

23rd October 2026

Ref: WM/ParentCarerLetter/EndofTermLetter

Dear Families,

I hope you're keeping well.

As you'll know from my letter to you a few weeks ago, it's been a very positive start to the academic year for our pupils and staff across the Federation. It's been a privilege to see pupils enjoy their learning environments. As Executive Headteacher, it has been a genuine pleasure to lead and be part of this process. The planning, focus, resilience and dedication demonstrated by colleagues across both schools have been exceptional.

Riverbank and Woodlands- outstanding new learning environments

The quality of the new accommodation provides Woodlands and Riverbank with an important opportunity to further develop specialist provision.

The internal and external classroom environments are outstanding, providing high-quality spaces that can be adapted to meet the diverse and complex needs of pupils.

Equally important are the additional specialist and intervention spaces. These provide opportunities for more targeted approaches to learning, communication, regulation, therapeutic support and wellbeing.

The external environments also provide significant opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom and to develop pupils' independence, engagement and quality of life.

Developing a genuine campus approach

The transition has also required Woodlands and Riverbank to look beyond their individual school arrangements and develop new ways of working with Cantonian High School as our campus neighbour.

Operating successfully on a shared campus requires strong communication, mutual understanding and collective responsibility, particularly in relation to safeguarding, traffic and transport, site access, visitors, shared spaces and the management of the wider estate.

Ty Gwyn School

The current academic year represents a significant period of growth, transition and change for Ty Gwyn School. The school has successfully accommodated an additional 35 pupils, representing a substantial increase in pupil numbers and placing additional demands on staffing, accommodation, resources, transport and the organisation of specialist provision.

At the same time, the school is managing a complex programme of transition involving the establishment of six additional modular classrooms on the former Woodlands site, alongside preparations for the next stage of development at the former Riverbank site, which is currently being reconditioned in readiness for occupation.

Once complete, the new provision will provide high-quality learning environments designed to meet the needs of pupils. Improvements include four fully refurbished Specialist Resource Base classrooms, dedicated sensory breakout spaces, brand-new toilet facilities, and enhanced outdoor areas with new play equipment. These facilities will provide a modern, welcoming environment that supports both learning and wellbeing.

During the course of the works, contractors have identified a number of additional improvements that require completion. While this is disappointing, it is important that these matters are addressed now to ensure the new facilities are completed to the highest standard and can be used safely by pupils and staff.

Our priority throughout this project has been to minimise disruption for pupils. Extending the programme will allow the remaining work to be completed while pupils continue learning in their current accommodation, avoiding the noise and disruption that would result from moving into a building while construction activity is still ongoing.

As a result, the revised completion date for the project is now February. This additional time will also enable staff to fully prepare the new learning spaces so that everything is in place to give pupils the very best start when they move into their new surroundings.

I have included a link to a letter from the Director of Education in Cardiff Council which will provide you with an update on the project [Letters from the Executive Headteacher. Llythron gan y Pennaeth Gweithredol | Western Learning Federation](#)

School Development Plans- Academic Year 2026-2027

The Federation is now entering Year 3 of its three-year development plan. The significant progress made during Years 1 and 2 means that we are now in a position to sharpen and simplify our strategic focus, with three overarching priorities, with three focused targets beneath each priority.

Across the three schools, these three priorities remain centred upon Leadership; Curriculum, Teaching and Learning; and Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion, while the nine associated targets reflect the individual context, needs and next steps of each school. Please visit the Federation website to access these one page overview for you:

- Western Learning Federation Riverbank School- School Development Plan 2026/2027 Academic Year - [School Development Plans. Cynllun Gweithredu Ysgol | Western Learning Federation](#)
- Western Learning Federation Ty Gwyn School- School Development Plan 2026/2027 Academic Year - [School Development Plans. Cynllun Gweithredu Ysgol | Western Learning Federation](#)
- Western Learning Federation Woodlands School- School Development Plan 2026/2027 Academic Year [School Development Plans. Cynllun Gweithredu Ysgol | Western Learning Federation](#)

I'd like to wish you a wonderful half term break

Wayne Murphy
Executive Headteacher of the Western Learning Federation