



GwE Bulletin

COLLABORATING
LEARNING
SUCCEEDING



In Memory of Bethan James

Over the course of the new year there was a huge blow to the service, as we lost one of our colleagues and friend, Bethan James, frighteningly suddenly.

Bethan was a dear and supportive friend to many within the service and among school practitioners across the region. Her kindness was evident to all who knew her. She was very highly respected in her community in Brynchrug, Tywyn where she had settled. So too in her birthplace in Crwbin, Cwm Gwendraeth.

Her contributions within her community were very significant, she was always willing to help, she was wise and active in her community. But this is not a surprise at all to those of us who knew her, because that's how she was in her work too. She was an invaluable member of the team and will leave a huge void behind her.

Bethan's strength and talent as an adviser was her ability to translate theory into guidance and practical advice. Although she was an adviser by profession, Bethan was a woman of action, not a woman of words. She much preferred to roll up her sleeves and contribute practically. In every aspect of her work she was extremely conscientious, quietly effective and wise and empathetic in her guidance.

The pain and the anguish of losing Bethan will of course be felt most on the hearth of her parents' home. So too in her sister Catrin's household and her small family. And there will also be a void in the Brynchrug community, especially so in the Welsh society within that community.

As an inspiring teacher at Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn, as a Humanities Consultant with Cynnal, as a Supporting Improvement Adviser with GwE and as an invaluable member of the Brynchrug and Crwbin communities - Bethan made a difference.

This is what one Adviser within the service who worked very closely with Bethan in recent years had to say "*I will miss Bethan, her humility, her wit, her wisdom, her care and her friendship. She embodied the best of humanity.*"

Sleep tight Bethan



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GwE Support Centre



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www.gwegogledd.cymru




GwE Professional Offer



GwE Gogledd Cymru

Professional Teaching Awards Cymru

The [Professional Teaching Awards Cymru 2024](#) are now open!  [Click here to read the press release.](#)

Nominations are now open until 2 February 2024. The Professional Teaching Awards Cymru celebrates the inspirational education professionals across Wales. There are 10 categories including a new award 'Learners' Engagement in School/College'. Do you know someone who deserves recognition?

 **Nominate today at:** www.gov.wales/teachingawardscymru

Gwobrau Addysgu Proffesiynol
Professional Teaching Awards Cymru

ADDYSG CYMRU
EDUCATION WALES
cenhadaeth ein cenedl | our national mission



CONFERENCES

Purpose of Feedback Conference



23/02/2024



Kinnel Manor, Abergelle



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 Purpose 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

Effective use of manipulatives and representations [Primary 8-11]



08/03/2024 | 9:00-16:00



Venue Cymru, Llandudno



Jonathan Hall



[REGISTER](#)

Manipulatives and representations, when used effectively, can be a powerful tool to develop mathematical thinking and the five mathematical proficiencies.

This workshop, led by Jonathan Hall will define mathematical thinking and demonstrate its power through the use of concrete, pictorial and abstract representations - alongside carefully crafted prompts designed to hook learners in and engage. Practitioners will develop learners' curiosity and build and extend upon the prompts, leading to generalisations and a deeper conceptual understanding of the underlying structure of the mathematics.

With over 18 years in Maths education, Jonathan has made significant contributions to the maths community with the creation of several well-known websites, most notably MathsBot widely used extensively by teachers around the world. An active participant in conferences and on social media, he shares innovative classroom ideas and resources.

This workshop is being held in English.



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 offered by GwE.



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.

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



TEACHING ASSISTANTS LEARNING PATHWAY [TALP]



HLTA Development Day

The HLTA Development Day will be held on 11/3/2024 for teaching assistants who have gained HLTA status. This is an excellent opportunity to see examples of effective practice in schools across the GwE region.

Guest speaker: **Lee Parkinson - Mr P ICT** | Further details: <https://bit.ly/3vL3S0c>



An exciting opportunity for new Teaching Assistants!

The **Induction Programme for New Teaching Assistants** is for individuals newly appointed to their role. This national programme will be delivered on a digital platform. Training can be completed at a time convenient to the teaching assistants and their setting. For more information and details of how to register, [click here](#).

Network for Teaching Assistants



23/02/2024 | 14:00-14:45



[JOIN](#)

Informal session over TEAMS to share information and effective practice with digital resources.

[Additional information.](#) For further information, contact [Elin Hutchinson](#).



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 is 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 use research findings to inform policy and practice. [Further information](#).



GwE NEWS AND INFORMATION

Secondary Teaching and Learning Leads Network



21/02/2024 | 9:15-12:00



Canolfan Fusnes Conwy



[AGENDA](#)



[REGISTER](#)



SECONDARY: English Workshops for Non-Specialists

Are you a non-specialist English teacher looking to enhance your students' oracy skills? Join our interactive Oracy Workshop, tailored specifically for non-specialists teaching English. This workshop offers an opportunity for collaboration and discovery of effective oracy strategies. Dive into a range of practical techniques to develop your students' speaking and listening skills, enabling them to communicate confidently and articulate their thoughts effectively. The aim of this workshop is to provide you with a toolkit of engaging activities and resources to implement in your classroom. Also, gain a deeper understanding of the importance of oracy in promoting student engagement, critical thinking, and overall academic achievement. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity to sharpen your teaching practice. Register now for our Oracy Workshop and empower your students with the skills they need to succeed:



CAERNARFON



29/01/2024 | 13:00-15:00



[REGISTER](#)



COLWYN BAY



30/01/2024 | 13:00-15:00



[REGISTER](#)



DOLGELLAU



30/01/2024 | 13:00-15:00



[REGISTER](#)



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](#)

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



Y GYMRAEG [WELSH]

Cewri Cymru [Giants of Wales]: e-sgol

Cewri Cymru [Giants of Wales] – free national digital resources and tasks to celebrate our nation's giants provided by e-sgol. This is a series of educational sessions that shed light on notable individuals who have taken advantage of their ability to speak Welsh.

E-sgol will be launching their new project which coincides with the Siarter Iaith [Language Charter] and Cymraeg Campus programmes on 05/02/2024 in preparation for Dydd Miwsig Cymru [Welsh language Music Day] on 09/02/2024. Further information available by clicking on the video.

These videos will be broadcast as 'premieres' on 5 February at 9:15a.m. and will be available afterwards for schools to use at times to suit them.



'Cewri Cymru' Advert

[CEWRI CYMRU - Cymraeg Campus](#)

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

Carlam Cymru: Power Up

GCSE

New GCSE Revision Sessions were added to the bank of resources in Autumn 2023 – [go to New Recordings!](#)

AS and A level

New AS and A level Revision Sessions will be available in January 2024

Go to: [Carlam Cymru - Home](#) | [e-sgol](#)



GLOBAL FUTURES: INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

GwE International Languages Newsletter:

[PRIMARY](#) | [SECONDARY](#)



Routes Cymru: Secondary sector

Pupil Language Ambassadors training Year 7-9: 01/03/2024

Choife of face to face at Bangor University or online.

Registration is still open: [Pupil Language Ambassadors \[PLA\] – Routes into Languages Cymru](#)



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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]

GwE Offices, Mold	19/01/2024	8:45-15:15
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HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WORKSHOP [8-11]

Y Galeri, Caernarfon	20/02/2024	8:45-15:15
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Holiday Inn, A55 Chester West	29/02/2024	8:45-15:15
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Optic	14/03/2024	8:45-15:15
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Biophilia: The Science of Nature and Animals

06/02/2024 | 9:30-12:30  Online event over Zoom

 [FURTHER INFORMATION](#)

 TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOLS

 Trauma Recovery UK
Minds in torment
to minds in peace

The session is aimed at all school and community organisations staff and will offer both underpinning theory and practical application to enable staff to understand the why and the how of the outdoors and animals. The scientific justification for those who know it works and an understanding of how Nature will help us maintain good mental health. [REGISTER](#)

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.

Coaching and Mentoring Opportunity

The regional education consortia have been developing a Coaching & Mentoring culture via a national training Programme for several years now.

This virtual professional learning programme consists of 6 x 3½-hour sessions, held over a period of 6 weeks. A new cohort is being organised for the spring term 2024.

Please see the link to additional information and a registration form: [Welsh Education Consortia - National Coaching and Mentoring Programme Overview \(google.com\)](#)

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.

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

In-person National Network Conversations

06/02/2024 | 9:30-15:45  Venue Cymru, Llandudno  [REGISTER](#)

Come along to these in person National Conversations on the Curriculum for Wales:

- To receive the latest update on the Curriculum for Wales: Continuing the Journey guidance and see what this means for your school or setting;
- Contribute to the national conversation about Curriculum Design and Progression;
- Share your thoughts on opportunities and challenges in the six areas of learning and experience, to help shape policy and practice to benefit all learners in Wales; and
- Network with fellow practitioners from across Wales, and get your voice heard



Help with School Costs: promotional toolkits for schools and local authorities

Promotional materials that can be used to inform parents and guardians of the financial help available for school essentials, including free school meals: <https://bit.ly/3S6Y5df>

Welsh Government Training: Understanding, preventing and responding to incidents of online sexual harassment among children and young people

 08/02/2024 | 9:30-11:30  Online event  [REGISTER](#)

A free 2-hour online training session designed for education practitioners in secondary schools or colleges in Wales to help with understanding, preventing and responding to incidents of online sexual harassment among children and young people.



Curriculum for Wales: Equity and inclusion workshops

SHARING AND CARING!

[A series of workshops is underway](#), giving practitioners valuable insights into the approaches others are taking to ensure their curriculum supports equity and inclusion for all their learners, as well as sharing their experiences. Dates are available now for events in January and February, and practitioners can register [using this link](#).



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.

Webinar: Stay aware, stay safe, stay together

TOM'S CAMPAIGN



20/02/2024 | 15:30-17:00



Webinar: Online event through Microsoft Teams

You may remember the case of [Tom Channon](#), a college student who tragically died after falling about 70ft over a knee-high wall in 2018 whilst on holiday with a group of friends celebrating the end of their A-Levels. Tom was a student at St David's Catholic College in Cardiff.

The college, in conjunction with Tom's parents, John and Ceri Channon, produced some resources aimed at learners aged 16-18 years to help increase young peoples' awareness of the need to prepare before going on holiday abroad [especially the first one without their families] and to better understand how to keep safe and avoid dangerous situations.

We agreed to bring these resources together, host them on Hwb and promote them to schools and colleges for use in pastoral studies programmes. The "Stay Aware, Stay Safe, Stay Together" campaign resources have been made into a Hwb [playlist](#) and can be used by schools and colleges in pastoral studies and tutorial programmes in the run-up to summer holidays. We would also encourage schools to share this with students via social media channels so they can take note before they go away.

You are invited to a webinar that will take place via Microsoft Teams on 20/02/2024 at 15:30 – 17:00. The session will feature an introduction from Tom's parents, a brief overview of the resources themselves and a session from a school and FE college that have actually used the resources in sessions with learners.

If you are interested in attending, please send an email to post16quality@llyw.cymru and we will send a calendar invite with the Teams link.





INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FROM OTHERS

News and Events by the Education Workforce Council [EWC]



EWC CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND PRACTICE

Important news for Education Workforce Council (EWC) registrants. [The Code has been updated](#) to reflect [new registration categories](#).

The Code sets out the standards expected of EWC registrants and is intended to support and guide their behaviours and judgements.

PROFESSIONALLY SPEAKING 2024

Get ready to dive headfirst into the captivating realm of cognitive science and education, as distinguished Professor Sharon Ainsworth leads the EWC's Professionally Speaking 2024 lecture, 'Unlocking the mysteries of learning'. The event will be held on 24/01/2024, 16:00-17:30 on Zoom. [Make sure you don't miss out, get your free ticket now.](#)

Show Racism the Red Card



[Click here](#) to read the latest information by Show Racism the Red Card.



Carlam Cymru 2023-2024: E-sgol

The Carlam Cymru Revision Videos are a great resource for schools. Go to their [website](#) to discover the new Revision Videos for AS and A level courses that are coming out this week.

Also, new GCSE videos were created last term – perfect for students who are sitting exams during January as well as for those looking ahead to the summer.

In addition, live Well-being Sessions will be held during February-March, and videos on Revision Skills will be available on our website by the start of the Easter holiday. [Further information available 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 who 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](#)

National Academy for Educational Leadership Wales' Events

TALK PEDAGOGY: THINK LEADERSHIP: A CRITICAL CONVERSATION

*New dates and venues added – Face to Face at Regional locations



Academi Genedlaethol ar gyfer
Arweinyddiaeth Addysgol Cymru
National Academy for
Educational Leadership Wales



📅 08/02/2024 | 13:30-15:30 📍 GwE Office, Linden House, Mold [CH7 1XP] 🌐 English-medium 📄 [REGISTER](#)

📅 09/02/2024 | 10:00-12:30 📍 GwE Office, Penrallt, Caernarfon [LL55 1BN] 🌐 Welsh-medium 📄 [REGISTER](#)

This resource has been developed by leaders for leaders and is designed to support leadership decisions and conversations on how our understanding of pedagogy practice is changing in relation to the Curriculum for Wales.

The event is designed for Senior Leaders of Learning and Teaching seeking to maintain momentum and work together to develop pedagogy and progression that supports the four core purposes, the integral skills and learner effectiveness, through the strategic leadership of pedagogy.

These events are a collaboration between the National Academy for Educational Leadership and the Regional Consortia Pedagogy Leads.

WELL-BEING OF LEADERS CONFERENCE

📅 24/01/2024 | 9:00-15:00 🖥️ Online event 📄 [REGISTER](#)

The National Academy for Educational Leadership Wales is delighted to announce its annual online Well-being of Educational Leaders conference.

This conference is an opportunity to share our work in this area, celebrate the progress that has been made and continue to keep the well-being of educational leaders at the forefront of discussions.

The conference will include:

- A presentation by Dr Kevin Palmer, Deputy Director of Pedagogy, Leadership and Professional Learning, Welsh Government who will outline Welsh Government's commitment to the well-being of educational leaders in Wales
- A workshop by Dr Helen Kelly, author of 'School Leaders Matter'
- An in-conversation panel exploring Supervision
- A presentation from Associates of the National Academy for Educational Leadership, describing their commission to create a well-being charter for educational leaders

This event is open to senior leaders currently working in Wales in schools, youth work sector organisations [maintained and voluntary] and organisations delivering post-compulsory education and training.