

Reorganisation of Post 16 Education in Rhyl

'The Rhyl Sixth'

Consultation Document



In this document we set out our vision for changing sixth form provision in Rhyl.

We want to know what you think.

Foreword

Reorganisation of Post 16 Education in Rhyl is like undertaking a long journey. It requires careful planning and preparation and, if the journey involves other people, they will need to understand where they are going, how they are going to get there, how long it is expected to take and something about the places which will be visited en route. This document seeks to provide the essential information about the 'journey' to the reorganisation of Post 16 Education in Rhyl and is part of the formal process of seeking views on proposals for change.

In the Summer and Autumn of 2007, the local authority consulted with schools, governors, parents, pupils and the wider community about the recommendations in the Cambridge Education 'Review of 16-19 provision in Rhyl'*. There is recognition by most parties that if more young people in Rhyl are to stay on in education, have more choice and achieve higher standards, a new way of delivering 6th form education must be sought. Following on from the consultation on the Cambridge Report, the two Rhyl High Schools, Coleg Llandrillo, Wrexham Diocese and Local Authority have together developed a new collaborative model for the delivery of post 16 education.

High quality post 16 education is an essential part of the community and any changes made to post 16 provision will significantly affect the residents and families who live and work locally. Any changes to school provision must first be the subject of well established statutory procedures (as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Learning and Skills Act 2000.). The closure of the school sixth forms requires the publication of statutory notices which explain the proposals and are followed by a two month period during which anyone may register an objection. In the event that such objections are received the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills at the Welsh Assembly Government would determine whether the proposals should proceed or not. However, before such proposals are published, there is a legal requirement to consult all interested parties about the plans. The Minister expects that consultation to be meaningful and fully inclusive.

The purpose of this document is to form the basis of that statutory consultation , make people aware of what is planned, and to provide the background to, and comprehensive information about, the proposal to close the 6th forms at Rhyl High School and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and replace them with provision in new facilities operated by Coleg Llandrillo, in partnership and collaboration with the two High schools. It also explains the process, timescales and opportunities for responding to the proposals.

Why “The Rhyl Sixth”?

The development of The Rhyl Sixth will involve the building of a new, state of the art sixth form centre at Coleg Llandrillo Rhyl which will provide the main base and delivery centre for students, with some clearly identified provision also being delivered at Rhyl High and Blessed Edward Jones. Depending on the outcome of this consultation process the existing sixth forms at Rhyl High and Blessed Edward Jones will close and be replaced with the Coleg Llandrillo – Rhyl centred provision.

There is widespread recognition of the need for radical change in 6th form education in Rhyl. This was reinforced by the decision of 26th February by Denbighshire’s Cabinet to go forward to consult on the closure of the sixth forms at Rhyl High and Blessed Edward Jones and the delivery of post 16 education and training at Coleg Llandrillo Rhyl.

This consultation on changing post 16 education in Rhyl is based on the preferred collaborative model which entails closing the two sixth forms and making alternative provision in new college facilities whilst retaining strong links with the schools and utilising the excellent facilities which are already available at Rhyl High for sports and at Blessed Edward Jones. This development will be branded “The Rhyl Sixth” – indicating a commitment to traditional Sixth Form College academic standards whilst emphasising that this will be a model which will prepare young people for future success in Higher Education and the World of Work in the twenty first century.

- the post 16 learners will be enrolled by the College with the funding quantum being drawn down by Coleg Llandrillo.
- All teaching will be subject to Coleg Llandrillo quality systems and procedures.

‘The Rhyl Sixth’ described in this consultation document will provide clarity for the learner and parent in terms of learning programmes and progression possibilities whilst enabling, where appropriate in terms of widening student choice and cost effectiveness, some post 16 provision to be delivered on the High School sites.

In addition ‘The Rhyl Sixth’ will provide a system which will support improved performance for 16 to 19 year olds including the delivery of level 2 vocational option choices in line with expected Welsh Assembly Government requirements for September 2009.

The Rhyl Sixth, together with the existing facilities of Coleg Llandrillo Rhyl, will provide the town with the opportunity to have an outstanding post 16 learning system, catering for the needs of all young people whatever their ability or however high their aspirations.

The Rhyl Sixth Advisory Committee

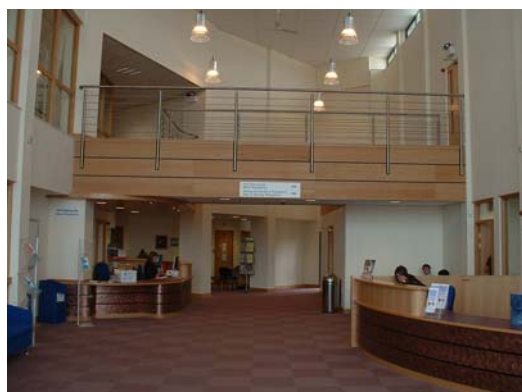
This Committee consists of headteachers, governors, Wrexham Diocese, local Authority and college representatives and will provide the strategic steer for The Rhyl Sixth. The committee has no legal powers and is independent of existing school and college governing bodies.

The Committee will ensure that there are good progression routes from schools to the Rhyl Sixth. Students will benefit from close links between school and college staff and the continuation of pastoral support in some instances.

Consultation Process & Invitation to Comment

If the authority decides to proceed with them the proposals contained in this document will be formally published in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Education (School Organisation Proposals (Wales)) Regulations 1999 and the Learning and Skills Act 2000. Publication will be followed by a period of 2 months, giving opportunity for statutory objections.

However, we would like to receive your comments on the proposals in order that they may be taken into account before we decide whether or not to proceed to publication of statutory notices. We, therefore, invite you to submit your views in writing either by email, via the Denbighshire County Council website or by post to the address shown in Annex 1. by May 16th 2008



Formal Consultation Timetable	
Formal Consultation starts and documentation on Denbighshire's website in schools and sent to Wrexham Diocese.	11 th April 2008
Notice of consultation in Rhyl newspapers	16 th April 2008
Consultation event at Coleg Llandrillo-Rhyl for parents, schools communities, and local business. Details will appear on Denbighshire's website	Monday April 28 th 2008 2pm and 7pm
Rhyl High School Governors and Staff	April – May 2008
Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School Governors and Staff	April – May 2008
Wrexham Diocese and Church in Wales	April – May 2008
Consultation Period Closes Cabinet considers responses to consultation and decides whether or not to proceed to next step	16 th May 2008
Proposals published, giving 2 months for statutory objections. Published notice and Schedule 4 information submitted to the Assembly	23 rd May 2008
End of objection period	23 rd July 2008
If no objections are received, and proposal not "called in", Cabinet determines proposals in relation to Rhyl High School. (The proposal for Blessed Edward Jones would require confirmation from the Minister.)	mid August 2008 (Mid September)
In the case of objections, LEA collates objections, prepares responses to points raised and submits to Assembly for consideration.	September 2008
Minister for Education determines proposals	By December 2008
Coleg Llandrillo takes on responsibility for providing sixth form courses, initially in existing school premise	Sept 2009
New sixth form centre opens	Sept 2010

Rationale for the Rhyl 6th

To address the Local Authority's concerns about the effectiveness and viability of sixth form provision in Rhyl's two secondary schools.

To meet its statutory responsibilities to provide effective and viable Post 16 education outlined in Estyn's Review of Post 16 provision in schools.

To address the issues identified in the independent review of 16-19 provision in Rhyl which the Local Authority commissioned last year from Cambridge Education. The review recommended that the sixth forms in Rhyl High School and the Blessed Edward Jones School should be closed and a new sixth form centre opened on the site identified by Llandrillo College site in Rhyl.

The Denbighshire Action Plan, produced in response to the Estyn Report on the LEA, opens with the following:

"This Statement of Intent is a commitment from Denbighshire County Council to work in partnership with schools and key stakeholders to achieve significantly better outcomes for children and young people. Our aspiration is for all of our schools to offer a first class education service. We accept that this requires radical change¹".

In 2007 there were 93 pupils in Year 11 at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School of whom only 34 stayed on to the 6th form. In the same year at Rhyl High School there were 212 pupils in year 11 of whom 92 stayed on to the sixth form. The number of post 16 young people attending Rhyl's secondary schools continues to be well below the Estyn and Audit Commission's recommendation of 150 students as the minimum size for a sixth form. Estyn stress that both choice and cost effectiveness improve where small A-level groups in schools are joined with existing groups in colleges, which also generally offer more choice.

Parents and young people are already pursuing other options post 16: young people are attending Level 3 courses at Coleg Llandrillo in larger numbers than are currently in the schools.

The small number of young people in the two 6th forms is limiting the number of courses on offer compared with other high schools and colleges. Many young people may wish to pursue a mix of academic and vocational courses. Coleg Llandrillo is a high performing college, with excellent results at A level, Welsh and International Baccalaureate as well as vocational courses.

Existing standards in the Rhyl sixth forms

A Level results based on 2007 provisional examination data shows that Rhyl High School had the lowest percentage of students achieving 2 A-Levels Grades A-C in the county at 34.4%. This is a fall of 14.1% from 2006. Rhyl high schools accounted for 9% of the pupils achieving 2 A-Level Grades in Denbighshire. Blessed Edward Jones has achieved a 100% record this year in students achieving 2 Grades A-E however only 14 students were entered.

¹ Denbighshire (2007) Action Plan in response to the Estyn Report

Comparison of young people progressing to the 6th form and their achievements

		Pupils achieving 2 or more A Levels			
		No of pupils entered	No of pupils entered for 2 or more	A - C No of pupils	A - E No of pupils
2006	Blessed Edward Jones CHS	11	9	4	9
	Rhyl High School	35	33	16	32
2007	Blessed Edward Jones CHS	17	14	8	14
	Rhyl High School	35	32	11	27

The reduction in numbers returning to the 6th form is also exacerbating the already limited range of courses currently offered at 16. This leads to poor choices with many young people failing to achieve their main qualification by the time they are 18. This will without doubt lead to a reduction in those staying on to complete their qualifications and continuing poor standards.

Existing accommodation

Specialist sixth form accommodation at both high schools is limited and in poor condition. Sixth formers have their own common rooms in both schools but share all other resources with the main school.

Rhyl High school has excellent Sports facilities and it is therefore envisaged that the 14-19 Learning Pathways in Sports, Leisure and Public Services are delivered at Rhyl High School as part of the overall 14-16 and post 16 courses.

Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School has excellent facilities for Food Technology and Catering which could be used for AS,A2 and vocational courses.

The following options have been discounted:

a. Status Quo

The option to retain the existing 6th form has been discounted by both schools and the Council. It would not provide the choice of academic and vocational courses needed for young people or the confidence that standards would improve or attract more young people to stay on post 16 in education.

b. An alternative solution for Rhyl schools – combining the sixth forms

Combining the two school sixth forms into one would increase choice of A/AS levels but at 120 students would still make only a comparatively small freestanding 6th form which would carry most of the effectiveness and efficiency problems of the current system forward. A combined 6th form would also do little for the prospects of broader combinations with vocational specialisms and would bring additional building and capital challenges to which there are not currently solutions.

c. A Prestatyn solution

Combining with Prestatyn High School would increase choice, and probably

achievement, building on existing success at the school. The school is very large and does not have the capacity to take a large number of extra students, it would involve young people being bused out of Rhyl.

It would, however, suffer the same disadvantage of not significantly increasing the range of vocational choice, or combinations of vocational and academic routes. And, by exporting the change, it would also not respond to the challenge in a way that develops the Rhyl community's sense of ownership of the solution.

Executive Summary of the Cambridge Education Review of Post 16 Education in Rhyl.

- i. Current provision for sixth form education in Rhyl needs to be strengthened in respect of choice, retention and achievement.
- ii. Improvement is vital for the town's social and economic regeneration as well as for the personal fulfilment of young people. Rhyl's ownership of its own changes in provision is an important element in deciding between options.
- iii. Change needs to be planned within the bigger framework of changes in 14-19 education and training for the whole cohort in the locality, to include more opportunity to combine A/AS study with vocational courses.
- iv. Improvement in achievement and progression at 16 is necessary to any progress and needs to be the major focus of the two secondary schools.
- v. Only around 120 students stay on into the two Rhyl sixth forms. The arguments for retaining the status quo, or for an alternative schools solution, are not sufficiently learner-centred.
- vi. Only the option of a sixth form centre run by Llandrillo College responds to the need to improve progression and achievement now and the need to provide a progressive framework for the future.
- vii. The timeline for change is pressing, both to secure urgently needed improvement for learners and to construct a capital package. If the local authority wishes to take advantage of DELLS funding for the development of a new sixth form centre consultation on new arrangements needs to start in September 2007 to secure the available funding by September 2008.

Description of proposed solution

The proposed solution is based on a collaborative model which will be branded "The Rhyl Sixth" – indicating the commitment to traditional Sixth Form College academic standards whilst emphasising that this will be a model which will prepare young people for future success in Higher Education and the World of Work in the twenty first century.

The Rhyl Sixth main base will be accommodated in a purpose built centre attached to the current Coleg Llandrillo Rhyl building and will include eight classrooms, a common room, study facilities and specialist rooms for Science and Art and Design. The general infrastructure ie reception facilities, student café facilities, library and student support services are already in place in the College and have the capacity to cater for the predicted increase in student numbers.

Coleg Llandrillo will take on responsibility for providing sixth form courses, initially in existing school premise and at Coleg Llandrillo, Rhyl from September 2009. Courses will be delivered by college and school teachers working in partnership during academic year 2009-10. It is hoped that new building will be completed and the first cohort of students admitted by September 2010.

This will be a flagship development for Wales which retains the strengths of the single centre option whilst also benefiting from the advantages of close working between the College and Schools . School and colleges will work together to develop a coherent curriculum so that pupils have good progression routes from school to the new post 16 provision..

The Rhyl Sixth will provide high quality post 16 education and training to learners on a par with the best in country. This will be a centre that young people in Rhyl will aspire to and which will continue to underpin the regeneration work of the Rhyl Strategy, building on what has already been achieved with the recent £4.8million investment in Coleg Llandrillo Rhyl.

The Rhyl Sixth will provide a comprehensive range of academic and vocational learning pathways which will provide more choice for learners than currently available anywhere in Denbighshire. 30 A level option choices will be offered including a range of subjects not currently available to learners in Rhyl such as Applied Arts, Electronics, Engineering, English Language, Psychology, Spanish, and Critical Thinking (see appendix 1 for the full list). Alongside the A level offer, 13 vocational learning pathways up to level 3 will be offered in Business, Secretarial and Administration, Tourism, Computing and ICT, Health and Care, Sport, Public Services, Built Environment, Motor Vehicle, Gas Installation, Hair and Beauty, Electronics and Retail, in line with the key labour market priorities for Denbighshire.

The International Baccalaureate will also be offered to provide for Rhyl's most academically able learners.

All learners attending The Rhyl Sixth will have the option to take the Welsh Baccalaureate - improving University progression opportunities for many and the transferable skill levels of all. This development will be welcomed by employers who frequently criticise the fact that such skills are lacking in many well qualified entrants into employment.

All learners will be provided with first class student support services including a personal tutor and weekly tutorial sessions as well as access to specialist services such as financial, study and welfare support.

Learning coaches will be used to ensure students receive appropriate help and guidance throughout their 11-19 learning pathway.

The provision of outstanding quality will underpin all learning delivered at The Rhyl Sixth. The College's high quality has been recognised by Estyn and will ensure that the Rhyl academic provision achieves high learner outcomes in terms of attainment, retention and successful completion of courses. This will be achieved by utilising Coleg Llandrillo's A level and International Baccalaureate quality procedures in all provision including their robust teaching observation and performance management systems.

The Rhyl Sixth and Faith Based Learning

It is recognised that the young people enrolling from Blessed Edward Jones have specific progression needs that must be catered for and recognised within curriculum planning, including the provision of appropriate systems for guidance and support.

There will be a core entitlement programme on offer to students from Blessed Edward Jones and open to other students. This will connect with tutorial support and the Welsh Baccalaureate core subjects and taught by staff from Blessed Edward Jones. It is envisaged that religious education will be delivered as part of this framework. This will enable learners progressing from Blessed Edward Jones to retain a faith based element within their post 16 experiences as well as providing an additional option for learners progressing from elsewhere.

Staff from Blessed Edward Jones will make arrangements for prayer and worship and will work with other Catholic schools in North Wales in partnership to develop faith based activities.

The college will utilise the expertise of its partners from the two schools to extend and enrich current opportunities for young people to participate in, for example, voluntary activities, discussions on social and moral issues and community projects. It will involve staff from these schools in the development of the core programme of the Welsh Baccalaureate,

Transport

Access routes to the college site will be constructed in accordance with Highways Planning Guidance to allow for motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The size and scale of the road and pathways will be determined by the site and proposed plans but will include a vehicle turning area. However, it is expected that most young people will live within walking distance of The Rhyl Sixth. If transport needs to be provided for any young person then they will be entitled to this in accordance with the post 16 transport policy which is available at www.denbighshire.gov.uk

The majority of courses will be delivered at the new building on the Coleg Llandrillo - Rhyl site. Sports related courses will be delivered at Rhyl High School, which is one mile from the Coleg Rhyl. Provision at Blessed Edward Jones High School is half a mile from Coleg Rhyl. Buses and other transport will generally not be provided

Transition Arrangements

The Rhyl Sixth Advisory Committee which consists of headteachers, governors, Wrexham Diocese, local Authority and college representatives will provide the strategic steer for The Rhyl Sixth. This will ensure that there are good progression routes for courses from the schools to the Rhyl Sixth. Students will benefit from close links between school and college staff and the continuation of pastoral support in some instances. Teachers from Rhyl High School and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School will deliver some Rhyl Sixth courses.

There are a number of different scenarios which were considered when planning how the new Rhyl Sixth would open explained as following options

1. Open to year 12 only in 2009, using existing school accommodation and Colg Llandrillo Rhyl.
2. Open to year 12 in 2009, in school accommodation, and those in year 13 from Rhyl currently following level 3 courses on Coleg Llandrillo's Rhos-on-Sea site.
3. Open all years 12 and 13 from day one with open admission invitation to all
4. Open to capacity by transferring all sixth form pupils from the Rhyl high schools.

Option 1 is the preferred arrangement with Coleg Llandrillo taking ownership of the funding, learners and utilising the colleges quality systems from Sept 2009 although the new facilities of the sixth form centre will not be available until 2010. In the first year, before the new building is complete the premises and resources at Rhyl High and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School will be utilised.

The Rhyl Sixth Advisory Committee will plan transition arrangements for 2009-10 and will consult with young people and parents during 2008-9.

How will proposals will affect other schools in the area?

The Rhyl Sixth is for the young people of Rhyl and its immediate vicinity. Young people from surrounding schools may decide to pursue courses at the college. Free transport will not be provided from surrounding areas to the college if the same courses are provided locally. The new centre will develop the critical mass required to increase the size of teaching groups to acceptable levels and allow a wider choice of student options. In addition, the new centre will attract students who hitherto have travelled to other providers outside Rhyl to obtain education. It is consistent with the Welsh Assembly Government's legal responsibility to provide adequate education for all 16-19 year-olds.

How will proposals affect the High Schools?

The local authority will review secondary education in Rhyl as part of its Modernising Education programme in line with recommendations of the Cambridge Education report. The report highlighted the need for the Council to remodel secondary provision in Rhyl to ensure that young people have access to high quality learning

pathways through to age 19 and beyond.

The Rhyl Sixth proposal will have some impact on both Rhyl high schools. This has been assessed in detail. However the wider effects of falling number of pupils entering from primary schools over the coming years also has to be considered. If the sixth forms close, the schools will no longer receive post 16 funding from the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS) from the date of implementation (assumed to be September 2009).

The cost of providing Post 16 provision at both schools is currently higher than the funding received from DCELLS, so both schools are currently subsidising this provision from their own delegated budgets. If the sixth form were to close, both schools would still be liable to pay the fixed cost element associated with the post 16 provision e.g. premises, grounds maintenance etc

Based on current pupil numbers, the impact on the schools delegated budget is very little difference between the cost of closure and the cost of retaining the sixth form. This is despite both schools experiencing a decrease in funding from DCELLS this year in respect of 2007-08 clawback.

If the impact of the closure of the sixth forms resulted in redundancies, the cost for the council could be as high as £150k however there are various options that could be explored to minimise or eliminate the risk of any redundancy:

- Redeployment of teaching staff. The authority has a good track record of redeploying school based staff and we would look to this an option wherever possible

- Some staff could transfer to the college as their employees under TUPE regulations

- The college would look to buy-in expertise from high school staff as and when needed, depending on the courses offered and what subjects young people opt for on an annual basis

- Both schools will need to reshape the teaching and ancillary staff as a result of Rhyl Sixth however they will already be undertaking this process due to the impact of falling roles

- Some teachers may opt to take early retirement which would be funded from central provisions

If all the above options are implemented, this would significantly reduce the number and cost of redundancies, and might even eradicate the need for any redundancies completely

Staffing Issues

Ensuring an outstanding delivery staff base is fundamental to the success of The Rhyl Sixth.

It is recognised by the Local Authority, in their briefing paper to the Council, that the development of a single centre would require the reshaping of the schools' teaching and ancillary staff.

Initial calculations by the College suggest that between 8-10 full time equivalent additional teaching staff will be required for The Rhyl Sixth. There would also be a requirement for 2 full time equivalent additional technicians and a Rhyl Sixth Manager, who would work closely with the Director of Coleg Llandrillo Rhyl and the Heads of both High Schools.

It is likely that some posts will afford opportunities for re-deployment of staff from the other schools affected. There are formal consultation processes to follow in this respect with stipulated timescales. Options for staff potentially affected by the proposals and changes that may occur as a result may be quite varied and as far as possible the personal wishes of individuals affected will be taken into account. This is a particularly delicate area, which needs to be handled sensitively and directly with individuals and groups concerned. Some of these staff may transfer from the schools for part of their time to deliver AS and A2 courses and fulltime under TUPE arrangements.

The professional skills and specialist expertise of the initial staff cohort will be important to ensure that the best possible education is provided by The Rhyl Sixth from day one. However, it is recognised that The Rhyl Sixth will develop and grow in this respect as it serves an increasing number of young people over the ensuing years.

Size of the Rhyl Sixth

The Rhyl Sixth will have a capacity of 300 young people depending on the type of courses on offer by the Rhyl Sixth.

What benefits as compared with current arrangements?

The Rhyl Sixth will improve the range of AS, A2 and vocational courses for 16-19 year old for the town's young people. It involves the replacement of inefficient courses with extended learning options, centred on Coleg Llandrillo's Rhyl site, delivered by a high quality institution. It is consistent with the Welsh Assembly Government's aim to have no provision lower than grade 2 over the long-term.

The new centre will develop the critical mass required to increase class sizes to acceptable levels and allow a wider choice of student options. In addition, the new centre will attract students who previously travelled to other schools and colleges outside of Rhyl to obtain education.

Curriculum issues

The Rhyl Sixth will:

- Move most post 16 courses from two under performing schools into a new sixth form centre based upon Coleg Llandrillo's Rhyl Campus.
- This will assist Rhyl High School and Blessed Edwards Jones Catholic High School to concentrate upon 11-16 year-old provision. At present 22.1% and 21.2% of Rhyl High and Blessed Edwards Jones leave at 16 with 5 A*-C GCSE's compared to an average for Denbighshire as a whole of 50.8%;

- Some provision will be delivered at Rhyl High School and Blessed Edwards Jones Catholic High School, utilising specialist resources.
- Provide the critical mass to expand the curriculum offering to 30 AS options with a commitment to progress to A2 on the Rhyl Sixth sites together with vocational courses at different levels.
- All 16-19 year-old provision will be controlled and co-ordinated by Coleg Llandrillo, which has a grade 1 quality profile across all of its inspection generic key questions;
- The College will extend its quality review procedures and be responsible for the extension of choice to deliver a total of 30 A level options and 13 vocational pathways to 16-19 year-olds in Rhyl;
- A collaborative working arrangement between the Local Education Authority, Coleg Llandrillo and local schools will be created to oversee progress and to co-ordinate 14-19 year old provision.
- A new sixth form centre will be built, at a cost of £3.5m, attached to Coleg Llandrillo's existing buildings to combine the majority of the existing A level and vocational provision on a single site;
- Sport, Leisure and Public Services will be delivered at Rhyl High School, utilising their existing facilities
- A faith based Welsh Baccalaureate Core element will be delivered at Blessed Edwards Jones.

This result will be a higher quality offering to the young people of Rhyl and a greater number of students remaining in education locally. Student numbers will increase by:

- Expanded choice which will increase the activity per student, in particular through the addition of the Welsh Baccalaureate;
- Increased retention rates improving the effective class size;
- Higher outcomes generating additional attainment units;
- Reduction in the number of NEET students;
- Reduction in the number of students travelling significant distances to other providers.

The overall effect will be higher quality education delivered in a more cost effective manner.

Vocational degrees

Coleg Llandrillo works in association with the University of Wales and delivers a wide range of vocational degrees. Working in partnership with the schools, the Rhyl learning partnership will be able to offer not only 14-19 learning pathways but 14-honours degree pathways. This will put the developments in Rhyl at the forefront of learning pathways developments in Wales.

Every care will be taken to ensure that Coleg Llandrillo Rhyl and The Rhyl Sixth will not be remote institutions but familiar places which most Rhyl High and Blessed Edward Jones learners will aspire to attend. This will be achieved through the close partnership working between the College and the Schools, the support which will be provided to learners from a central “pool” of learning coaches and a commitment to ensuring that school pupils visit the College and make use of the facilities as appropriate, for example the Sustainability Centre.

Outline plans for buildings

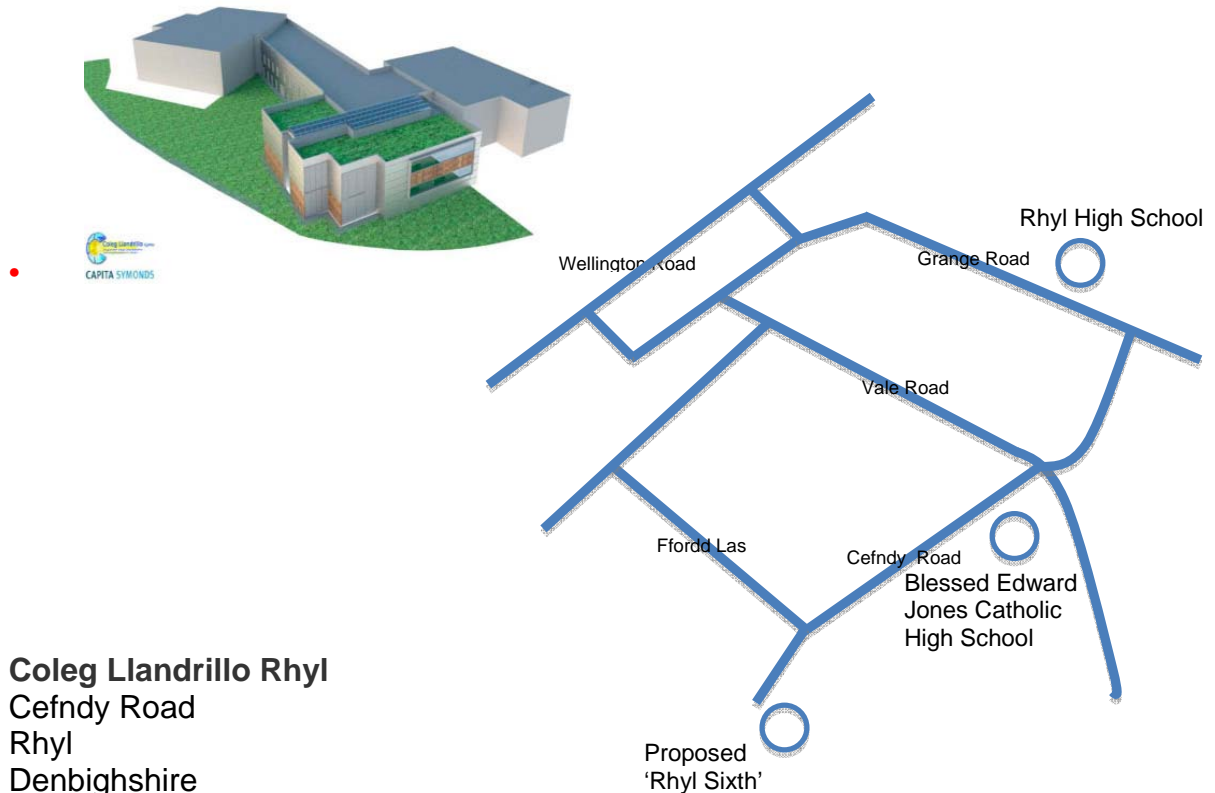
To build a new 6th form centre on the Coleg Llandrillo-Rhyl site. The new building will house classrooms, tutorial rooms, science labs and other specialist resources. This facility will be separate from other college provision, though it will share library, IT and catering facilities with the rest of the college.

Outline estate costs have been identified for the project as follows:

	£
Building Cost ('Rhyl Sixth' Centre at Coleg Llandrillo Rhyl)	2,071,000
BREEAMS (estimate) 15%	310,000
Fees & VAT	714,000
Equipment Costs / refurbishment	350,000
Total	<u>£3,445,000</u>

Date for implementation

Closure of 6th forms at Rhyl High School and Blessed Edward Jones High School by September 2009. New building to be completed on Rhyl College site by September 2010



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Rhyl High and Blessed Edward Jones Student Numbers

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	
Rhyl High	183	220	232	241	231	52	36	Assumes
Conversion rate	28%	28%	28%	28%	28%			50% conversion rate 1st to second year
Future Year 12 students	51	62	65	67	65			This may be too high for existing provision as it increases the current sixth form NEET's are reduced over time
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13			
Year 12	65	67	65	62	51			50% of other schools/employment access the new site
Year 13	26	32	34	32	31			The existing vocational offering continues and takes up the existing transfers to FE.
	91	100	99	94	82			It may be the case that students who travel Eastwards would remain at the new site improving the net present value of the project.
Blessed Edward Jones	101	79	83	88	99	28	17	
Conversion rate	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%			
Future Year 12 students	37	29	31	33	37			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13			
Year 12	37	33	31	29	37			
Year 13	14	18	16	15	15			
	51	51	47	45	52			
Total Sixth Form Students	141	151	146	139	134			
	Rhyl High	BEJ						
NEET	11%	16%						
Conversion to Sixth Form	28%	37%						
Enter into FE education	46%	26%						
Other schools/Employment	15%	21%						
Combined Numbers								
Year 12	101	100	96	91	89			
Year 13	40	51	50	48	45			
Total Sixth Form Students	141	151	146	139	134			
Enrolments per student	A2	3	3	3	3			A2 is taken to be students in year 13. They may take a combination of AS and A2's
	AS	4	4	4	4			AS is taken to be students in year 12.
A2 levels	120	152	150	144	136			

AS levels	405	400	383	363	354
A2 Classes	30	30	30	30	30
Class size	4	5	5	5	5
Retention	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%
Effective Class Size	3	4	4	3	3
CEUs	3,635	4,604	4,546	4,347	4,128
Income	86,559	109,616	108,242	103,514	98,277
Direct cost before co-ordination	202,500	202,500	202,500	202,500	202,500
AS Classes	40	40	40	40	40
Class size	10	10	10	9	9
Retention	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%
Effective Class Size	7	7	7	6	6
CEUs	12,175	12,023	11,498	10,916	10,649
Income	289,897	286,263	273,758	259,909	253,556
Direct cost before co-ordination	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000

- Required amount of classes assumed if same choice were offered over 2 sites compared to the one site. If classes are cut down to improve finances, choice inevitably falls.
- Assumes all 20 options taken up in first year are continued into year 2 at Rhyl site although there would be the potential to combine across sites
- Retention figure for Rhyl High and BEJ not available. Assumption made on low A-C grades Based upon 27 CEUs per A level, all students being from high deprivation wards and 16-19. Attainment units not included with the funding due to successful completion rates being unavailable (although this would offset any students not achieving the weighting factors noted above)
- Assumes 30 options offered, of which 20 are taken up with 10 subjects running two classes

Welsh Bac

Classes

Average Class size

Retention

Effective class size

CEUs

Income

Direct cost before co-ordination

Students undertake the Welsh bac at 6 key skills plus the core element over 2 years

Total income	376,456	395,879	382,000	363,422	351,833
Direct cost before co-ordination	472,500	472,500	472,500	472,500	472,500
Co-ordinators	47,250	47,250	47,250	47,250	47,250
Site manager					
Technicians					
Registry assistant/LEA PLASC time	20,000	20,000	20,001	20,002	20,003
Sickness cover	23,625	23,625	23,625	23,625	23,625
Equipment and materials	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Net provision income/(expense)	(201,919)	(182,496)	(196,376)	(214,955)	(226,545)
Premises costs	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Net income/(expense)	(261,919)	(242,496)	(256,376)	(274,955)	(286,545)
Discounted at treasury rate	(7,483,400)	(6,928,456)	(7,325,022)	(7,855,847)	(8,186,999)
Contact hours + co-ordination	10,395	10,395	10,395	10,395	10,395
Lecturers	13	13	13	13	13

Assumed to be 10% over all periods although likely to be comparatively higher at present given it

is on two sites and involves lower class sizes (i.e. there are more classes to co-ordinate).

Assumed to have no direct cost although in reality there is the opportunity cost effecting

11-16 year old quality

Likely to be higher as a result of 2 sites but left as is

Assumed £30 per sqm for 2000 sqm. Existing provision may incur more space being on two sites, however, for future years the existing sites may not be able to remove all of this premises cost.

1.466666667

Draft 'A Level' courses on offer for The Rhyl Sixth from 2010

Curriculum Area	AS	A2
Business		
Accounts	*	
Business	*	*
Law	*	*
IT	*	*
Creative Industries		
Art and Design	*	*
Art-Fine Art	*	*
Applied Art	*	
Film Studies	*	
Humanities		
Economics	*	*
English Literature	*	
English Language	*	*
Geography	*	
History	*	*
Media (Bilingual)	*	*
RE	*	*
Politics	*	*
Languages		
French	*	*
Spanish	*	*
Welsh	*	*
Science and Technology		
Biology	*	*
Chemistry	*	*
Design Technology	*	*
Electronics	*	*
Engineering	*	*
Environmental Science	*	
Maths: Options will be tailored to demand	*	*
Physics	*	*

Social Sciences		
Critical Thinking	*	*
Psychology	*	*
Sociology	*	*
Sport		
PE	*	*

Plus Vocational Routes in:		
Business		
Secretarial and Administration		
Tourism	*	*
Computing	*	*
Health and Care	*	*
Sport	*	*
Public Services	*	*

Partner Schools

Denbighshire has a very successful and cohesive secondary school community. The Denbighshire 14-19 Network is made up of operational clusters with high schools, special schools, further education colleges and work based training providers. In the north of the county the cluster operates successfully with the following providers:

Rhyl High School

Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School

Ysgol Tir Morfa

North Wales Training

Coleg Llandrillo – Rhyl

Prestatyn High School

Ysgol Glan Clwyd

Coleg Llandrillo-Rhyl has partnership arrangements for vocational course with:

Denbigh High School

Ysgol Brynhyfryd

Ysgol Plas Brondyfryn

Date for Implementation & Project Milestones

It is proposed to open the new The Rhyl Sixth at the beginning of the education year in September 2009 with the new building available from September 2010.

The summary stages and time sequence of this are:

Action/Milestone	Target Achievement Date
Agree Specifications	May '08
Advisory Committee Convened	July '08
Commission Design	Oct '08
Planning Application Submitted	Nov '08
Planning Consent Obtained	Jan '09
Submit for Building Regulations	Jan '09
Tendering Process Completed	April '09
Builders Start on site	June/July'09
Head of Rhyl Sixth Appointed	April '10
Staff Appointed	May '10
Building Works Completed	June/July '10
Building Handover	July '10
Other Staff Appointed	July '10
Services procured and in place	July/August '10
Fully Furnished/Equipped	July/August '10
Open Rhyl 6 th	September '10

	Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Status quo	Schools and teachers not disturbed by changes to status and working routines	A poor performance record continues: progression, retention and improvement unlikely to improve
2		Continuity between school years 11 and 12	Poor value for public money
3		Provision of a post 16 Catholic education	A continuing distraction from the core priority to improve performance at 16
4			Not the best platform for increasing the choice of combining academic and vocational options
5			No sense of excitement or progress
6	An alternative solution for Rhyl schools	Schools and teachers retain current status and some of current working routines	Combination of two currently unsatisfactory provisions unlikely to make one good one
7		Better value for money than separate 6 th forms	Value for money increased only slightly by a group of 120 students
8		Some increase in choice possible	Chances of increasing options to combine with vocational courses increased only slightly
9		Provision of a post 16 Catholic education	Brings planning issues around choice of site and capital support
10			Requires schools' collaboration around timetabling and teaching which has not been achieved in the past
11			A tired compromise for a problem that needs a progressive solution
12	A Prestatyn solution	Builds on the success of Prestatyn High school's 6th form	Exports the ownership of Rhyl's challenge, together with the excitement of seeing its own solution in the town
13		Improves value for money	Not seen as a natural destination for many Rhyl parents and young people
14		Removes Prestatyn's fears of increased competitive pressures from Llandrillo College	Not significantly increasing the chances of combining academic and vocational options

15	College Sixth Form Centre solution	Builds on the College's record of success in A/AS level provision	Schools perceive change to 11-16 designation as loss of status
16		Focuses schools on core priority – achievement at 16	Some teachers lose A/AS level teaching
17		Offers a wide range of choice, benefiting from the College's economies of scale	Negative impact on retention and recruitment (staff and students) on schools
18		Retains the character of a 6th form type provision whilst offering the best opportunity to combine academic and vocational options within one institution	Difficult to deliver discrete faith based 6 th form
19		Offers some opportunities for teachers from schools to continue with A/AS teaching in college	
20		Brings a progressive and exciting solution to bear in Rhyl itself, including new build.	
21		Site and funding already secured	
22		Agreement on capital package amongst partners likely	

Having considered all the options the following analysis is made:

Only the option of a sixth form centre run by Llandrillo College responds to the need to improve progression and achievement now and the need to provide a progressive framework for the future. The sixth forms in Rhyl High School and the Blessed Edward Jones School should be closed and a new sixth form centre opened on the site identified by Llandrillo College site in Rhyl by 2010.

The timeline for change is pressing, both to secure urgently needed improvement for learners and to construct a capital package. If the local authority wishes to take advantage of DELLS funding for the development of a new sixth form centre consultation on new arrangements needs to start in April 2008 to secure the available funding.

Copies of this document and further information can be accessed from the Denbighshire website:

www.denbighshire.gov.uk

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