgol Treferthyr has started on site. As you know the original intention was to start the work much earlier, but unfortunately several issues arose which meant that the work had to be postponed for a while.



Planning

In 2021 a Planning Application was submitted for the development following the Welsh Government's approval of the funding from its Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and Gwynedd Council's Cabinet permission to build the new Ysgol Treferthyr.

In September 2021 a request was received from Gwynedd Council's Planning Service for two additional pieces of work to be carried out before they would be able to consider the application, which were:

- Carry out an archaeological inspection of the site.
- Create and agree more comprehensive plans with the Council's Highways Department for improving the safety of pupils walking routes to school.

Archaeological inspections

- Following an initial archaeological inspection, a cist grave was discovered, and as a result, further inspections had to be carried out on large parts of the site. Following this further work nothing else of significant historical importance was found on the site.
- Below you can see photos of some of Ysgol Treferthyr pupils having a lesson on the site from the archaeologists.
- Following the inspection, the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service submitted a report to the Planning Service stating that they were happy for the work to start on the site, with the condition that archaeologists were present to watch the digging work in some places, e.g. at the cist grave, headstone and entrance to the site.



Safe routes to the school

Following work on planning improvements to children's likely walking routes to the new school we intend to make the following improvements:

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- Change speed limits from the direction of Pwllheli to 30mph after Tanylon Lodge and then down to 20mph before reaching the school's entrance.
- Create a new safe crossing point between the outskirts of the town and the school entrance.
- Create a pavement with a fence between the outskirts of the town and the school entrance.

Lôn Fêl

- Installation of speed calming measures along Lôn Fêl Uchaf
- Create a clear crossing for the school at the junction
- Place signs on each side of the bridge indicating that the road is narrowing and that children are walking
- Installation of speed calming measurements seaward of the bridge

Planning permission was received in September 2022 after receiving confirmation that the Highways Department was happy with the plans for the roads.



Next steps

- Work has now started on the site of the new school
- To celebrate this, we will hold a small ceremony on the site on **6 March 2023** where some pupils, the headteacher and chair of Governors of Ysgol Trefferthyr, together with other representatives from Cricieth and Gwynedd Council will join the developer, Wynne Construction, to cut the first sod.
- We foresee that the work will take approximately 16 months to complete.

Finance

- During the period of carrying out the additional work and before being able to receive planning permission, a constant and significant increase was seen in the prices of materials, energy etc. in the construction field. This meant that the original budget of £4.88m was now completely insufficient for the work.
- After receiving the planning permission, applications were submitted to the Gwynedd Council Cabinet and the Welsh Government to increase the budget to £8.14m for the construction of the new school.
- On 13 December 2022, the request was approved by the Cabinet and on 1 February a letter was received from the Welsh Government confirming their support to increase the budget.
- In addition to this the Council has succeeded in securing additional funding through other Welsh Government grants to be able to include an Early Years Unit and an Additional Learning Needs Assessment Unit as part of the development.



Opening date

Unfortunately, the issues noted above have meant that the work on the site has been delayed, and as a result it will be necessary to change the opening date for the new school. Following discussions with the Governing Body of Ysgol Trefferthyr, it was agreed to change the opening date to 1 September 2024.

We will continue to update you about the work on the new school during the construction period. In the meantime, you are welcome to contact us by e-mailing

✉ ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru