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Our Ref. / Ein Cyf. SR/JC

Your Ref. / Eich Cyf. An other

Date. / Dyddiad. 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025



Dear Consultee,

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Cabinet has agreed to commence a formal consultation on the following proposal:

## Proposal to Extend the Capacity at Pen y Cwm Special School

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council propose to extend the capacity at Pen y Cwm Special School from 175 to 205 places, with effect from September 2026. With an additional 45 places in 2030/31 for a capacity of 250 learners. In addition, and alongside this, the Council identified that post 16 provision would need to be removed from its current location on site and housed in Vision House Ebbw Vale which creates a more sustained provision less than half a mile from the existing building. The Council are committed to keep working with the school to develop a long-term plan to support sustained growth and development. Therefore, this proposal will be delivered in 2 parts:

- **Part 1**, to increase the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School from 175 to 205 places in preparation for the 2026/27 academic year. This will also involve:
  - Retrospectively acknowledging the Post 16 provision at Unit 4 Festival Site in Ebbw Vale (including 3 classrooms, sensory room, common room, life skills room, meeting room, catering/dining area, toilets and hygiene facilities)
  - Retrospective acknowledgement of additional classrooms developed in the main school building.
- **Part 2**, to further increase the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School from 205 to 250 places in preparation for the 2030/31 academic year. This will involve continuing with the development of the long-term plan to secure additional capacity including either a new build provision on the land adjacent to the school or remodelling the existing school building to accommodate the increased capacity.

The consultation period will begin on Monday 8th December 2025 and will close on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The regulations require that consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the consultation document, with at least 20 of these being school days.

Any comments/observations on the proposal can be made:

- By email: [21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Or via the below link:

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/dxns7v>

A consultation drop in event will be held in Ebbw Vale for interested parties please see webpage or consultation document for details. Dedicated arrangements will be made for children and young people to participate in the consultation, which will include, where possible, the views of the Grand School Council. Pupils will be issued with their own version of the consultation document and will have an opportunity to discuss the proposals and submit their views and comments.

The Education Resources and Planning team from the Council will ensure all comments/views made are recorded to allow informed decisions to be made at the appropriate time. The consultation document in relation to the proposal can be found on Blaenau Gwent's Council website. The link is here:

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/consultations/proposal-to-extend-the-capacity-at-pen-y-cwm-special-school/>

For ease of reference, the [consultation document](#) is electronically attached. If you require any further information or paper copies of the documents, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,



**Joanne Watts**  
**Head of Education Resources & Planning**  
**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**