

WELSH BACCALAUREATE & SKILLS NEWSLETTER



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WJEC Updates

WJEC will be holding Welsh Bacallaureate Annual Conferences in October: Cardiff October 4th, Llandudno October 9th and Swansea 18th. A choice of workshops will be available as well as contributions from H.E and organisations.

Visit <http://www.wjec.co.uk/teachers/teacher-support/face-to-face-courses-for-teachers/> for further information.

Updated versions of Advanced and KS4 Delivery Handbooks are now available on <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/welsh-bacallaureate>, post-16 Foundation and National Delivery Handbooks together with Administration Handbook will be available shortly.

Learner Experiences

Electrical Installation learners studying National Level Welsh Bacallaureate at Coleg Sir Gâr carried out the Community Challenge in conjunction with the local Scout group in Llanelli to help them achieve their Electronic Activity Badge. They prepared resources on recognising electrical symbols, understanding the function of basic components, soldering resistors in a circuit and measuring volts, resistance and current. The activities were a great success - all the scouts achieved their badge and the students excelled themselves, performing tasks responsibly and engaging positively with the scouts.



First Give

As an introduction to their Welsh Bacallaureate lessons, Cynffig Comprehensive pupils in Year 10 have taken part in an exciting project with First Give, an organisation who are passionate about young people linking with their local areas, understanding social issues and making a real difference. Prize money for the winning group's charity was £1,000 with second and third place winning £250 each. In groups, pupils had to choose a local charity that was

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important to them, make a professional telephone call to the charity to register their interest as well as arrange to meet a representative from the charity to find out more about their work. During the lessons, pupils learnt how to design and deliver an effective presentation about the work of their charities, vying to become the class winners and go forward to the school final. When the six finalists were chosen, First Give representatives returned to school to deliver a workshop where the groups had a chance to gather some useful hints and tips on their presentations before the big final. This workshop also coincided with #iwillweek, encouraging pupils to carry out social action and pledge their support on social media. On Tuesday 29th November, representative from the following charities attended the evening in Cynffig Comprehensive Main Hall – Emmaus (homeless charity), Advocacy Support (mental health charity), Calan DVS (a charity for victims of domestic abuse), Latch (a children's cancer charity), CISS (a cancer charity) and Prostrate Cymru. Also in attendance was Mr Tim Pare, Director of First Give who came to Wales to witness the inaugural school final in Wales. The esteemed judging panel consisted of Mrs Castle, Mrs Morrison, Head Boy Tom Howe, Stephen Pare - Priest in Charge, The Parish of Llansantffraid, Bettws and Aberkenfig, John Bothamley – Trustee of First Give and Mari-Wyn Elias-Jones – Development Manager for Community Foundation in Wales. Although the pupils were very nervous on the night to present to so many people in an audience comprising of the charities, parents, teachers and friends, all groups did an incredible job and tears were even shed in the audience as the groups truly captured the emotion that these charities deal with on a daily basis. The judges' deliberations took longer than expected however, everyone in the hall agreed that they had an incredibly tough job. The eventual winners were Latch, winning £1000 to help them continue the fantastic work they do, second and third places went to Calan DVS and Prostrate Cymru. Everyone in attendance agreed that the pupils excelled themselves in their maturity and dedication to representing their charities. Year 10 pupils have the opportunity to link with these charities once more during their Community Challenge in Welsh Baccalaureate in the summer term and Year 9 will be completing Cynffig's second First Give programme in June.

Year 7 pupils took part in their introduction to Welsh Baccalaureate skills with a First Give challenge on Tuesday 11th July at Pen y Dre High School. The Merthyr Mayor, Dawn Bowden (AM), Lynne Sheehy (CSR Manager of Legal and General), Mr Jacklin (Assistant Head) and the Head boy and Head girl all judged presentations on local charities by year 7 pupils. The winning team (pictured) ASD Rainbows won the first prize cheque of £1000 for the Autistic Spectrum Disorder. They instructed judges to write the alphabet backwards whilst the team bashed their tables to distract them; the idea was to show the audience what an autistic person experiences when they concentrate. £250 was given to Teenage Cancer Trust and the Brecon Beacons Mountain Rescue team. Teams worked hard with Leon, from First Give, to stop their on-stage habits; when nervous, students



have a habit of shaking their legs and playing with their hair. All teams delivered a stellar performance in front of a tough panel of judges, students and charity representatives. Each student was awarded with a certificate of participation that they can hang proudly from their walls. The pupils gained skills in literacy, digital literacy, team work and creativity and innovation as well learning about the valuable work charities, both local and national do in Wales and UK.

Hawarden High School does the double!

For the second year running pupils have raised a staggering amount for a local children's charity. Watch out Sir Alan Sugar – Hawarden High School don't have a boardroom full of potential entrepreneurs- they have a whole year group! Hope House Children's Hospices tasked the students to come up with an innovative fundraising event, activity or service which would see them double, triple or even quadruple the £10 investment that the charity invested in each team as part of the Hope House Dragon's Lair Challenge.

The students had to apply to be in a team, looking at what skills they could bring to the team, they had to carry out SWOT analysis and research before deciding on which idea would be worthy to pitch to a panel of local business representatives who would take on the role of the 'Dragons'.

"I was so nervous before going in to pitch to the Dragons" explained one student, "I had never done anything like that before, as a team our idea was strong and I knew it would be successful but we had to convince the dragons to invest in us. They gave us great feedback and we got our £10 investment which meant we could buy the resources we needed to run our activity".

The students were supported by staff and held an extravaganza at the school which was attended by members from the local community and the local primary schools. The extravaganza was filled with stalls and activities ranging from the All American food stall to the Tape the Teacher to the wall activity!

Last year Hawarden High School raised over £3,000 through this same initiative and they didn't imagine they could ever 'do the double'. However their year 10 students were determined to raise as much money as they could for the charity that provide specialist nursing care and support to local children and their families. Needless to say the school were thrilled to present a cheque of £3,171.03 to Hope House at a recent presentation assembly.



A spokesperson from Hope House said 'We cannot thank Hawarden High School for their continued support – this is a fabulous amount to have raised and we are completely blown away by the professionalism and determination these young people have shown through-out this challenge, we hope they feel a huge sense of pride as this money will go directly to care for local children with life limiting medical conditions”.

Bryn Celynnog at Cardiff Museum

As part of the Enterprise and Employability Challenge for the Welsh Baccalaureate at KS4, pupils of Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School have been busy completing the Challenge set by the National Museums to create a product for 1 of the 7 Museum shops.

On Thursday 2nd March, 8 successful teams were invited to the Museum in Cardiff to pitch their final ideas to a panel made up of Jo Collins (Cardiff Museum) Kate Dumbleton (Jewellery Designer) Sara Davies and Emma Vincent (Regional Support Officers for the WJEC).

On arrival at the Museum, pupils were greeted by students from Cardiff and Vale College. They

were given the opportunity to set up their Visual Displays and Prototypes in the main foyer of the Museum before facing the panel one group at a time to Pitch their chosen product.



Competition was tough between groups with each team trying to convince the panel that their product was the one that should be seen on the shelves of the chosen Museum. As the morning progressed, the general public were invited to visit each display and vote for the 'People's Choice'. Teams worked hard to convince the public that their product was indeed the best. The public commended on the enthusiasm, knowledge and maturity shown by the pupils of Bryn Celynnog.



Head of Welsh Baccalaureate at Bryn

Celynnog, Mrs C Davies said ‘the Challenge set out by the Museum has allowed our pupils to understand Enterprise and Employability in the real world. Our pupils have developed skills of Creativity and Innovation, Personal Effectiveness and Digital Literacy. They have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity they have had to visit the Museum.

Delivery of Skills Challenge Certificate First Cohort by Alistair Stubbs Elfed High School

One of the first things that we did with the new Skills Challenge Certificate was to ensure that its status was secured within school. As a key performance indicator in the future it was always going to be important that, strategically, we aligned delivery with that of English and Mathematics, in terms of importance. Our Welsh Baccalaureate Co-ordinator is also our Deputy Headteacher (from September) and this ensures that timetabling and interventions can be implemented as required. Looking at the guided learning hours it was clear that the Skills Challenge Certificate needed to be allocated the same amount of teaching time as any other GCSE subject. We have therefore timetabled 3 x 50 minute lessons per week. In terms of the teaching staff delivering the qualification we recognised the need to use some of our most effective and experienced teachers, focussing carefully on the skills required in the Skills Challenge Certificate. This meant that these lessons were often allocated to staff as the first part of their teaching commitment.

Our experience of delivering the Skills Challenge Certificate has been extremely positive. The staff involved have embraced it and the students have really enjoyed it, identifying Skills Challenge lessons amongst their favourite. The skills that have been developed are clear to see from effective teamwork and presentation in the Enterprise and Employability Challenge, to the standpoints and assessing credibility in the Global Citizenship Challenge.

The freedom of the Individual Project ensured a real engagement from all students and the outcomes produced were of an exceptional standard, in many cases. The biggest challenge was ensuring a ‘detailed and effective’ response and yet remaining within the word count.

One of the most important decisions that we made was to ensure that the challenges identified were engaging and allowed students to demonstrate their creativity and innovation. Ensuring a profit motive in the enterprise task was key, rather than adopting a social enterprise challenge.

We have found aspects of the Community Challenge difficult and this is definitely the area that we will be looking to develop this year. The logistics of the 10-hour participation are challenging and the restricted access to ICT facilities, which I am sure is a feature in other schools, makes the digital aspect and upload extremely difficult to facilitate.

The best thing about the qualification is its clear focus on skills development and our students are more creative, confident, independent learners as a result of studying towards this qualification. The status given to it and the enthusiasm of the staff delivering it has been key to its success. The commitment on the timetable demonstrates its place to staff and students alike and has ensured a positive approach to all. I can’t imagine how it could be possible to deliver the qualification in any other way.

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Educational Resources

Your Assembly is excited to announce a range of new educational resources to coincide with the Welsh



Baccalaureate qualification. You can browse through packs for pupils and teachers for the Global Citizenship Challenge, resources and useful facts, including briefing papers for the individual research project on the [Your Assembly website](#).

Education Officers are happy to facilitate and assist with elements of the Welsh Baccalaureate by raising awareness and understanding of democracy,

citizenship, politics and the work of the National Assembly for Wales. [Contact us for more information!](#)

Ysgol David Hughes with Bethan Rhys Roberts, BBC in Siambr Hywel.

KS4 - Community Challenge

Are you searching for a [challenge](#) for your students? Why not provide them with an opportunity to be trained by the Assembly's Education and Youth Engagement team? This will enable them to deliver workshops to inform and educate other young people about the National Assembly for Wales and its work. It provides a great opportunity for young people to contribute their opinions on issues being debated by Assembly Members and to gain a Young Assembly Ambassador Badge. To book and discuss please email yourassembly@assembly.wales



The Assembly's Education and Youth Engagement Officers are available to deliver a skills workshop and information about the Assembly. If you would like for an Outreach Education Officer to visit your school or college, please phone 0300 200 6565, or email yourassembly@assembly.wales.

Why not arrange a [Global Citizenship Challenge conference](#) to help refine your students' research and debating skills? To book Siambr Hywel, our purpose-built debating chamber, and to discuss your topic for debate, please [contact us](#).

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Welsh Baccalaureate Conference at University of Wales Trinity St David

A hundred Year 12 students from Ysgol Gyfun Gymunedol Penweddig, Aberystwyth and Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn, Newcastle Emlyn, took part in a one-day Welsh Baccalaureate Conference at the Lampeter Campus of the University of Wales Trinity St David on 4 July.



UWTSD Lecturer Andy Bevan explains, “The purpose of the day was to provide some “blue sky thinking” to help Year 12 students to choose their Individual Project Titles for next year and I think that was achieved.”

The Conference theme was Global Citizenship, drawing on the expertise of UWTSD academic staff to focus on the Individual Project element of the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Qualification. After an introductory plenary session, participants chose workshop sessions from a range of topics including Global Health, Women and Water in Rural Kenya, Climate Change, Women and Islam, Heritage Studies and Poverty. Cat Jones, Head of Partnership at Hub Cymru Africa, was guest speaker at the Conference. The final session included tips on *Ideas, Sources and Referencing*.



Dylan Williams, Welsh Baccalaureate Co-ordinator at Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn commented, “The pupils enjoyed the thought provoking lectures they attended, and we spent an hour when we got back to school discussing with individuals possible areas they could now look to investigate further. Exactly what we were hoping to get out of the day!”

Teleri Roberts is a Year 13 student at the Alun School, Mold in Flintshire. She has been accepted to study Veterinary Science at Liverpool University. Teleri has studied Biology, Maths, Chemistry and Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate in Sixth Form. As part of her Community Challenge Teleri ran “Zoo Club” in school. “My biology department has amazing creatures that we can let the children look and learn from and I was able to deliver mini lessons to lower school pupils to help them understand the importance of looking after animals properly”.

Teleri’s Individual Project was based on “Designer Dogs”. Teleri said “I spent a lot of time looking at the courses I wanted to apply for before I



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finalised my title. I wanted to research something I was really interested in and I knew would make my application stand out. I went for interviews at Liverpool, Bristol, Nottingham and Edinburgh. At each interview the panel were really impressed with the research I had done for my Individual Project and the terminology I was able to use. They told me the topic I had chosen was a current issue for vets. I have no doubt that my Welsh Bacc helped me secure a place at uni. I was made several offers but accepted Liverpool as my first choice”.