Hello

A warm welcome to the second edition of the East Update newsletter, keeping you updated on the changes happening to schools in your area.

We are committed to improving educational standards for your children, through offering the best opportunities, in the best possible teaching environment. Whatever your child’s strengths, we want to provide every pupil with the best possible start in life to help them achieve whatever they want to.

There have been lots of developments since the last newsletter, so we hope you find this edition a useful guide to the changes taking place to your children’s education from September 2013.

Latest news headlines - More details inside

- **Welsh Government announcement** – Minister Leighton Andrews AM will direct Cardiff Council to close Llanrumney High School in August 2013. This follows a Welsh Government consultation in February/March 2013.

- **A New Name** – ‘Eastern High’ was the favourite choice for the new school. A consultation took place on preferred name and school uniform options back in April with parents, pupils, teachers and governors.

- **The new school uniform** – will be available before the start of the new term in September and will be paid for by the schools. Each pupil is entitled to one school uniform (excluding shoes) and one PE kit.

- **The Year 9 event** in March gave pupils from both Llanrumney and Rumney a chance to ask questions and tell teachers how they felt about the changes to their schools.

- **Headteacher to lead new school is appointed** – Ms Karen Gittins has been appointed the new Head Teacher designate of the new Eastern High school, which will open in September 2014. Rumney High School will remain open until 31st August 2014, but will be called Eastern High from September 2013.

- **Site of new school** – A report on shortlisted sites will go to the Council’s Cabinet later this term. The Cabinet will decide which of these shortlisted sites will be included in a community consultation that will follow.
Welsh Government Decision on future of Llanrumney High School

On the 15th May the Welsh Government Minister for Education & Skills, Leighton Andrews AM announced that he would be formally instructing the Council to close Llanrumney High School in August 2013.

A letter dated the 15th May was sent to all of you confirming this announcement.

Prior to the Minister’s consultation, we had already made plans for the future of Llanrumney High and Rumney High Schools and their replacement with a new state-of-the-art secondary school in the east of the city.

The formal closure of Llanrumney in August does not change the plans we already had in place for September to transfer all pupils from Llanrumney High to the Rumney High site. These plans allow for significant investment in the school buildings and for the school to be called Eastern High. All pupils attending Eastern High will be wearing a new uniform from September 2013.

Rumney High School will technically close in August 2014. The new Eastern High school will be formally established from September 2014, initially on the Rumney site until a new school building on a suitable site can be built. It is hoped the brand new school with post -16 provision will open in September 2016 on its permanent site.

We will be in contact shortly with further details about the admission process for the new intake for year 7, arrangements for transferring existing pupils and arrangements for collecting the new uniform.

In the meantime, this newsletter aims to reassure you that that detailed plans are in place to support your children in September. These include transferring teaching and support staff from Llanrumney to Rumney High School, under its new name of Eastern High.

New beginnings

Your views are important to us, and with some exciting times ahead for the area, it’s vital that local communities have an opportunity to let us know your thoughts and suggestions.

In April, we carried out a survey on what you would like the name of the new school to be and preferences for a new school uniform.

We were very encouraged by the response, with 744 pupils, parents, teachers and Governors getting in touch, thank you!

The temporary governing body has now chosen to name the new school ‘Eastern High’, your overall favourite following consultation and the governing body of Rumney High School has adopted this name from this September.
Year 10 and 11 provision for September 2013

Year 9 students from both high schools have been able to choose from a much wider range of subjects this year, with two sources of subject options to choose from:

- those subjects offered in each high school
- the vocational courses offered by the 14-19 Eastern partnership of schools.

Pupils who begin their options in September were able to choose from all the subjects offered by both schools. This has been great news for the pupils, as it has resulted in more choice across a range of subjects and vocational courses from which to pick their favourites.

The pupils have now made their subject choices for next year. As always there were a small number of cases, where lack of demand made subjects unviable, where pupils were offered alternatives.

We are in discussion with the Welsh Government on funding for vocational courses for future years’ options. More details will be provided to you on the range of courses that will be available in due course.

If your son or daughter is already in year 10 and has been studying for their GCSEs in Llanrumney or Rumney High School, they will be able to continue with the subjects they are learning in September, though not necessarily with the same teacher.

Uniformly important!

Uniform is a hot topic for the children, as they spend more time in a uniform than their own clothes, so it’s important that we get this right.

Comfort, style, cost and durability are important, and have played a central role in the choosing of the new uniform. The uniform aims to symbolise and represent the culture and ethos of Eastern High.

The consultation and Year 9 workshop flagged up many different views on what the pupils should wear. Over half preferred a blazer and the overall favourite colour was black.

The final decision, which was agreed by the governing bodies is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys will wear..</th>
<th>Girls will wear..</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Blazer</td>
<td>Black Blazer</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Shirt</td>
<td>White shirt or blouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Tie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black V-neck jumper</td>
<td>Black V-neck jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black trousers</td>
<td>Black skirt or trousers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black shoes</td>
<td>Black shoes</td>
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The schools are covering the costs for each pupil to have one school uniform (excluding shoes) and one PE kit (excluding footwear) for the new school year.

The colour of the school tie will depend on the final school logo and badge, which is currently being designed. Pupils from both schools will be involved in choosing the agreed colours and designs, when they are ready.

We will be writing to you directly to let you know when the uniform is available and how you can collect it, which is likely to be the week beginning 2nd September 2013.
Making friends

The year 9 workshop was the first of many events planned over the coming months, bringing pupils from both school communities together. It provided a great opportunity for pupils to get to know one another, share concerns and to have their questions answered.

We know that it is natural to have concerns and we want to reassure pupils and help them feel positive about the changes that are being made. Here is just a snapshot of what some pupils from both schools had to say:

“Considering we are all going to be together next year it’s a good idea we’ve done this today.

“I already know lots of people from Llanrumney. The game with the straws was good in the morning. I’m looking forward to all the boys from Llanrumney coming over and being with them because I know them already. I’m looking forward to meeting new teachers too, I’m not nervous about it.”

“It’s been good to meet people from different schools, and I do feel like people have listened to what we said.”

“Today has been good to meet different people from other schools.”

Helping pupils get to know each other…

Building relationships between pupils from both school communities is really important. Seeing familiar faces helps make the start of new term easier for pupils from both schools.

Our wide multi agency team, which includes support from third sector partners including Communities First, is committed to supporting you and your children through change and transition. Together we have designed a number of different events and activities to take place over the next few months. These events will help support the process of building friendships, getting to know teachers and for pupils to familiarise themselves with the revised layout of the Rumney High School site, planned over the coming months.

Many of the activities will be in school time, and many will take place outside school hours over the school summer holidays. Some of these activities include:

- **Community Cohesion** – A Peer Mediation and Mentoring training programme has been put together to support staff and vulnerable groups from both school communities. The support will be available before summer and throughout the year.

- **Site visits** – pupils will be given the opportunity to get to know the layout of the Rumney site and meet teachers beforehand during summer term.

- **Parent Evenings** – through the summer term parents and carers will be invited along to the school site to have a look around, chat with staff and have questions answered.

More details on these events will be made available from your children’s school soon.

**Buddying up in September**

From September, your son or daughter will be an Eastern High pupil.

To make sure they settle into in the school as quickly as possible, a peer mentoring scheme ‘Buddy Up’ will begin in September.

This scheme gives each new pupil an opportunity to ‘buddy up’ with someone who is familiar with the school and knows their way around the site. The ‘buddy’ will be somebody the pupil can trust and who can answer any questions they may have.
Karen Gittins is appointed Headteacher designate of the new Eastern High school

A headteacher with a track record of raising standards and experience of overseeing new schools has been appointed as the headteacher designate of the new Eastern High school which will open in September 2014.

There were many high calibre candidates for the new post, but after very careful consideration Ms Karen Gittins was selected as the perfect choice for the new designate position.

Ms Gittins is currently Executive Principal of the Gainsborough Federation and is responsible for two schools in Lincolnshire - Aegir Community School and Warren Wood Community School.

Ms Gittins is North Wales-born, but she’s already familiar with the city as she studied for her BA degree at Cardiff University. She has vast experience in raising standards, developing leadership potential, positive behaviour management and effective monitoring and assessment.

Ms Gittins said “I am absolutely delighted to be returning home to Wales to lead the new Eastern High school which will play a hugely significant role in transforming the education provision for learners and the wider community in Cardiff East.

I look forward to working with students, staff, parents and a range of partners in shaping provision to raise standards as we prepare for a new, purpose-built learning environment which will be a flagship facility in the city.”

Ms Gittins will begin her role this coming September to prepare the ground for the new school that will open under her leadership in September 2014. Ms Gittins will be working with Rumney headteacher Gareth Cooke, who will continue to manage his school during the coming academic year.

Mr Cooke said “I am looking forward, along with my senior leadership team in welcoming Ms Gittins in developing the Educational Improvement Partnership and planning a brand new school building for our pupils 2016.”

We will bring you further updates on progress over the next few months.
Youth Centres are right on your doorstep

Finding somewhere to go and have fun can sometimes be difficult for young people, but in the east of the city there’s a selection of youth centres right on your doorstep.

A total of three youth centres are conveniently located in the communities in the East, each with activity programmes and support tailored for young people aged 11 – 18.

Offering a range of activities throughout the week, Youth Workers are there not only to provide and organise activities young people want to take part in, but are also there to offer information, support and guidance with education, training, health, relationships, substance misuse as well as offering emotional support to young people.

To find out more pick up the phone or call in to any of your local Youth Centres:
- Llanrumney Youth Centre - Ball Road, Llanrumney, CF3 9YW. 029 2077 8931
- Rumney Youth Centre - Llananffan Road, Rumney, CF3 3JA. 029 2077 9365
- St Mellons Youth Centre - Crickhowell Road, St Mellons, CF3 0EF. 029 2077 8667

Each centre offers a warm, safe and welcoming environment for young people. Find out more at www.cardiff.gov.uk/youth

Get in touch

If you have a question or want to tell us what you think, please get in touch with us directly and we’ll do our best to answer you. You can call us on 029 2087 2720 or e-mail schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk

You can follow us on twitter @CardiffCouncil for all updates from Cardiff Council. More info is also available at www.cardiff.gov.uk/schoolsproposal

We are happy to provide this document in a different language or format. Please contact us on the above number or email and we will arrange for you.

www.cardiff.gov.uk/schoolsproposal