



NEW BRECON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Following the decision by Powys County Council to merge Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, the Council is now moving forward with the plans to establish a new primary school. The aim of this newsletter is to keep you updated on any new developments. Further editions will be issued regularly up until the new school opens.

Appointment of Headteacher



As advised before the summer holidays, the recruitment process to appoint a Headteacher for the new school has now been concluded. Mrs Sarah Court, who lives near Brecon, will start in her new role in January, alongside the existing headteachers.

Mrs Court started her teaching career 30 years ago, and has worked in a variety of teaching, senior leadership and advisory roles in the UK and around the world. She spent several years working for Service Children's Education for the British Armed Forces in Germany. Mrs Court currently leads Powys County Council's Vulnerable Groups Team, supporting schools, pupils and families from minority ethnic and Armed Forces background.

The temporary governing body are delighted to have appointed Mrs Court as Headteacher of the new school, and look forward to working with her during the transition period.

She will start as Headteacher designate in January 2024, and is looking forward to getting to know pupils, staff and parents over the coming weeks and months. The current Headteachers will remain in their posts during this period whilst Mrs Court focuses on developing policies, procedures and processes ready for when the school opens across the three sites in September 2024.

School Name

Work is underway to agree a name for the new school. Mrs Sarah Court visited the three existing schools in September. She spoke with pupils about the need for a name for the school, and asked them to think of ideas.

Following this, a selection of possible names were submitted by each school. The temporary governing body have considered the names and agreed a shortlist.

After half term, further engagement will be carried out with the three school communities, to gather feedback on the possible names. A questionnaire will be issued, which will give you the opportunity to share your views. We would encourage you to use this opportunity to let the temporary governing body know your views.

The intention is that a name for the new school will be agreed by the end of this term at the latest.

Staffing Processes

Now that the Headteacher appointment process has been concluded, the temporary governing body's focus will move to the other staffing processes which need to be undertaken before the new school opens in September 2024.

This will focus on the leadership team initially, before moving on to teaching staff and support staff. Further information will be shared with staff as these processes move forward.

Membership of the Temporary Governing Body

Phil Harris, Vice Chair of the temporary governing body has resigned from his position as a community governor. At a recent meeting, Mitch Griffiths, who is also a governor at Mount Street Infants School, was appointed the new Vice Chair of the temporary governing body.

Babindra Gurung has been appointed to the vacant community governor position. Mr Gurung was previously attending meetings of the temporary governing body as an observer, to represent the military community. We are pleased to welcome him as a full member of the temporary governing body.

New School Building

Preparations for the exciting development of a new school building on the former Brecon High School site on Penlan are underway. The expectation is that the new building will open by the end of 2026.

The Council's Property Design Services team are currently working with Powell Dobson Architects on the first phase of this work, which will consider the best location for the new building on the site. This is expected to be concluded by the end of this year.

The new building will include accommodation for early years, additional learning needs and community facilities, and will be highly energy efficient, as it will need to meet the Welsh Government's Zero Carbon in operation requirements.

Discussion with Cabinet Member

Councillor Pete Roberts, Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys recently attended a meeting of the temporary governing body.

During the meeting, Cllr Roberts confirmed the Council's commitment to establishing a new primary school in Brecon, and to providing a new building on the Penlan site in the future, as part of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

Learning from other schools

Mrs Sarah Court has recently met with the headteachers of other schools that have been through merger processes which led to establishing a new school.

This provided a valuable opportunity for her to learn from the challenges and successes experienced as part of these processes, to ensure the new school's success going forward.

Mrs Court recently shared her learning with the temporary governing body.

Contacting the Temporary Governing Body

The temporary governing body would welcome any comments or suggestions from parents.

If you would like to contact the temporary governing body, you can do so using the following contact details:

- Chair – Jessica Williams – WilliamsJ2571@cradoc.powys.sch.uk
- Clerk – Beth Groves – beth.groves@powys.gov.uk