

Cymunedau **Dysgu** Cynaliadwy

Sustainable Communities for Learning

Welcome to Monmouthshire Council's Spring Sustainable Communities for Learning newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading these updates from the council regarding the new 3-19 school in Abergavenny. You can follow us on [Twitter here](#).

The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is a One Wales commitment and a collaboration between the Welsh Government and Monmouthshire County Council. It is a major, long-term and strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of Sustainable Schools in Wales. You can access our website here:

[Sustainable Communities for Learning - Monmouthshire](#)

Welcome to King Henry VIII 3-19 School

In January County Councillors agreed that the new school's name was to be Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII, King Henry VIII 3-19 School. The decision was made following a poll undertaken in conjunction with Abergavenny Town Council with views of pupils of both Deri View and King Henry VIII schools and the Abergavenny community being sought. The poll indicated that an overwhelming majority wanted the name King Henry VIII to be retained within the name of the new school.



King Henry VIII 3-19 School welcomes its new headteacher

In January we welcomed Jonathan Watson to Monmouthshire and Abergavenny. Jonathan takes up his post as headteacher of our new 3-19 school in September. Jonathan said 'We have been making excellent progress as we plan and prepare for the opening of the new King Henry VIII 3-19 School in September. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting pupils, staff and parents and gaining their thoughts and opinions on what various aspects of our new school will be like. It has also been fantastic to work with the very dedicated Joint Council comprising pupils from the current Deri View Primary School and King Henry VIII School.



We are now utilising all the feedback to design and finalise our school uniform, school logo, and school website. Look out for our announcements very soon! We are also working very hard on producing our new school values which will provide a clear sense of who we are as a school and which will help us make all our decisions. The pupils have really embraced this challenge.

Personally, I have enjoyed designing and consulting on the pedagogical principles for the new school to ensure our vision that all pupils consistently experience high quality teaching, make rapid progress, and achieve academic excellence. This is all underpinned by our unwavering belief in the growth mindset and the limitless capacity for everyone to achieve great things'.

Time Capsule

Pupils from Deri View Primary School created a time capsule to be buried under our new school building. The pupils were tasked with gathering items to let the future know what life was like in 2023 and about the current Deri View Primary School. The Year 5 and Year 6 pupils responded with passion as they produced letters, artwork, handprints and stories. They also enthusiastically collected photos, exercise books and other objects to represent our current times. The pupils were so committed that the hardest job was squeezing everything into the capsule! Kasper, one of the Time Capsule Team said, 'I put glasses and a school bag in the time capsule, and I helped to bury the capsule in the ground'.



The pupils attended a special ceremony to bury the capsule. They excitedly put on their PPE, placed the capsule in the ground, and took it in turns to cover it with soil. They were joined by the Chair of Monmouthshire County Council, Councillor Groucutt and other invited guests to mark this special event. Libby, another member of the team said 'I put a letter and hand-print in the time capsule. I can't wait for someone to open it up in the future and find out what it was like to be a child in 2023'

STEM Ambassadors celebrate International Women's Day

International Women's Day on 8th March saw King Henry's School welcome STEM ambassadors Ayla Hulse and Owen Stacey. For Ayla, an Architectural Technology and Design student at the University of the West of England, currently on a placement year with Morgan Sindall, this was her first experience of speaking to such large groups of pupils. Ayla spoke with passion and clarity to Year 9 and 10 about her education journey, the decisions she made and the positive experiences she has had as a young woman in the construction industry.



Owen then joined Ayla to launch a sustainable design workshop with groups of Year 9 and 10 girls. Each group was challenged to meet their design brief while remaining in budget and fulfilling the requirements of very particular clients! The fantastic group presentations demonstrated creativity and problem solving while showcasing how a construction project could develop from inception through to completion. Watch this space for further female led STEM projects.

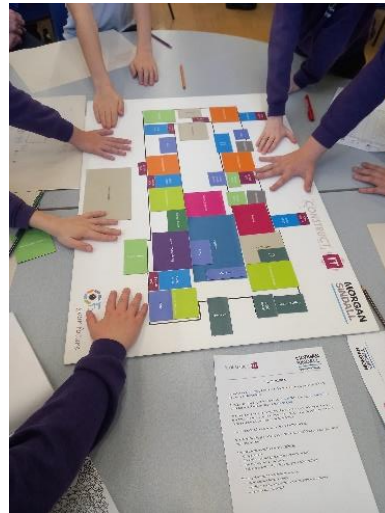
What the Bird's See (A bird's eye view of our new school)

As we moved into Spring dryer conditions, though at times cold, snowy and windy, have allowed progress on the construction of our new school to move apace. The concrete foundation piles are now almost complete, while the reinforced concrete cages that join the piles together start to clearly mark out the footprint of our new school. The steel beams, which are making their short journey from Usk, are currently being bolted to the foundations by a local construction team made up of past King Henry VIII School students! After Easter the full extent of our wonderful new school will be clear for all to see.



School design in safe hands

Year 5 pupils from Deri View Primary School demonstrate that school design can be both ethical and cost effective. In March, Owen and Georgie from Morgan Sindall presented Year 5 with a challenge to design a school that achieved the clients brief while remaining in budget. Teams of Bid Managers, Quantity Surveyors and Designers met the challenge head on, while adding their own creative twist to each design. Gyms, community rooms, wellbeing spaces and AI labs were included in a range of creative and ambitious designs...and all within budget! Owen said 'I love the imagination and creativity the pupils have shown, future design is certainly in safe hands'.



Work experience with the experts

The first cohort of pupils from King Henry School completed their work experience programme with Morgan Sindall this term. The programme introduced pupils to the range of job opportunities within the construction industries as well as covering health and safety on a building site, site visits and even some hands-on problem solving. Scott Morris, the Senior Site Manager for Morgan Sindall said 'They have been an absolute pleasure to work with this term, and hopefully this programme has put them in a good position for their next steps and future careers'. Thank you Scott and we look forward to welcoming further cohorts during the summer term.



Take a virtual walk around King Henry VIII 3-19 School



Meet the Morgan Sindall Operational Team

Meet the Operational Team: If you have any concerns regarding the works, please contact our Morgan Sindall Construction site team below.

Project Director:
Steve Langford: 07966411978



Senior Site Manager:
Scott Morris: 07970846325



Project Manager:
Dafydd Morris: 07890 957963



Logistics Manager:
Gary Corbett: 07811043327



How can you contact us?



For regular updates, you can follow Sustainable Communities for Learning on [Twitter](#), or visit our webpage here: [Sustainable Communities for Learning - Monmouthshire](#) If you still have any questions, you can visit our [FAQs page](#)