

# APPENDIX 7

## SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### EDUCATION QUALITY INVESTIGATION

#### SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS OF CLYWED WHEN QUESTIONING PUPILS

**CLYWED** (Bontnewydd Home) questioned Year 11 pupils in the 6 schools who were part of the investigation into the quality of education, except for Ysgol Eifionydd.

For various reasons, it was not possible to make arrangements to question Year 11 at Ysgol Eifionydd, and Year 11 pupils at Ysgol y Berwyn were questioned in their place. Ysgol y Berwyn is in a category similar to Ysgol Eifionydd, a school that has shown an improvement, therefore it is unlikely that this has impaired on the conclusions in any way.

The same questions were asked to the pupils of the 6 schools in order to ensure consistency in the questions.

#### **MAIN FINDINGS**

##### **What makes a good education?**

- Good teachers. Usually good teachers listen, are organised and maintain interest and enthusiasm.
- Consistency in terms of teachers
- School size – a school that is not too large is advantageous and promotes recognition between teachers and pupils
- Having a sixth form is beneficial to the school
- A happy school – more than just formal education.
- Order in the classroom – not sitting with friends leads to better concentration
- An organised school with procedures in place in order to ensure that the pupils achieve.
- Lessons and after-school clubs of assistance to raise standards
- Respect between the teachers and pupils

## **What has an impact on the quality of education?**

- Teachers who are about to retire usually underperform and have lost interest in their subject
- Teachers marking work too generously. Then finding out that it is too late as the actual achievement standard is not good enough for GCSE.
- The poor performance of some departments lead to private lessons that mean better results than the education standard of the school merits.
- Teachers teaching a subject that it different to their core subject.
- More difficult for a weak school to retain good teachers – vicious circle.
- Additional lessons after school can be good but if the teacher is a poor teacher anyway giving additional lessons will not necessarily mean that they will be beneficial.

## **Mathematics**

- Mathematics is a difficult subject.
- More emphasis needed on the basic principles.
- The basic principles have to be understood or there will never be an understanding.
- Mathematics is taught in a boring way.
- Mathematics need to be streamed in other subjects.
- Understand the value of Mathematics in the real world and make it more practical.
- Afraid to ask for help and say that they do not understand.
- Spending more time learning Mathematics is a good thing.
- Improving skills in Mathematics in Primary.
- Too many changes in teachers lead to different teaching methods and complexity.
- The ability of pupils within a class can vary greatly. Teachers need to understand this and tailor the lessons to the pupils' range of abilities.

## **CONCLUSION**

Questioning the pupils have not given us conclusions that are basically different to those the investigation has already learnt from the Head teachers, Parent-governors and experts in the field.