Ymgynghoriad cysyniadau ôl-16
Post-16 concepts consultation

About you

Are you
- ○ Student
- ○ Staff
- ○ Parent
- ○ Governor
- ○ Business
- ○ Other

If 'other' please specify

[ ]

Year group
- ○ 7
- ○ 8
- ○ 9
- ○ 10
- ○ 11
- ○ 12
- ○ 13

School
- ○ Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School
- ○ Brynteg Comprehensive
- ○ Bryntirion Comprehensive
- ○ Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen
- ○ Cynffig Comprehensive
- ○ Maesteg Comprehensive
- ○ Pencoed Comprehensive
- ○ Porthcawl Comprehensive
- ○ YGG Llangynwyd
- ○ Bridgend College

School or college
- ○ Primary school
- ○ Secondary school
- ○ Bridgend college

Rank
- ○ Senior
- ○ Middle
- ○ Other

If 'other' please specify

[ ]

Representative organisation / business name

[ ]

Is your business
- ○ Large
- ○ Medium
- ○ Small

Gender
○ Male   ○ Transgender
○ Female   ○ Prefer not to say

The ambitions for post-16 education in Bridgend County Borough

Do you agree with the statements of ambition that were produced by the Post-16 Board and students in secondary schools summarised on page 5 of the report and repeated below:

- High-quality teaching and learning that enables them to secure strong performance and high standards of achievement in examinations
- A broad curriculum offer underpinned by excellent impartial careers advice and guidance
- Positive relationships with staff who are inspirational with learners and experts in their work
- First-class support for learners whether in a personal capacity or through the facilities available to support their studies
- A good range of extra-curricular activity and have access to work experience.

(The full list of ambitions agreed by the board can be found in appendix A of the consultation report)

○ Strongly disagree
○ Disagree
○ Neutral
○ Agree
○ Strongly agree

Is there anything you would like to add to the list?

Curriculum offer

Please consider the statements below and select a response for each one:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
All learners should have access to a wide range of subjects wherever they are studying	○	○	○	○	○
If learners have studied a subject to the end of key stage 4 they should also be able to study that subject in the sixth form	○	○	○	○	○
Every subject should have an equal amount of teacher delivery time for both smaller and larger teaching groups	○	○	○	○	○

Do you have any further comments?

Blended Learning is a method of learning where on-line resources are prepared by teachers and made available to students along with guidance and instructions on the work to be completed. This learning may take place during dedicated time in the school day or outside school hours. It may also involve on-line contact with the teacher and tele-conferencing. It places an emphasis on independent learning on the part of the student. There is significant use of this approach in further and higher education.

Among other benefits it could help make some small subject groups viable, while reducing the need for students to be transported to different locations.

It would require some investment in physical resources, and professional development for teachers new to this methodology.

Do you agree that blended learning could be a useful part of teaching programmes?

○ Strongly disagree
○ Disagree
○ Neutral
○ Agree
○ Strongly agree

Do you have any further comments?

Collaboration

At this time we have day time collaboration for two option blocks across four afternoons a week. We also provide collaborative courses in twilight sessions at Bridgend College. It is expected that in concepts 1, 4 and 5 there will still be collaboration. Please indicate your preferred model for collaboration and indicate the reasons for your choice.

○ Day time collaboration
○ Twilight collaboration
○ Both

Reasons for your choice:

Transport

Bridgend College's two campuses at Pencoed and on Cowbridge Road provide the centres for specialist post-16 vocational education for the county. The majority of our learners who choose vocational progression routes or do not meet the entry requirements to sixth form travel to these centres for their education.

If the council were to develop sixth form centres as part of the Cabinets preferred option would it be reasonable to expect A level students to also travel to specialist centres for their education?

○ Strongly disagree
○ Disagree
○ Neutral
○ Agree
○ Strongly agree

If you choose strongly disagree or disagree we would be keen to know your reasons – please respond in the text box below:

Transport

Where school sixth forms/sixth-form centres/Bridgend College collaborate around a common timetable there may be an expectation that learners would travel for some of their courses during their lunch break. If the lunch break is timetabled for one hour the travel time would be kept to a maximum of 20 minutes. It is expected that this travel would occur on just two days of the week per subject studied through collaboration.

Would you consider this travel arrangement acceptable within the context of learner wellbeing?

○ Strongly disagree
○ Disagree
○ Neutral
○ Agree
○ Strongly agree

Standards of achievement and Finance

The evidence in the consultation paper indicates that larger sixth forms and sixth-form centres produce higher standards of achievement and are financially more efficient with better value for money. Should the council therefore be looking to develop sixth forms or sixth-form centres that have at least 250 students on roll?

○ Strongly disagree
○ Disagree
○ Neutral
○ Agree
○ Strongly agree

If you choose strongly disagree or disagree we would be keen to know your reasons – please respond in the text box below:

Concepts for consideration

There are six concepts that are being considered as a model for post-16 education. Full details of each concept can be found in the consultation report.

Concept 1: The retention of sixth forms in all schools - the current position (i.e. a distributed tertiary model based on collaboration, but with further development in order to improve the delivery of this concept).
Please choose what you consider to be the three most important advantages and three most important concerns by numbering your preference from one to three.

3 most important advantages:

The retention of sixth forms is seen as essential in some areas in response to community aspirations	☐
Maintaining the link between sixth-form learners and the rest of the school, especially as aspirational role models and supporting younger pupils	☐
Sixth forms add to the overall ethos of the school	☐
Some schools believe they can have a viable sixth form under this approach	☐
Faith and Welsh-medium schools see this as a highly desirable/only acceptable model	☐
Given the current shortage of teachers, head teachers believe they can attract and recruit more qualified/experienced staff if the school has a sixth form	☐

3 most important concerns:

Ability to maintain curriculum breadth; some traditional subjects are already being lost in schools ☐

Resources/budgets/funding all set to reduce and many regard this model as unsustainable ☐

Does not address the issue of surplus places ☐

Does not increase the range of choice of providers for learners and parents ☐

Does not provide value for money and in schools with small sixth forms is likely to lead to cross-stage subsidisation taking away resources from Years 7 to 11 ☐

The transport costs of current collaborative arrangements are a drain on resources and will be difficult to maintain ☐

Where subjects are delivered in small groups this is not always conducive to high standards and a dynamic learning environment ☐

Limited opportunity to provide investment in 16-18 education facilities ☐

Are there any other advantages or concerns you would like to add?

Advantages:

Concerns:

Overall what do you think of this concept?

Concept 2: The closure of all sixth forms and the development of a local authority maintained sixth-form centre(s).

Please choose what you consider to be the three most important advantages and three most important concerns by numbering your preference from one to three.

3 most important advantages:

Produces effective economies of scale ☐

Currently the majority of sixth forms are unable to provide learners a level 2 (GCSE) offer; the larger scale of a sixth-form centre could offer learners this alternative ☐

Curriculum breadth is retained in the level 3 offer and minority subjects become more viable ☐

More efficient class sizes providing better value for money ☐

A greater equality of offer to learners ☐

Would deal effectively with issues such as class size, financial effectiveness and cross-phase subsidisation ☐

Teaching staff will specialise in post-16 delivery potentially producing higher standards of performance ☐

Creates an opportunity to invest in tailored facilities for 16-18 education provision ☐

3 most important concerns:

Finding suitable locations and sourcing capital to develop one or more large sixth-form centres ☐

Bringing all post-16 learners into one or two centres would require an increase in travel arrangements and potentially higher discretionary post-16 transport costs for the council although the cost may be offset by greater efficiency of delivery costs due to larger teaching groups ☐

Does not increase the range of choice of providers for learners and parents ☐

Potential for duplication and competition with Bridgend College and creation of a two tier system in the county ☐

Increased travel may be a more marked disadvantage for some learners ☐

A potential impact of merging learners from different communities although this does not manifest itself currently within Bridgend College ☐

If the staff in the new centre(s) also have teaching commitments in schools then timetable management and collaboration with split site complexities will present a significant challenge ☐

If the teaching staff are recruited directly to the new centre(s) there may be a detrimental effect on the teaching force deployed in the 11-16 schools and certainly an unsettling period of recruitment and appointment ☐

The identity of post-16 learners with new centres or their home school ☐

Are there any other advantages or concerns you would like to add?

Advantages:

Concerns:

Overall what do you think of this concept?

Concept 3: The closure of all sixth forms and the development of a further education (FE) college governed sixth-form centre(s).
Please choose what you consider to be the three most important advantages and three most important concerns by numbering your preference from one to three.

3 most important advantages:

Produces effective economies of scale ○

Within a college setting a full range of level 2 and level 3 provisions can be offered with learners able to combine both vocational and academic courses into their programme of study ○

Curriculum breadth is retained in the level 3 offer and minority subjects become more viable ○

More efficient class sizes providing better value for money ○

A greater equality of offer to learners ○

Would deal effectively with issues such as class size and financial effectiveness ○

There would be no possibility of cross-phase subsidisation in schools ○

Teaching staff will specialise in post-16 delivery potentially producing higher standards of performance ○

Creates an opportunity to invest in tailored facilities for 16-18 education provision ○

Removes the likelihood of institutional interest influencing learner choice of progression routes ○

3 most important concerns:

Finding suitable locations and sourcing capital to develop one or more large sixth-form centres ◯

Bringing all post-16 learners into one or two centres would require an increase in travel arrangements and potentially higher discretionary post-16 transport costs for the council ◯

If there are increased travel costs the Council will not be able to offset these against improved efficiency because the post-16 funding will pass from Welsh Government to the FE college and not to the council ◯

Increased travel may be a more marked disadvantage for some learners ◯

If the teaching staff are recruited directly to the new centre(s) under FE management there may be a detrimental effect on the teaching force deployed in the 11-16 schools and certainly an unsettling period of recruitment and appointment ◯

Does not increase the range of choice of providers for learners and parents ◯

The loss of senior students from school settings and their ability to be aspirational role models ◯

Are there any other advantages or concerns you would like to add?

Advantages:

Concerns:

Overall what do you think of this concept?

Concept 4: A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create a new local authority maintained sixth-form centre(s).

Please choose what you consider to be the three most important advantages and three most important concerns by numbering your preference from one to three.

3 most important advantages:

The retention of sixth forms is seen as essential in some areas in response to community aspirations	☐
Maintaining the link between sixth-form learners and the rest of the school, especially as aspirational role models and supporting younger pupils	☐
Sixth forms add to the overall ethos of the school	☐
Faith and Welsh-medium schools see the retention of their sixth forms as a highly desirable/only acceptable model	☐
Given the current shortage of teachers head teachers believe they can attract and recruit more qualified/experienced staff if the school has a sixth form	☐
Provides more choice for learners and parents between school-based sixth forms, sixth-form centres and FE	☐
Will benefit from some improvement in economies of scale	☐
Currently the majority of sixth forms are unable to provide learners a level 2 (GCSE) offer; the larger scale of a sixth-form centre could offer learners this alternative	☐
Curriculum breadth is retained in the level 3 offer and minority subjects become more viable	☐
More efficient class sizes providing better value for money	☐
A greater equality of offer to learners	☐
Would deal effectively with issues such as class size, financial effectiveness and cross-phase subsidisation	☐
Teaching staff in the centres may specialise in post-16 delivery potentially producing higher standards of performance	☐

Subject specialists across centres, through collaborative activity, would develop new approaches to 'blended learning' and support learners to have the skills and resources to use this methodology successfully in preparation for experiencing its wide use in further and higher education ☐

Creates an opportunity to invest in tailored facilities for 16-18 education provision ☐

3 most important concerns:

Potential impact on schools that may not host a sixth form in terms of surplus capacity, demand for places and recruitment and retention of staff ☐

Leakage of "more able" pupils to school with a sixth-form centre ☐

Depending on where the new centres are located it may or may not address the issue of surplus places ☐

Finding suitable locations and sourcing capital to develop one or more large sixth-form centres ☐

Bringing all post-16 learners into one or two centres would require an increase in travel arrangements and potentially higher discretionary post-16 transport costs for the council although the cost may be offset by greater efficiency of delivery costs due to larger teaching groups ☐

Potential for duplication and competition with Bridgend College and creation of a two tier system in the county ☐

Increased travel may be a more marked disadvantage for some learners ☐

A potential impact of merging learners from different communities although this does not manifest itself currently within Bridgend College ☐

If the staff in the new centre(s) also have teaching commitments in schools then timetable management and collaboration with split site complexities will present a significant challenge ☐

If the teaching staff are recruited directly to the new centre(s) there may be a detrimental effect on the teaching force deployed in the 11-16 schools and certainly an unsettling period of recruitment and appointment ☐

The identity of post-16 learners with new centres or their home school ☐

There will be a need for good timetable collaboration between remaining school sixth forms and the new centres ☐

Are there any other advantages or concerns you would like to add?

Advantages:

Concerns:

Overall what do you think of this concept?

Concept 5: A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create a new FE college-governed sixth-form centre(s).
Please choose what you consider to be the three most important advantages and three most important concerns by numbering your preference from one to three.

3 most important advantages:

Provides more choice for learners and parents between school-based sixth forms, FE sixth-form centres and traditional FE setting	☐
The retention of sixth forms is seen as essential in some areas in response to community aspirations	☐
Produces effective economies of scale	☐
Within a college setting a full range of level 2 and level 3 provisions can be offered with learners able to combine both vocational and academic courses into their programme of study	☐
Curriculum breadth is retained in the level 3 offer and minority subjects become more viable	☐
More efficient class sizes providing better value for money	☐
A greater equality of offer to learners	☐
Would deal effectively with issues such as class size and financial effectiveness	☐
There would be no possibility of cross-phase subsidisation in schools	☐
Teaching staff will specialise in post-16 delivery potentially producing higher standards of performance	☐
Creates an opportunity to invest in tailored facilities for 16-18 education provision	☐
Maintaining the link between sixth-form learners and the rest of the school, especially as aspirational role models and supporting younger pupils	☐
Sixth forms add to the overall ethos of the schools that retain them	☐
Faith and Welsh-medium schools see the retention of their sixth forms as a highly desirable/only acceptable model	☐
Removes the likelihood of institutional interest influencing learner choice of progression routes	☐

3 most important concerns:

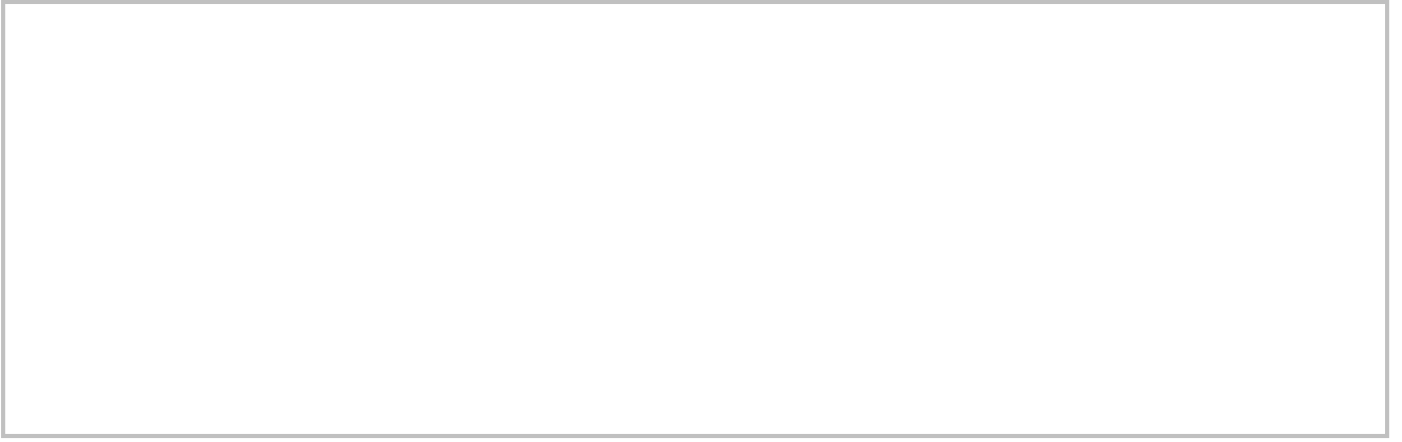|	
Potential impact on schools that do not host a sixth form in terms of surplus capacity, demand for places and recruitment and retention of staff	☐
Leakage of "more able" pupils to school or college setting with a sixth-form centre	☐
There will be a need for good timetable collaboration between remaining school sixth forms and the college	☐
Does not address the issue of surplus places but will significantly increase the proportion of these	☐
Finding suitable locations and sourcing capital to develop one or more large sixth-form centres	☐
Bringing all post-16 learners into one or two centres would require an increase in travel arrangements and potentially higher discretionary post-16 transport costs for the council	☐
If there are increased travel costs the council will not be able to offset these against improved efficiency because the post-16 funding will pass from Welsh Government to the FE college and not to the council	☐
Increased travel may be a more marked disadvantage for some learners	☐
If the teaching staff are recruited directly to the new centre(s) under FE management there may be a detrimental effect on the teaching force deployed in the 11-16 schools and certainly an unsettling period of recruitment and appointment	☐
The loss of senior students from school settings and their ability to be aspirational role models	☐

Are there any other advantages or concerns you would like to add?

Advantages:

Concerns:

Overall what do you think of this concept?

Concept 6: A full tertiary model governed by the FE sector.
Please choose what you consider to be the three most important advantages and three most important concerns by numbering your preference from one to three.

3 most important advantages:

Significant economies of scale – the majority of post-16 education delivered by the one provider ☐

Ability to maintain curriculum breadth; some traditional subjects are already being lost in schools ☐

Greater resilience to cope with funding cuts ☐

Should provide good value for money ☐

Subjects delivered through larger teaching groups which are more conducive to high standards and a dynamic learning environment ☐

Equality of offer to all learners ☐

A significant opportunity to provide capital investment in 16-18 education facilities ☐

Could have a positive effect on Year 11 as they become the senior pupils in schools and greater maturity is expected from them ☐

Allows schools to focus more comprehensively on the outcomes at the end of key stage 4 ☐

3 most important concerns:

Does not address the issue of surplus places but will significantly increase the proportion of these ☐

Reduces the choice of providers for learners and parents ☐

Sourcing the capital costs of a new campus in times of austerity and shrinking budgets ☐

Increased travel may be a more marked disadvantage for some learners ☐

There is the potential for increased travel costs and the council will not be able to offset these against improved efficiency because the post-16 funding will pass from Welsh Government to the FE college and not to the council	☐
Surplus teachers and redundancy	☐
If the teaching staff from schools are recruited to the new centre under FE management there may be a detrimental effect on the teaching force deployed in the 11-16 schools and certainly an unsettling period of recruitment and appointment	☐
The loss of senior students from school settings and their ability to be role models	☐
Given the current difficulties schools are experiencing in recruiting more qualified/experienced staff the change of status to an 11-16 school could potentially heighten this issue	☐

Are there any other advantages or concerns you would like to add?

Advantages:

Concerns:

Overall what do you think of this concept?

The council's preferred concepts are concept 4 and concept 5.
If either of these were to be adopted by the council which would you prefer?

○ Concept 4
○ Concept 5

Reason for your choice:

[text box]

Do you agree with the council's choice of preferred concepts?

○ Yes
○ No

If no – please provide your reasons why not

[text box]

Please rank each concept in order of preference where 1 is your most preferred and 6 is your least preferred.

Concept 1: The retention of sixth forms in all schools - the current position (ie a distributed tertiary model based on collaboration, but with further development in order to improve the delivery of this concept) ☐

Concept 2: The closure of all sixth forms and the development of a local authority maintained sixth-form centre(s) ☐

Concept 3: The closure of all sixth forms and the development of a further education (FE) college governed sixth-form centre(s) ☐

Concept 4: A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create a new local authority maintained sixth-form centre(s) ☐

Concept 5: A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create a new FE college governed sixth-form centre(s) ☐

Concept 6: A full tertiary model governed by the FE sector ☐

Do you have any other suggestions for post-16 education provision across Bridgend County Borough?

Equalities monitoring (*over 16s only)

In order to help us ensure that we are providing services fairly to everyone who needs them, we would be grateful if you could answer a few more questions about yourself.

The information you supply will be kept confidentially and will only be used for the purposes of equalities monitoring.

Completion of these questions is not required as part of the questionnaire. You do not have to answer any of the questions if you do not wish to do so.

Alternatively, you can choose to answer some and not others by selecting the 'prefer not to say' options.

Please select your age category. Please select one option only.

○ Under 18   ○ 35 - 44   ○ 65 - 74
○ 18 - 24   ○ 45 - 54   ○ 75+
○ 25 - 34   ○ 55 - 64   ○ Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself to be disabled? Please select one option only.

○ Yes
○ No
○ Prefer not to say

Please type in the box below

[   ]

How would you describe your nationality? Please select one option only.

○ Welsh   ○ British
○ English   ○ Other (please type in the box below)
○ Scottish
○ Northern Irish   ○ Prefer not to say

[   ]

What is your ethnic group? Please select one option only.

○ White

○ Mixed / multiple ethnic groups

○ Asian or Asian British

○ Black / African / Caribbean / black British

○ Other ethnic group (please type in the box below)

○ Prefer not to say

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[                                        ]
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What is your religion or belief? Please select one option only.

○ No religion

○ Christian

○ Buddhist

○ Hindu

○ Jewish

○ Muslim

○ Sikh

○ Other (please type in the box below)

○ Prefer not to say

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[                                        ]
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What is your gender? Please select one option only.

○ Male

○ Female

○ Transgender

○ Prefer not to say

Are you pregnant? Please select one option only.

○ Yes

○ No

○ Prefer not to say

Have you given birth within the past 26 weeks? Please select one option only.

○ Yes

○ No

○ Prefer not to say

What is your sexual orientation? Please select one option only.

○ Heterosexual / straight

○ Gay man

○ Gay woman / lesbian

○ Bisexual

○ Other

○ Prefer not to say

What is your marital status? Please select one option only.

- ○ Single
- ○ Partnered
- ○ Married
- ○ Civil partnered
- ○ Divorced
- ○ Widowed
- ○ Prefer not to say

Are you able to...

Please select one option per row.

	Not at all	A little	Fairly well	Fluently	Prefer not to say
speak Welsh?	○	○	○	○	○
read Welsh?	○	○	○	○	○
write Welsh?	○	○	○	○	○

Thank you