## Gŵyr heb wir ddarpariaeth o hyd

## Trydedd ysgol i Gasnewydd?

Cylchlythyr Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg
Rhifyn 25, Rhagfyr 2010
Cyhoeddir Rhagolwg gan Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg,
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rhieni dros addysg gymraeg
parents for Welsh medium education

30c

# rhagolwg

# Chwarae teg i'r Pant

Mis Medi eleni agorodd trydedd ysgol gynradd Gymraeg sir Torfaen, Ysgol Panteg yn Griffithstown, Pontypŵl. Bu Rhagolwg yn holi'r pennaeth newydd, Mr Rhodri Harries.

**Pa deimlad oedd gennych ar ddiwrnod cyntaf agor yr ysgol nôl ym mis Medi?**

Cyffrous iawn i gwrdd â'r plant â'r rhieni.

**Beth yw'r hyn yr ydech chi'n edrych ymlaen ato fwyaf fel ysgol?**

Sefydlu Ysgol Panteg fel rhan ganolog o Griffithstown gan feithrin meddyliau craff pawb sydd yn ymwneud a hi.

**Fel pennaeth, beth yw'r hyn sy'n codi eich calon fwyaf ynglŷn â'r ffaith fod ysgol Gymraeg newydd wedi'i sefydlu yn yr ardal?**

Mae'n glod i'r ysgolion Cymraeg sydd yma yn barod ac i gwaith diflino Helen Greenwood ac i waith unigolion eraill sydd yn gweithio gyda Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin.

**Beth yw'r prif heriau yr ydech chi'n rhagweld fydd yn codi?**

Gwella cyflwr yr adeilad.

**Sut ymateb sydd wedi bod hyd yma i'r ysgol gan rieni ac o fewn y gymuned yn ehangach yn Griffithstown?**

Mae'r rhieni wedi bod yn arbennig – yn ddiolchgar, yn gefnogol ac yn werthfawrogol iawn o bob dim rydym yn ei wneud yma. Rydym wedi gwneud ffrindiau yn y pentref yn barod – wedi dosbarthu ffrwythau i'r henoed ar ôl y gwasanaeth cynhaeaf ac wedi cefnogi busnesau lleol – y siop ffrwythau a chwmni PSM ar gyfer y wisg ysgol.

**Beth yw eich argraffiadau/teimladau chi fel pennaeth yr ysgol Gymraeg ddiweddaraf i agor yn yr hen Went ynglŷn a dyfodol Addysg Gymraeg yn yr ardal?**

Mae'n fraint bod yn bennaeth yr ysgol hon. Mae'r staff yn arbennig – yn ymroddgar a gweithgar tu hwnt. Rydw i'n ffodus iawn i gael criw o rieni brwdfrydig a phlant hyfryd.

**Oes gennych nrhyw sylwadau eraill yr hoffech eu gwneud?**

Mae'n ddiddorol nodi bod pob un o'r plant yn dod o gartrefi di-Gymraeg – ac 80% o'r staff.

● *Pwynt diddorol: mae bathodyn yr ysgol yn cynnwys 36 cennin pedr o amgylch yr arwydd i gynrychioli pob plentyn ddechreuodd yn yr ysgol.*

# Camu ymlaen

'Camu ymlaen: Cynllunio i sicrhau cyfleoedd cyfartal i addysg Gymraeg trwy Gymru gyfan' oedd testun Cynhadledd a Chyfarfod Blynyddol RhAG eleni. Cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod yng Nghanolfan Dysgu Gydol Oes Gartholwg ar ddydd Sadwrn 16 Hydref.

Cafwyd cyflwyniadau diddorol a dadlennol gan ein siaradwyr gwadd sef Ceinwen Jones, Pennaeth Uned Datblygu'r Iaith Gymraeg yn Adran Plant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (APADGOS), Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Caroline Rees, Pennaeth Cynhwysiant & Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Rhoddodd Ceinwen Jones amlinelliad o'r Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd a lansiwyd gan y Llywodraeth fis Ebrill eleni a'r dasg sydd gan APADGOS o roi'r Cynllun Gweithredu ar waith. Yn dilyn hynny cafwyd arweiniad gan Caroline Rees i'r maes Addysg Anghenion Ychwanegol a thynnwyd sylw at y diffygion sy'n parhau i fodoli o ran sicrhau mynediad hygyrch a theg i ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Braf oedd croesawu cynrychiolwyr o amrywiol ganghennau RhAG, yn hen a newydd, i gyfnewid profiadau ymgyrchu ac i rannu syniadau ynglŷn â blaenoriaethau rhaglen waith RhAG dros y flwyddyn nesaf. Hyderwn y bu'r diwrnod yn fodd o sbarduno penderfyniad ac egni newydd ar gyfer y flwyddyn sydd i ddod.

# http://www.rhag.net

Mae gwefan newydd RhAG ar lein. Yno cewch wybodaeth am yr hyn mae'r mudiad yn ei gyflawni, newyddion am ysgolion Cymraeg a'r cyfle i rannu syniadau am eich profiadau chi o addysg Gymraeg.

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**Cydnabyddir cefnogaeth Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg i'r cyhoeddiad hwn ac i'r wefan www.rhag.net.**

**Os oes angen gwybodaeth o unrhyw fath am yr iaith Gymraeg, galwch y Llinell Gyswllt:**

**0845 6076070**
***(cyfradd galwadau lleol)***
**Llun-Gwener**
**10.00am-12.30pm/1.30-3.30pm**

# Arolwg yn argoeli'n dda

Mae rhieni 20 o blant yng Nghaerdydd wedi mynd i apêl dros benderfyniad y cyngor eleni ynglŷn â'u hysgolion. Ni chawsant lefydd yn eu dewis ysgolion oherwydd gorlenwi.

Yn anffodus, ymddengys erbyn hyn bod, mwyafrif y 20 wedi gosod eu plant mewn addysg Saesneg wedi'r cyfan. Rhieni a ddewisodd addysg Gymraeg yn y lle cyntaf oedd y rhain a ddangosodd wedyn y dycnwch i fynd i apêl yn eu cais am addysg Gymraeg yn eu dewis ysgol. Wedi'u siomi, penderfynasant taw addysg Saesneg oedd yn well nac addysg Gymraeg mewn ysgol nad oeddent wedi'i dewis.

Mae'n bur debyg taw'r ffactor allweddol yw y pellter rhwng cartref ac ysgol, sy'n cadarnhau unwaith eto pwysigrwydd ymgais RhAG i sicrhau digonedd o lefydd ym mhob ardal o Gaerdydd.

Yn hyn o beth, mae RhAG Caerdydd wedi tynnu sylw'r cyngor at y diffyg llefydd yng nghorllewin y ddinas lle mae'r un fath o broblem yn codi.

Ar yr ochr orau, mae sir Caerdydd yn y broses o gynnal arolwg y galw am addysg Gymraeg. Mae arolygon tebyg mewn siroedd agos, sef yng Nghasnewydd, Bro Morgannwg a dwy ardal yn Rhondda Cynon Taf wedi datgelu lefelau uchel o alw cudd am addysg Gymraeg a bod y ddarpariaeth yn sylweddol is na'r galw.

Datblygiad addawol arall yn Nghaerdydd yw bwriad y cyngor i roi dewis clir gerbron pob rhiant o ran addysg erbyn i'w plentyn gyrraedd pedair blwydd oed. O dan y cynllun, hysbysir pob rhiant o'r ysgol Saesneg a'r ysgol Gymraeg y tu mewn i'w dalgylchoedd a gofyn iddynt pa un a fyddai'n well ganddynt.

Yn y cyfamser, bwriedir symud i ffurfio bwrdd llywodraethol ar gyfer y drydedd ysgol uwchradd cyn gynted â bydd y broses o ymgynghori ar ddalgylchoedd y dair ysgol wedi dod i ben.

*Michael Jones*

# Gŵyr heb ddarpariaeth o hyd

Mae RhAG wedi mynegi siomedigaeth tuag at amharodrwydd Abertawe i ddefnyddio Ysgol Llanmorlais fel ysgol ar gyfer gogledd Gŵyr.

Mewn llythyr at lywodraethwyr Ysgol Pontybrenin, sydd yn gwasanaethu'r gogledd ar hyn o bryd, nododd Mr Richard Parry, y cyfarwyddwr addysg, "nad oedd yn medru derbyn fod tystiolaeth ddigonol i brofi y byddai ysgol Gymraeg yn ffynnu yn yr ardal". Mae hyn, yn marn RhAG, yn diystyru tueddiadau mewn perthynas ag addysg Gymraeg yn Abertawe. Sefydlwyd Ysgol Gymraeg Tirdeunaw â 18 disgybl, a'r ysgol bellach wedi tyfu i oddeutu 450. Yn debyg iawn dechreuodd Ysgol Gymraeg Llwynderw â dwsin o ddisgyblion ac erbyn heddiw mae dros 200 a'r rhif hwnnw'n prysur gynyddu.

Fel rhan o'r cynllun ad-drefnu ysgolion presennol, bu'r symud i gau Ysgol Llanmorlais fel ysgol gyfrwng Saesneg ryddhau adeilad addas ar gyfer ysgol Gymraeg. Mae rhieni eisioes wedi cyflwyno eu hachos yn amlinellu gwireddu'r dyhead hwn, ac erbyn hyn wedi casglu enwau 48 o blant fyddai'n mynychu'r ysgol dros y flwyddyn neu ddwy nesaf.

Meddai Heini Gruffudd, ysgrifennydd RhAG Abertawe, "Mae RhAG wedi tynnu sylw parhaus at y ffaith bod plant Gŵyr yn gorfod teithio pellteroedd sylweddol i fynychu ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae Ysgol Pontybrenin ac Ysgol Llwynderw, sydd yn gwasanaethu'r de, wedi'u lleoli yn gymharol bell oddi wrth boblogaeth penrhyn Gŵyr. Mae Ysgol Pontybrenin yn orlawn yn barod, ffaith a gafodd ei gydnabod yn ddiweddar gan yr awdurdod wrth iddynt ymrwymo i gynyddu rhif mynediad yr ysgol o 45 i 60 erbyn Medi 2011. Er hynny, mae 72 wedi cael lle yn y dosbarth derbyn yn 2010."

Yn ôl arolwg yr awdurdod i fesur y galw, 28% a fyddai'n dewis addysg Gymraeg, sydd yn codi i 38% pebai ysgol Gymraeg o fewn pellter rhesymol. Mae'r ddarpariaeth bresennol oddeutu 12%. Dadleua RhAG fod angen dyblu neu dreblu'r ddarpariaeth bresennol er mwyn diwallu'r galw.

Dywedodd Mr Gruffudd, "Mae RhAG yn aros yn eiddgar am ddatganiad pellach oddi wrth yr awdurdod fydd yn amlinellu cynlluniau i'w gweithredu ar unwaith yn cynnig sefydlu dosbarth cychwynnol cyfrwng Cymraeg ar gyfer Gogledd Gŵyr yn Ysgol Llanmorlais ar gyfer Medi nesaf, neu a fyddai yn y lle cyntaf yn ymestyniad o Ysgol Gymraeg Pontybrenin. Tra'n cydnabod nad yw safle presennol Ysgol Llanmorlais yn ddelfrydol, byddai'r safle yn cynnig dechreuad o leiaf i addysg Gymraeg yng Ngogledd Gwyr tra bydd yr awdurdod yn chwilio am ddatrysiad mwy boddhaol."

Mae rhieni gogledd Gŵyr wedi sicrhau sylw pellach i'r ymgyrch yn ddiweddar trwy gyfrwng dadl fer a gynhaliwyd yn siambr y Cynulliad ar addysg Gymraeg yn Abertawe gan Dai Lloyd AC ac yna pan gyflwynwyd yr achos gerbron Pwyllgor Cynllunio a Deisebau Cyngor Abertawe ar 28ain Hydref 2010.

# Trydedd ysgol Casnewydd ar y gorwel

Gyda dwy flynedd wedi pasio ers agor Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael, mae'r ysgol bellach wedi dyblu o ran maint. Ym Medi roedd 106 o blant ar restr o'r feithrin i flwyddyn 3. Mae'n argoeli y bydd o leiaf 30 cais ar gyfer Medi 2011.

Nid yw agor Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael wedi cael effaith negyddol ar niferoedd ysgol Gymraeg arall Casnewydd o gwbl. A dweud y gwir mae ceisiadau digonol i lenwi'r ddwy ysgol a mwy. Felly, mae'r awdurdod yn bwriadu agor dosbarth dechreuol newydd ar gyfer Medi 2011.

Trefniant byr dymor fydd hyn a fydd yn gychwyn ar drydedd ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg. Yn unol â'u haddewid, cynhaliwyd arolwg arall o fesur y galw gan y sir. Unwaith eto, dangosodd y canlyniadau fod y ddarpariaeth yn annigonol a bod angen trydedd ysgol ar fyrder.

Ar gyfer y flwyddyn o dan sylw nodwyd y byddai 28% o'r rhieni a ymatebodd yn debygol iawn o ddewis addysg Gymraeg i'w plant gyda'r ganran yma yn saethu i fyny at 53% petai ysgol o fewn 2 filltir - sydd yn arwydd clir bod yn rhaid i ni fel cefnogwyr ac ymgyrchwyr dros addysg Gymraeg barhau i frwydro er mwyn sicrhau bod y dewis yma ar gael i rieni.

*Elin Maher*

# Ysgolion cyfagos yn gwrthwynebu ysgol yn Wrecsam

Ar yr 21ain o Fedi 2010, penderfynodd Bwrdd Gweithredol Cyngor Sir Wrecsam gymeradwyo a chefnogi ysgol Gymraeg newydd yn Delamere Ave, Gwersyllt. Cytunwyd i gyfrannu £1.7 miliwn tuag at y £4.1 miliwn sydd eisioes wedi'i ymrwymo gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gogyfer y prosiect.

Yn dilyn y penderfyniad hwn, mae gwrthwynebiad chwyrn wedi amlygu ymysg llywodraethwyr y tair ysgol Saesneg leol yn ogystal a gan breswylwyr sydd yn byw yng nghyffiniau yr ysgol. Ymddengys fod y gwrthwynebiad yn bennaf mewn perthynas â dau fater: y caiff yr ysgol ei hadeiladu ar dir gwyrdd a'r ffaith y bydd yr ysgol Gymraeg yn creu llefydd gwag yn y dair ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg cyfagos. Gellir profi bod y ddwy ddadl yma yn gwbl ddi-sail: nid yw'r tir dan sylw yn dir gwyrdd gan mai hen chwarel oedd yno ynghynt cyn iddo gael ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer claddu gwastraff; dim ond wedyn yr aethpwyd ati i greu Parc Gwledig yr Alyn yno.

O ran y ddadl am lefydd gweigion, mae Ysgol Heulfan yn orlawn ac mae £10 miliwn yn cael ei wario ar ehangu Ysgol Bryn Alyn. Yr unig ysgol gynradd nad yw'n llawn yw ysgol Gwersyllt CP ac wedyn dim ond pedwar lle gwag sydd yno.

Trefnodd y gwrthwynebwyr gyfarfod cyhoeddus yn ddiweddar a ddenodd tua hanner cant o bobl. Derbyniodd y cyfarfod hefyd lythyrau o wrthwynebiad i'r cynllun gan yr aelod seneddol a'r aelod Cynulliad lleol. Mae'r grŵp sydd yn gwrthwynebu hefyd yn derbyn cryn dipyn o sylw yn y wasg.

Er fod y cynllun wedi ei gymeradwyo gan Gyngor Wrecsam mae nifer o gamau i'w cymryd eto cyn y gellir gwireddu'r freuddwyd o sicrhau ysgol Gymraeg newydd i Wersyllt.

Yn gyntaf, bydd y cais cynllunio amlinellol yn dod gerbron Pwyllgor Cynllunio yr awdurdod ar y 10fed o Ionawr 2011. Os sicrheir llwyddiant yno bydd y cynlluniau wedyn yn mynd allan i ymgynghoriad statudol lle bydd angen i rieni a holl gefnogwyr addysg Gymraeg ddangos eu cefnogaeth er sicrhau llwyddiant datblygiad addysg Gymraeg yn Wrecsam.

Wrth i'r erthygl yma fynd i'r wasg mae trafodaethau ar droed i sefydlu cangen RhAG yn yr ardal er mwyn datblygu ymgyrch gadarnhaol gref o blaid yr ysgol newydd.

Cynhelir cyfarfod cychwynnol ar 1af Rhagfyr yn Ysgol Plas Coch, Wrecsam.

## Gower goes without again

## Third school for Newport?

The newsletter of RhAG, parents for Welsh medium education
Issue 25, December 2010
Rhagolwg is published by Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg,
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# rhagolwg

# Badge of success

This September saw Ysgol Panteg, Griffithstown, Pontypool open its doors as Torfaen's third and latest Welsh-medium school. Rhagolwg went to meet the new Head, Mr Rhodri Harries.

**How did you feel on the first day of opening the school this September?**

Very excited to meet the children and parents.

**As a school what are you looking forward to the most?**

Establishing Ysgol Panteg as a central part of Griffithstown and developing the astute minds of all involved with the school.

**As Head teacher, what do you feel is most encouraging about the establishment of a new Welsh-medium school in the area?**

It is a credit to the other Welsh-medium schools and the untiring work of Helen Greenwood and others who work with Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin.

**What do you anticipate as being your greatest challenges?**

Improving the overall condition of the building.

**What response has the school received so far by parents and within the wider community in Griffithstown?**

The parents have been wonderful - appreciative, supportive and thankful of all that we do here. We have already made friends in the village; have distributed fruit to the elderly following our Thanksgiving service and supported local businesses including the local fruit shop and PSM for our school uniform.

**As Headteacher of the most recent Welsh-medium school to open in the former Gwent, what are your predictions for the future of Welsh-medium education in the area?**

It is a privilege to be Headteacher of this school. The staff are amazing – dedicated and extremely hardworking. I am very lucky to be supported by such enthusiastic parents and wonderful children.

**Are there any other comments you would like to make?**

It is interesting to note that all children come from non Welsh-speaking backgrounds in addition to 80% of the staff.

● *Interesting to note: the school badge includes 36 daffodils – each one representing every child who started at the school.*

# The next step

'The next step: Planning to ensure equal opportunities for Welsh-medium education across the whole of Wales' was the theme of RhAG's Conference and AGM this year. The meeting was held at Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre on Saturday 16 October.

Attendees were addressed by two guest speakers: Ceinwen Jones, Head of the Welsh Language Development Unit, Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS), Welsh Assembly Government and Caroline Rees, Head of Service - Additional Learning Need & Inclusion, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Ceinwen Jones outlined the aims and objectives of the new Welsh Medium Education Strategy launched this April by the Welsh Assembly Government and the implementation of the Action Plan by DCELLS. This was followed by Caroline Rees's presentation about Special Educational Needs highlighting the shortcomings still impeding easy access to Welsh-medium provision.

It was encouraging to welcome representatives from a number of local RhAG groups, new and old, to exchange campaigning experiences and to share ideas regarding RhAG's forthcoming work programme. We hope that the day was a source of renewed energy and determination for the year ahead.

## http://www.rhag.net

RhAG's new website is now up and running. You can access information about our activities as an organisation and news about Welsh-medium schools, and share ideas about your experiences.

Cymraeg Gwaith Cartref Welsh Homework Support
0871 230 0029
post@gwaithcartref.com post@homeworkinwelsh.com
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**The Welsh Language Board has kindly supported both this publication and RhAG's website, www.rhag.net.**

**If you need information of any kind about the Welsh Language, please ring the Board's Link Linke to Welsh:**

**0845 6076070**
***(local call rate)***
**Monday-Friday**
**10.00am-12.30pm/1.30-3.30pm**

# Cardiff survey is good news

The parents of 20 children in Cardiff have gone to appeal over the council's school admission decisions this year. They were denied places at their chosen schools because they were oversubscribed.

Unfortunately, it appears that most of the 20 have now been lost to Welsh-medium education and that the parents have opted for English medium provision. These were parents who had chosen Welsh-medium education and were committed enough to appeal against the decision not to allow their child to access Welsh-medium education at their chosen school. Having been disappointed, they then decided that English medium education was more appealing than Welsh-medium education in a school that they hadn't chosen.

It is likely that the distance between home and school was a determining factor, again reinforcing the importance of RhAG's efforts to ensure sufficient places in all parts of Cardiff.

In this respect, Cardiff RhAG has highlighted the insufficient number of places in the West of the city where the same problem arises.

A welcome development is the fact that Cardiff City Council is in the process of holding a city wide survey to measure the demand for Welsh-medium education. Similar surveys in neighbouring authorities such as Newport, Vale of Glamorgan and two areas of RCT have revealed high levels of unmet demand for Welsh-medium education and proven that current provision is lower than demand.

Another positive development in Cardiff are proposals to notify all parents of the Welsh and English medium schools within their catchment area and to ask them which one they prefer.

In the meantime, work will soon start on establishing the governing body of the third Welsh-medium secondary school as soon as the consultations on catchment areas are concluded.

*Michael Jones*

# Gower goes without again

RhAG has expressed its dismay at Swansea's unwillingness to use Llanmorlais school as a Welsh-medium school for north Gower.

A letter was sent this week to Ysgol Pontybrenin governors outlining the reasons for not proceeding. In the letter, director of education Mr Richard Parry states that he 'cannot accept there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that a new Welsh medium school in this area would flourish'. This statement, according to RhAG, disregards recent trends. Ysgol Gymraeg Tirdeunaw started with 18 pupils and now has around 450. Similarly, Ysgol Gymraeg Llwynderw started with a dozen or so and now has over 200 and is increasing.

As part of current school reorganisation plans in the county, the closing of Llanmorlais School as an English medium school releases a building suitable for a Welsh medium school. Parents have already presented their case for this and have collected names of 48 children who would start in the school over the next few years.

Said Heini Gruffudd, Swansea RhAG secretary, "RhAG has regularly highlighted the fact that children from the Gower area must travel substantial distances to attend Swansea's Welsh medium schools. Pontybrenin School serves north Gower and Llwynderw school serves south Gower, but the two schools are comparatively far from the population of Gower peninsula. Pontybrenin School is already crowded, a fact recently acknowledged by the authority when they committed to increasing their admission number from 45 to 60 by September 2011 - although 72 have been admitted to the Reception Class in 2010."

The authority's measurement of demand in Swansea is 28%, rising to 38% if a Welsh medium school were available at a convenient location. Provision is currently around 12%. RhAG argues that there is a need to double or treble provision to meet the demand. The establishment of a Welsh medium school would quickly lead to further demand, as has been seen all over Swansea.

Mr Gruffudd said, "RhAG eagerly awaits a further statement from the authority proposing immediate plans to establish a class in Llanmorlais school for this coming September, as a starter class for a new Welsh medium school for North Gower, provisionally as a branch of Ysgol Gymraeg Pontybrenin. While recognizing that the Llanmorlais site is far from ideal, it would at least provide a start for Welsh medium education in north Gower while the authority searches for a better solution."

The parents of north Gower have secured further publicity to their campaign via a recent short debate on Welsh-medium education held at the National Assembly of Wales by their local Assembly Member, Dai Lloyd. Their case was also presented before Swansea City Council's planning and petitions committee on 28th October 2010.

# Third school for Newport in prospect

It is two years since the official opening of Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael, and the school has by now doubled in size. In September, there were 106 children on the register from the Meithrin to Year 3. It is anticipated that there will be at least 30 applications for this coming September.

The opening of Ysgol Ifor Hael has not had an adverse effect on the numbers at Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd. In fact, the number of applications received by the local authority would easily more than fill both schools. To address this situation, the authority has therefore decided to establish a new starter class which will open in September 2011.

This is a short term arrangement which will lead on to Newport's third Welsh-medium school. As promised, the authority has held another survey to measure the demand for Welsh-medium education. Again, the results confirm the need for a third school at once.

The survey shows that 28% of parents questioned would be very likely to choose Welsh-medium education. This shoots up to 53% were a school available within 2 miles of their home..

*Elin Maher*

# Neighbouring schools oppose Wrexham development

On the 21st of September 2010, the Executive Board of Wrexham County Borough Council approved the establishment of a new Welsh-medium school on Delamere Avenue, Gwersyllt. A budget of £1.7m was agreed in addition to the £4.1m already promised by the Welsh Assembly Government towards the project.

The decision has ignited fierce opposition amongst governing bodies of local English medium schools as well as from local residents who live close to the proposed school. It appears that the opposition relates to two matters: the fact that the Welsh school will be built on green land and the fact that it will create empty places at the nearby English medium schools. It can be proven that both these arguments are totally unfounded; the land in question is not green land as it was previously an old quarry and also was used to bury landfill before Alyn Country Park was created there.

The argument regarding empty places is also groundless: Ysgol Heulfan is full to capacity; £10m is being invested for the expansion of Ysgol Bryn Alyn and the only school which isn't full is Gwersyllt CP, which has just 4 empty places left.

Those opposing the proposed school recently held a public meeting which attracted around 50 people. The meeting also received letters of opposition to the school from the local MP and AM. The group which formed following this meeting have also been receiving significant publicity in the local press.

Even though the plan has been approved by the local authority, there are a number of hurdles yet to be overcome before realising the dream of a new Welsh-medium school for Gwersyllt.

Firstly, the outline planning application will be presented before the authority's planning committee on 10th January 2011. If the bid is successful, then the plans will be released for statutory consultation, when it will be imperative that all supporters of Welsh-medium education voice their support to ensure the future development of Welsh-medium provision in Wrexham.

As we go to press, discussions are in place to establish a RhAG group in the area to develop a positive campaign in support of the proposed new school. A meeting will be held on the 1st of December at Ysgol Plas Coch, Wrexham.