



# GCSE 2015 / PISA Bulletin

## Introduction

In preparation for the introduction of new GCSEs in Welsh First Language, English and Maths in September 2015 (and Science in 2016), Welsh Government invited the four regional Consortia to apply for funding. GwE's application was successful and funding was confirmed for the financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16.

This is the fourth GwE 'GCSE 2015 / PISA' bulletin to keep schools informed of the developments to date and future developments in relation to the 'GCSE 2015 / PISA' project together with other related developments.

## Developments to date

The 'Lead Schools' for the region in the four core subjects are:

- **English: Ysgol Bryn Elan** (Lead Practitioner: **Louise Wallace**)
- **Mathematics: Ysgol Eirias** (Lead Practitioner: **Zoe Evans**)
- **Welsh: Gwynedd Cluster (Ysgol Botwnnog/Ysgol Tryfan/Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen)** (Lead Practitioners: **Tegwen Llwyd / Esyllt Maelor / Cheryl Roberts / Jeni Lyn Morris / Dafydd Roberts**)
- **Science: Ysgol yr Alun** (Lead Practitioner: **Andy Rees**)

To ensure Maths and Science materials are fully bilingual and that they have a Welsh dimension, Ysgol Glan Clwyd is working with Ysgol Eirias with regard to Maths, whilst Anglesey schools are working with Ysgol Alun with regard to Science.

The first 'wave' workshops for GCSE Welsh, English and Maths took place in February. Feedback received was very positive and comments made by those who attended were very appreciative of the training and the resources produced by the 'Lead Schools'.



The attendance at the workshops was excellent - a few of the schools were unable to attend for valid reasons.

<b>Number of secondary schools in the Region = 55</b>	<b>Welsh</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Maths</b>
Number of schools that attended the workshops:	24	52 (95%)	52 (95%)

An analysis of the evaluation sheets shows that at least 92% (and for the majority of statements 100%) of attendees agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:

<b>% age of attendees who agreed/strongly agreed with the statements below for each subject workshop:</b>	<b>Welsh</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Maths</b>
The objectives of the training were clearly defined	100%	97%	92%
Participation and interaction were encouraged	100%	99%	96%
The topics covered were relevant to me	100%	100%	96%
The content was organised and easy to follow	100%	100%	98%
The materials distributed were helpful	100%	100%	96%
This training experience will be useful in my work	100%	100%	98%
The trainer was knowledgeable about the training topics	100%	100%	100%
The trainer was well prepared	100%	100%	100%
The training objectives were met	100%	98%	94%

## Future Developments

A 'Platform' commissioned by GwE, on which the resources / materials will be placed, has developed and it is hoped that the 'Platform' will be 'live' by the end of March.

Further workshops for Welsh and English will be held in June 2015.

A further workshop for Maths will be held during the autumn term 2015-16.

Workshops for Science will begin during the autumn term 2015-16.

During the summer term 2014-15, the 'Lead Practitioners' for Maths and Science will be available to support individual schools / clusters of schools. If you wish to arrange support, please contact the following:

**Maths:** Zoe Evans (Ysgol Eirias) [zes@eirias.conwy.sch.uk](mailto:zes@eirias.conwy.sch.uk)

**Science:** Andy Rees (Ysgol Alun) [andrew.rees@alun.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:andrew.rees@alun.flintshire.sch.uk)

During 2015-16, the 'Lead Schools' will:

- Continue to produce exemplar resources / materials
- Ensure that resources / materials are uploaded onto the 'Platform'
- Run further 'workshops'
- be available to support individual schools / clusters of schools

## Other Developments

### 1) The Welsh Baccalaureate:

GwE is supporting schools in preparation for the introduction of the revised Welsh BAC in September 2015 and this support includes the following:

- Four 'Lead Practitioners' have been appointed to lead the developmental work
  - **Hywel Parry: Ysgol John Bright**
  - **Gwenno Jarvis: Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy**
  - **Catherine Jones: Ysgol Glan Clwyd**
  - **Gill Ovens: John Summers High School**
- Four working groups formed - each group tasked with developing exemplar learning schemes for the 3 'Challenges': Community Challenge / Global Citizenship Challenge / Enterprise and Employability Challenge and the Individual Project.
- Resources group has identified existing suitable web-based resources to use for skills development.
- Local Authority Welsh BAC Co-Ordinators groups have been created.
- A Regional Welsh BAC Group has been created which includes representatives from each Local Authority Welsh BAC Group
- A Regional Conference has been organised for 15 May 2015. The aim of the Conference is to share resources produced by the working groups. To register for the Conference please contact:

Llinos Egan-Fretwell: [llinosegan-fretwell@gwe.org.uk](mailto:llinosegan-fretwell@gwe.org.uk)

All resources produced will be placed on a 'Platform' which is currently being developed

### 2) Phase 1 implementation of the curriculum and assessment review:

Between now and the end of the summer term support will be available for the schools in the region to prepare for implementing Phase 1 of the Revised Programmes of Study, which will be statutory in September 2015. GwE will continue to use progressive schools and practitioners to lead on this work. Support for the Programmes of Study will be as follows:

- **Welsh/English/Literacy: Elan Davies, Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy**
- **Mathematics/Numeracy: Gemma Hawkins Ysgol John Bright**

Dates for sessions to support schools to implement Phase 1 of the Revised Programmes of Study have since been shared with schools. These sessions will be led by the 'Lead Practitioners' from Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy and Ysgol John Bright. The Heads of Welsh, English and Mathematics departments or KS3 Literacy and Numeracy are the target audience. To register for these sessions, please contact:

Heddwen Vaughan Roberts [heddwenvaughanroberts@gwe.org.uk](mailto:heddwenvaughanroberts@gwe.org.uk)

### 3) PISA style questions:

Ninety PISA style questions in Science, Mathematics and reading, commissioned by Welsh Government, are available on 'Hwb' for students and teachers to try. These questions are entirely computer based. To use these questions please visit the 'Hwb' site:

<https://hwb.wales.gov.uk/>

### 4) PISA Study

The 6<sup>th</sup> PISA Study is due to take place in November 2015. A representative sample of schools from across Wales will be selected by the OECD to take part in the Study.

The selected schools will be invited to take part in the Study by RM, who will be administering the main Study in Wales, England and Northern Ireland. The Recruitment Process began on 2 February and will be completed by 22 July 2015.

Schools are requested to inform GwE if they have been selected to take part in the study. If you have been selected and have not yet informed GwE, please could you do so by contacting:

Peter Maddocks [petermaddocks@gwe.org.uk](mailto:petermaddocks@gwe.org.uk)

### 5) IRIS

As part of the 'GCSE 2015 / PISA project', GwE has purchased 'IRIS connect' for twelve secondary schools across North Wales. 'IRIS Connect' has also been purchased for six primary schools across the region (each one located within the catchment area of a Secondary School receiving 'IRIS'). The intention is for teachers to use 'IRIS' to reflect on their teaching, improve teaching and learning and share good practice

## Dates for the diary

- GCSE 2015 /PISA project workshops:**

It is requested that the Heads of Department for Welsh and English put the date of the appropriate workshop in their diaries.

Welsh:				
Date:	Lead School:	Hub:	am/pm:	Location:
19.6.15	Ysgolion Botwnnog/ Dyffryn Ogwen/Tryfan	Gwynedd/Môn/Conwy/ Dinbych/Wrecsam/Fflint	9.15-3.30*	St George's Hotel Llandudno LL30 2LG

English:				
Date:	Lead School:	Hub:	am/pm:	Location:
16.6.15	Ysgol Bryn Elan	Wrexham/Flint	9.15-3.30*	
18.6.15	Ysgol Bryn Elan	Conwy/Denbigh	9.15-3.30*	Optik, St. Asaph, Denbigh
26.6.15	Ysgol Bryn Elan	Gwynedd/Môn	9.15-3.30*	Tŷ Menai, Parc Menai, Bangor, Gwynedd

\* Lunch will be provided

- Welsh Baccalaureate Regional Conference:**

**Friday 15 May 2015, Imperial Hotel, Llandudno**

To disseminate resources produced and share good practice

To register for the Conference please contact:

Llinos Egan-Fretwell: [llinosegan-fretwell@gwe.org.uk](mailto:llinosegan-fretwell@gwe.org.uk)

For further details about information contained in this bulletin, please contact:

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