

Ref 9-2011/12

14 November 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

Closure of Dinas Powys – Site Update

I should like to take this opportunity to update you regarding the impending closure of the St Cyres Dinas Powys site in September 2012.

May I first of all thank all those parents who attended the first public consultation meeting regarding the building of the new school which took place on the evening of Tuesday 1 November. Your supportive comments were very much appreciated! The closure of the Dinas Powys site has always been the first stage of the move of all of our pupils into the new school building, and with national and local funding now secured it means that we can move ahead with our plans.

The building work on the Penarth site is scheduled to begin in October next year with a completion date of October 2014. This will be a day that we have all been looking forward to for some time. Our teachers will no longer be required to make several car journeys each per day between the sites, sports teams can meet and play on one site, after-school clubs can be run more effectively and resources can be better deployed. We can also make best use of the period of the school day by exploring all options to enable more teacher-led activities to take place.

We are working closely with the Local Authority to provide extra classrooms (which will be used by all pupils, not just those moving onto the Penarth site from Dinas Powys). We are confident that we will have the capacity to house the extra pupils on the Penarth site and aim to finalise this during the Summer Term to allow time for the provision of classroom-based resources.

The current Year 9 pupils at Dinas Powys will be joining us for an Induction Day during the second half of the Summer Term 2012 in preparation for their move into Year 10. I propose to set up similar days for the current Year 7 and 8 pupils on the Dinas Powys site to ease their transition onto the Penarth site. The presentations made to the pupils on these days will be available for you to view on our website.

In talking to several of you I know there are concerns regarding the new route to school for these pupils and the new Year 7 pupils for 2012. You will be aware of my comments in the local press regarding the requirement for fencing to be erected along the Ash Path and the Local Authority have told me they are working on facilitating this. In addition, they are also looking at the crossing on Sully Road. I am also in discussions with the local bus business who are proposing to offer service buses to the Penarth site from the Dinas Powys area.

I think you will agree that we are entering a new, exciting period for St Cyres School and I hope that you and your children will support us in continuing to provide a high-quality education for all of our pupils.

Yours sincerely

Dr J. P. Hicks
Headteacher