

## **Education Scrutiny Performance Panel 19 January 2023. Meeting with the Pontarddulais Cluster of schools to look at how they are introducing the New Curriculum for Wales**

Some of the learning points the Panel took away from the session. Includes the cluster having:

- A shared understanding of what the cluster means by progression.
- Continuum of learning between primary and secondary schools.
- Buy in, enthusiasm and excitement in what the new curriculum can do for its pupils.
- Positive and constructive challenge across the cluster, but always in partnership and in a supportive way
- Regular meetings of the six headteachers where they talk about progress and ideas openly and frankly.
- Good development support and brokerage of professional learning.
- Ensuring teaching staff themselves, have the knowledge and the confidence to deliver what is a brand-new curriculum.
- Consistency of approach in relation to progression across the cluster.
- An agreed journey of progression across the cluster.
- Willingness to consider and take on board the input and views of others.
- Joint working and sharing of experience.
- Engaging with wider stakeholders.
- Shared understanding of approaches.
- Cluster days, see as beneficial (dialogue amongst staff, thrashing out ideas, concepts, approaches and having a shared vision of where our children are and where we would like them to be as they reach the comprehensive school)
- Time and encouragement of/for staff to try new things out and to evaluate and develop further.
- Taking staff along with you in the journey, ensuring their views are considered; ensuring it is a whole school journey.
- Fully involving and including pupils on the journey.
- Fully involving and including school governors in this journey.
- Recognising that everybody in the school is a learner especially in introducing the new curriculum, teachers, pupils and school governors.
- Regularly reviewing what they are doing and including stakeholders in this process, particularly pupils and school governors.
- Joint training, development and inset days.
- Recognising this is a process of continuing development.
- That this is a collaborative process and it cannot be done alone.
- Main challenges identified:
  - Time - don't underestimate what a massive piece of work this is.
  - Financing - releasing staff for development work very difficult (accessing extra money's through grants helps make this a success)
  - Staff workload and pressure.
  - Ensuring consistency of messages across the cluster.