

Schools switch on to e-reports for pupils

by KATE CORNEY

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PARENTS in Neath and Port Talbot are to start receiving their child's school report electronically thanks to a new computer system.

All secondary schools in the county have signed up to the new system, Lisol Pathways, which will email the reports. The aim is to save teachers' time and give parents greater access to school information.

It will also enable teachers to set and mark work anywhere via the Internet through the system's virtual learning environment.

Teachers hope to expand the service to allow parents to log on to the Internet to ensure their children have arrived at school safely, and to help them with their homework.

Cefn Saeson Comprehensive in Neath is one of 11 schools using the technology.

The school's ICT manager Sean Foley, said: "It will save teachers' time and make target-setting more convenient for staff.

"This is the first move towards a paperless administration, which has lots of ecological and environmental benefits too.

"Staff will be able to input and access data, and write reports, from anywhere.

"It will also allow us to send



ONLINE REPORTS: Cedric Burden, deputy headteacher of Dyffryn Comprehensive School in Margam, Port Talbot (pictured right) with IT specialist Michael Borland and Year 10 pupils Natasha Rogers and Jake Thomas

end-of-the-year school reports electronically to parents who wish to receive them that way."

Teachers hope parents with Internet access will take advantage of this.

An electronic register to help cut truancy is also being developed.

Dyffryn Comprehensive School in Margam first used the system last year.

Deputy headteacher Cedric Burden said: "The great thing about Pathways is that teachers can track a pupil's achievement online.

"It makes virtual links within the

school and with the outside world, giving real benefits."

Helen Atton, business manager at Welsh IT specialist Lisol, said: "The software will offer Neath Port Talbot significant time savings in the computerisation of pupil records and reporting."