



GwE Bulletin

COLLABORATING
LEARNING
SUCCEEDING



Please share our **BULLETIN** with the whole staff team in your school and encourage all your colleagues to subscribe to our **MAILING LIST**.



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM GwE

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for the tremendous work undertaken during this term. I must congratulate you on the way that you've gone about ensuring that the pupils and students under your care have had the best education possible.

We also fully appreciate the considerable challenges ahead especially those around managing the impact of budget settlements. As you may know, we have been gathering your views through the Headteacher Federations and have been asking three broad questions:

- What's working well and worth keeping?
- What doesn't work as well and needs to be changed or cut?
- Are there things that GwE should be doing that's not currently offered?

We will continue with this discussion in the new year and will consider possible options as we form the future direction of the service in the light of the budgetary challenges. I can assure you that we will do our utmost to support you in any way, and I'm certain we can face up together to any future challenges.

Should you wish to discuss any matter over the holidays, please contact Euros Davies or Elfyn V Jones.

I hope that you all have a very peaceful, restful and safe Christmas, and the opportunity to spend some valuable time with your family, friends and loved ones.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Arwyn H Thomas

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GwE Support Centre



GwE Professional Offer



@GwEGogledddCymru



GwE Gogledd Cymru



CONFERENCES

Purpose of Feedback Conference



23/02/2024



Kinmel Manor, Abergele


Michael Chiles, Author of *The Feedback Pendulum*

We have invited Michael Chiles to North Wales - deputy headteacher, educator [ages 3-16] and author of *The Feedback Pendulum*.

Michael will address a Conference on the Purposes of Feedback for school Pedagogy leaders [all sectors].

This is a great opportunity for you to gain inspiration from a day immersed in a keynote speech and opportunities to explore the purposes of feedback, planning for feedback alongside pedagogy and progress and using the best tools for the planned outcome.


[Full details available here.](#)

ANGLESEY AND
GWYNEDD SCHOOLS

DENBIGHSHIRE AND
CONWY SCHOOLS

FLINTSHIRE AND
WREXHAM SCHOOLS

ASD Resources Launch with Mike Gershon

SUPPORTING AUTISTIC LEARNERS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MAINSTREAM CLASSROOMS

We have international educational consultant, Mike Gershon, joining us at three different venues across the region in January, to launch an innovative new suite of resources to help mainstream classroom teachers better understand autism and what they and their school can do to best support autistic learners within their classes. The resources have been designed to support mainstream primary and secondary classroom teachers who teach one or more autistic learners within universal provision.

[Click here for further information.](#)


16/01/2024 | 9:15-13:15



Galeri, Caernarfon


[REGISTER](#)


17/01/2024 | 9:15-13:15



Venue Cymru


[REGISTER](#)


18/01/2024 | 9:15-13:15



Wrexham University


[REGISTER](#)


A Mathematics workshop for Primary & Secondary teachers

Craig Barton is returning to North Wales to lead this mathematics workshop on effective teaching and learning strategies for primary and secondary practitioners.

The workshop will look at:

- practical strategies for identifying, prioritising and assessing relevant prior knowledge for any new idea and how to respond to these assessments
- how we explain and model new ideas to our learners
- effective techniques for modelling and worked examples
- using principles of atomisation, variation and direct instruction to give our students the very best chance of understanding key ideas.

Places are limited, and will be allocated to the first people who register.



01/02/2024



8:45-15:30



Venue Cymru, Llandudno


[REGISTER](#)



GwE PROFESSIONAL OFFER

We are delighted to present our [Professional Learning Offer](#) for the 2023-24 educational year. Here you will find information regarding all professional learning available to school leaders and practitioners.



Keep your eye on the [GwE Professional Offer](#) page on our website. The page is updated regularly to include all new events that GwE offer.



NQT REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OFFER: TERMS 2 & 3 [2024]

Please see below the Professional Learning Offer for Newly Qualified Teachers within the GwE region. [Full details available on our website](#). Click on the links below to register.

	TRAINING	DATE	VENUE
1	Challenging Behaviour	17/01/2024	St David's Hotel, Ewloe
2	NQT Primary Literacy	23/01/2024	Oriel Hotel, St Asaph
3	NQT Primary Numeracy	24/01/2024	Business Centre, Conwy
4	Llythrennedd Cynradd ANG	25/01/2024	Galeri, Caernarfon
5	Rhifedd Cynradd ANG	26/01/2024	Venue, Llandudno
6	Ymddygiad Heriol	22/02/2024	Plas Menai, Caernarfon
7	Well-being NQT	23/02/2024	Oriel Hotel, St Asaph
8	Cymhwyster Digidol	21/03/2024	Plas Menai
9	Digital Competence	22/03/2024	Oriel Hotel, St Asaph
10	Asesu Ffurfiannol	16/04/2024	Plas Menai
11	Formative Assessment	17/04/2024	Oriel Hotel, St Asaph





RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PROJECTS

Improving our understanding of practical work in primary science

Researchers at Bath Spa University and the University of Manchester are looking for teachers in Wales to help improve our understanding of practical work in primary science in schools. The research team are surveying schools across the UK in order to make recommendations that can be applied across each nation. We welcome all primary science stakeholders to respond to the survey, including current teachers, senior leaders, professional development leads, STEM organisations and initial teacher educators in each of the UK nations. The survey will ask for your thoughts and experiences regarding practical work in primary science and the questionnaire link is available here:

[Practical work in primary science](#)

New research with GwE schools published

Mainstream & special schools' use of well-being programmes: A regional survey

GwE is delighted to see the outputs of one of our collaborative research projects recently published in the *British Educational Research Journal [BERJ]*. This work was carried out with researchers from the University of Warwick as part of GwE's collaborative work with our university partners to help us to use research findings to inform policy and practice. [Further information](#).

Can you help improve the evidence base around spelling instruction?

We're looking for literacy leads in primary schools to complete our questionnaire to help us to improve the provision for spelling in Welsh and English.

If you are a literacy leader or the person responsible for spelling provision in a primary school, please help us to build an accurate picture of current provision by completing our questionnaire using [this link](#).



GwE NEWS AND INFORMATION

Science and Technology: Primary 8-11

NEW COHORT

The intention of the [programme](#) is to share practical ideas on how to develop rich and valuable learning within Science and Technology through the integration of cross-curricular skills.

This professional development program runs over 3 days. **You must attend all days.**



DAY 1: 28/02/2024

DAY 2: 18/04/2024

DAY 3: 23/05/2024



[REGISTER](#)

Three Purposes of Assessment in the Curriculum for Wales Training [Bilingual]

AUDIENCE: HEADTEACHERS, SENIOR LEADERS, MIDDLE LEADERS AND TEACHERS

Presentations on the 3 purposes of assessment and an opportunity for discussion

- Supporting individual learners on an ongoing, day-to-day basis
- Identifying, capturing and reflecting on individual learner progress over time
- Understanding group progress in order to reflect on practice

At the end of the day there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions relevant to your setting.

Tea and coffee provided during the day. **No lunch will be provided.**



24/01/2024 | 9:15-15:15



GwE Office, Linden House, Mold



[REGISTER](#)

Teaching AS Workshops

CPD programme led by Mr Chris Parry, Ysgol Friars for AS teachers and/or potential AS/A-Level teachers to further develop their confidence and effective pedagogy in teaching A-Level Mathematics. The intention is to offer Welsh-medium and English-medium sessions running in parallel – depending on numbers signing up. Please note your preferred session medium on the registration form. [Click here](#) to register – limited amount of spaces available. **The deadline for registering is 20/12/2023.**

	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Day 1 [Unit 1]	Ysgol Friars	16/01/2024	9:30-14:30
Day 2 [Unit 2: Statistics]	Ysgol Friars	24/01/2024	9:30-14:30
Day 3 [Unit 2: Mechanics]	Ysgol Friars	08/02/2024	9:30-14:30

Drawing and Talking Advanced Course

The Advanced Drawing and Talking training is specifically for participants who have already completed our one-day Foundation training. This second course provides participants with a deeper understanding of the therapeutic process involved in the practice of Drawing and Talking, and the theory which underpins the technique. You will delve deeper into Jungian Theory to explore the use of archetypes and patterns that arise in children's drawings, and learn about development and movement along the Ego-Self Axis.



21/02/2024 | 9:00-15:30



[Online Event over Zoom](#)



[FURTHER INFORMATION](#)

Please contact CatherineMcNamara@gwegogledd.cymru for further information.

Workshop for Teachers and Teaching Assistants who Teach 3-8 year-old Learners

DEVELOPING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMANITIES AOLE

Sharing ideas on how to:

- Plan and provide opportunities for learners to investigate and explore the world around them through the disciplines of the Humanities AoLE.
- Plan for progressive experiences to ensure skills development across the 3-8 continuum.

Training for teachers will be over two sessions and there will be an expectation to attend both sessions [teachers will automatically be booked onto the second session].

Click on the buttons below for further information and to register:

WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS



WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS



Optional / Drop in Meeting for Advanced BAC Coordinators



15/12/2023 | 9:30-10:00



[JOIN THE MEETING](#)

Aim: Sharing Advanced Global Community Project T+L information/ideas [no need to join this if you attended the meeting on the 11/12/2023]

Curriculum for Wales: From Design to Reporting and back again

[SECONDARY SCHOOLS]

This workshop is designed to support secondary school senior leaders when reflecting on aspects of design, planning, teaching, professional dialogues and assessment.

The audience is senior leaders within secondary schools who have responsibility for an aspect of the new curriculum such as: design, planning for progression, enabling professional dialogues to support practitioners' understanding of progression, assessment and reporting to parents. The workshop will be interactive and informative.



17/01/2024



9:00-12:30



White House Restaurant & Rooms, Rhallt



[ENGLISH MEDIUM](#)



18/01/2023



9:00-12:30



Venue Cymru, Llandudno



[WELSH MEDIUM](#)



Y GYMRAEG [WELSH]

New Partnership with Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Learn Welsh Resource

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award [DofE] and the National Centre for Learning Welsh have announced that a Learn Welsh resource has been added to the skills section of the Award. Developed by the Centre, the resource introduces words, phrases and language patterns, following themes such as Welsh music and culture. The development is part of the Centre's provision for young people aged 16-25. This age group can follow a Learn Welsh course for free, with specific courses and resources available. There are also opportunities to learn the language in the workplace, and in universities and colleges.



Welsh Language Strategic Planning: Leadership Development Programme

Are you a headteacher or leader in an English-medium primary school who is keen to strengthen your understanding of the importance of the Welsh language in your school?

This course is offered cross-regionally, **24 January 2024**.

The morning session is full, additional afternoon session added. [Click here.](#)

Are you Interested in Learning Welsh?

What level are you? [Which level am I?](#)

What's on offer? A wide choice! Including courses tailored for the education workforce. Different learning methods including self-study, and an opportunity to join community-based courses.

[Education Workforce](#) | [Learn Welsh](#)

Need more information? [Contact your Local Authority or GwE.](#)

Welsh Language Sabbatical Courses

ADVANCED COURSE FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS [APRIL-JULY 2024]

Are you a fairly fluent Welsh speaker [first and second language]? Need more information? [Click here.](#)

CYMRAG



GLOBAL FUTURES: INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

Developing Teaching and Learning pedagogy and methodology for International Languages with Jennifer Wozniak-Rush

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY - THE SESSION WILL BE IN ENGLISH



26/01/2024 | 9:00-15:30



Conwy Business Centre



[REGISTER](#) by 22/12/2023

A practical and stimulating day to help develop a shared understanding of progression in IL and what this can look like practically through meaningful tasks and contexts whilst ensuring deep learning in the primary and secondary sectors.

Year 10 Business Language Champions Event



06/02/2024 | 9:00-15:30



Ysgol Aberconwy



[REGISTER](#) by 15/12/2023

[The Business Language Champions](#) team will challenge and guide learners to plan, design, create and sell their business idea. The event will engage students to explore and use their international language in a practical and purposeful context. Schools can enter up to three teams of 6 [French, German and Spanish].



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Trauma Informed for Senior Leaders

2-DAY COURSE



Designed to support Senior Leads to implement trauma informed and mentally healthy practices in school, this course will ensure that Leads have knowledge, skills and understanding to translate the approach into policy and practice to drive crucial change and optimise the well-being of both adults and pupils in their school.

The course will be held over 2 days in the following venues:



11/01/2024 & 12/01/2024 | 9:00-15:30



Linden House, Mold



[REGISTER](#)



15/01/2024 & 16/01/2024 | 9:00-15:30



Plas Menai, Caernarfon



[REGISTER](#)

Diploma in Trauma and Mental Health Informed Schools and Communities

PRACTITIONER STATUS [GwE 16 - Online]

A practical skills-based course, underpinned by evidence-based research studies.

Designed to inform and empower staff to respond effectively to vulnerable children/young people who have experienced trauma and/or have mental health issues by delivering interventions addressing mild to moderate mental health problems, with a focus on recovery. [Click here for further information.](#) [Register here.](#)

The SHRN Student Health & Wellbeing Survey and the School Environment Questionnaire [SEQ]

There is now just **OVER a week left** before both the SHRN Student Health & Wellbeing Survey and the School Environment Questionnaire [SEQ] close to participating schools on **22 December 2023**.

Participating schools are also asked to complete their total year group numbers and submit any parental withdrawal information on their SHRN School Dashboards by the end of the week, 15 December 2023, to avoid impacting how their school receives its SHRN data.

Maria Boffey, Knowledge Exchange Manager for SHRN said: *'It's crucial that we hear directly from young people about their wellbeing. We are thrilled that we have over 98% of secondary schools in Wales committed to taking part in this 2023 survey. The survey is a unique and flexible resource for Wales. It has a crucial role to play in shaping policies that affect the lives of secondary school learners in Wales, and we look forward to hearing what young people tell us'.*

If you have any questions regarding the research, please contact the SHRN team: shrn@cardiff.ac.uk

GwE's Health and Well-being Professional Offer

Click on the dates below to book your place [link to Eventbrite]

BASED ON 'PLAY TO LEARN' PRINCIPLES [AGES 3-8]

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Venue in the Park, Alyn Waters Country Park	CANCELLED	
Welsh Language Centre, St Asaph	12/01/2024	8:45-15:15
GwE Offices, Mold	19/01/2024	8:45-15:15

HEALTH AND WELLBEING WORKSHOP [8-11]

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Y Galeri, Caernarfon	20/02/2024	8:45-15:15
Holiday Inn, A55 Chester West	29/02/2024	8:45-15:15
Optic	14/03/2024	8:45-15:15



WELSH EDUCATION CONSORTIA NEWS



[Click here](#) to be directed to the Welsh Education Consortia website that provides information on a range of cross regional professional learning opportunities that are available to all staff across Wales.

Reflective Space Offer to all Education Professionals

We all need a little well-being support from time to time, an opportunity to stop, unload, reflect and review. [Please click this link](#) to find out more and sign up to the Consortia reflective coaching support offer.



Induction Programme for Teaching Assistant

The [Induction Programme for Teaching Assistants](#) [revised] is for individuals newly appointed to their role. This national programme contains 2 modules and is delivered through play lists. Training can be completed at a time convenient to the teaching assistant and their setting. [Click here to register.](#)

Mark Burns: 'Teaching to maximise learning'

Mark Burns: 'Teaching to maximise learning', the first in a series of podcasts from the Consortia's Realising Potential Team. For more details and to access the podcast, please follow [this link](#).



WELSH GOVERNMENT NEWS

Consultation: School Year Structure

HOW CAN WE MAKE THE SCHOOL YEAR MORE BALANCED FOR THE EDUCATION WORKFORCE, LEARNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES?

The Welsh Government is consulting on a proposal to change the structure of the school year to improve well-being, better support learning and ensure the school year is more closely aligned to how we live, learn and work today.

Proposals include the introduction of a two-week autumn break to improve staff well-being, a five-week summer break to allow for the longer autumn break and reduce potential 'learning loss' during the summer, and a break in the middle of the spring term not tied to Easter so that the workforce and learners have a more balanced term.

Any changes will not affect overall time spent in school, which will remain at 190 days with 13 weeks of school holidays.

Any changes would be from September 2025 at the earliest, meaning that the first two-week autumn break could be in 2025 and the first five-week summer break could be in 2026.

Share your views by visiting gov.wales/schoolyear

You can also email ExploringUseOfSchoolTime@gov.wales



This consultation closes on 12/02/2024.

Curriculum for Wales: Equity and Inclusion event series

You are invited to the Curriculum for Wales Equity and Inclusion event series that will be taking place.

The day will provide an opportunity to hear from early years, primary, secondary, pupil referral unit [PRU] and special education practitioners. [Full details and registration information available here.](#)

Enterprise Troopers: Encouraging Enterprise

CURRICULUM LINKED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WORKSHOP

[Read more here](#)



United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Professional Learning

[This resource](#) is designed to help you to develop an understanding of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, how they are linked to Curriculum for Wales and how to incorporate children's human rights in your work with children and young people.



INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FROM OTHERS

CAMAU Project

UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The 'Camau i'r Dyfodol' project is a collaborative initiative between the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and the University of Glasgow. The project supports educational professionals to co-construct shared understanding of learning progression for Curriculum for Wales.

The project team is seeking practitioners to join phase 3 which focuses on curriculum development.

[Click here](https://forms.office.com/e/dn1KvrENg8) for full details. Link for application: <https://forms.office.com/e/dn1KvrENg8>

Natural Resources Wales' Newsletter

Natural Resources Wales' Education, Learning and Health December newsletter has been published.

[Click here to read.](#)

BookTrust Cymru: Resources for families with children in primary school

Help families to select excellent Welsh and English books for their children, and make reading and book sharing a part of family life!

- Great Books Guide Cymru
- Video for families
- Information and research
- Links to lots of resources



Click here



Dysgu'r Dyfodol 2024: The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

The *Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol*'s scheme *Dysgu'r Dyfodol*, which aims to increase the number of people joining the Welsh-speaking education workforce, is running again this year - and they are now recruiting mentors to work on the scheme.

Dysgu'r Dyfodol offers mentoring sessions and work experience to undergraduate and postgraduate university students who speak Welsh in any subject discipline and are interested in knowing more about a career as a school teacher.

The *Coleg Cymraeg* is looking for Welsh-speaking early-career teachers who work in Wales and have completed the Induction Period to be mentors.

The scheme will benefit early-career teachers by allowing them to:

- demonstrate development against the Professional Standards for teachers
- develop leadership skills
- earn up to £180 (£30 per hour for 6 hours of work: two hours of online training, three hours of online mentoring, and one hour of organisation)



The *Coleg Cymraeg* would appreciate any support to draw the scheme to the attention of any teachers in your school who fall into the above category.

Application form [Welsh only]: [Ffurflen ymgeisio 2024](#) | Further information: [Dysgu'r Dyfodol](#)

Opportunities for schools to participate in the Creative Learning Wales programme

The Arts Council of Wales in partnership with Welsh Government are delighted to be able to launch further opportunities for GwE schools to take part in their Creative Learning and Expressive Arts programmes. See below details of all available grants and how to apply:

- Lead Creative Schools [Closing date: 11 January 2024]: <https://arts.wales/funding/creative-learning/lead-creative-schools-scheme>
- Go and See [Ongoing grant]: <https://arts.wales/funding/creative-learning/go-and-see>

Cyfarachion y Tymor
Season's Greetings

