



'Every child, every chance, every day'  
'Pob plentyn, pob cyfle, pob dydd'

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Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Damian

Governors were pleased to meet with you, Claire Homard and Ian Roberts on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October to discuss federation progress, as well as providing an opportunity for us to explain our reasoning for an area school on one site thus bringing together Lixwm and Brynford schools.

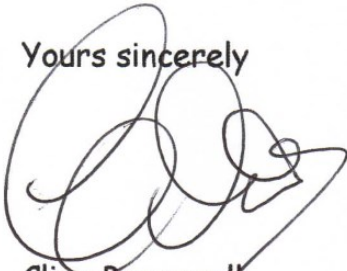
In particular we thank you for being open with us and especially for explaining Lixwm's current thinking. Hopefully you, Claire and Ian found the meeting useful and you will no doubt have appreciated that collectively we have worked together to arrive at the previously communicated conclusion. As promised we will keep the meeting content confidential.

After you had left we had a further discussion and it will come as no surprise to you to learn that we remain committed to the concept of an area school recognising the difficulties this will bring for the community of Lixwm. Our reasons have not changed but for clarity they are detailed below.

1. Federation is likely to cause additional bureaucratic issues, will probably result in a shared headteacher and is, in our view, a step on the road to an eventual amalgamation on one site. Better to miss out the steps, "bite the bullet" now and move on.
2. Brynford School building has many drawbacks and we see a new school (either a new building or an extension to the existing building) as a means to
  - a. address the inadequacies of the current structure and
  - b. potentially incorporate an accessible community facility which is currently impractical given the current layout of the building.
3. Individual Year groups will have more children resulting in the potential for a class to be composed of only one year group.
4. More staff on the **one site** will allow for improved support for them and the opportunity to easily share ideas and strategies to everyone's benefit.

5. Bringing the two schools together now gives certainty and will continue to provide a rural school of a reasonable size that will hopefully have many years of existence.
6. We are committed to the concept of small rural schools. We do not believe that forming one new school will create something that moves us away from the concept of rural schooling.
7. Federation will not achieve the cost savings in the way that merging will.
8. We believe that the additional funding may be politically inspired because of the Welsh Government's lack of a majority and may well prove to be only in place for the short term. If the funding is eventually withdrawn the authority will still be faced with the same problem as now - insufficient funding. This means we are likely to have a re-run of the last couple of years. Better to take a positive forward looking position now which will give security, certainty and stability going forward.

Yours sincerely



Clive Bracewell

Chair Governors/Caderydd y Llywodraethwyr