

PLEASE SHARE OUR **BULLETIN** WITH ALL SCHOOL STAFF AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO **SUBSCRIBE**.

# GwE Bulletin

**COLLABORATING  
LEARNING  
SUCCEEDING**

## A MESSAGE FOR HEADTEACHERS



As the festive season approaches, we want to take this opportunity to extend our warmest wishes to you, your staff, and your school community for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This year has undoubtedly brought its share of challenges, and we deeply appreciate the unwavering dedication, resilience, and leadership you have shown in supporting your pupils, staff, and wider communities. Your commitment to education and the well-being of those in your care continues to inspire and make a significant difference.

As we prepare to mark this special time of year, we encourage you to take a well-deserved break with your family and loved ones. The holidays are a precious chance to rest and recharge for the year ahead.

This Christmas holds particular significance for GwE, as it is our last as a Regional School Improvement Service. As we approach this transition, we wish to extend our profound gratitude for the trust, collaboration, and support you have demonstrated over the years.

On behalf of the entire team at GwE, we extend our sincerest thanks for your contributions and friendship, not only throughout this past year, but over the course of our journey together as a regional service.

Yours sincerely,

*Euros Davies & Rhys Williams*

**Euros Davies - Head of Service - School Improvement | Rhys Williams - Head of Service - Professional Learning**



Bryn Eirias, Abergelle Road,  
Colwyn Bay, LL29 8BY



0300 500 8087



[GwE Support Centre](#)



[@GwEGogleddCymru](#)



[post@gwegogledd.cymru](mailto:post@gwegogledd.cymru)



[www.gwegogledd.cymru](http://www.gwegogledd.cymru)



[GwE Professional Offer](#)



[GwE Bulletin](#)



**GwE'S PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OFFER**

**CLICK  
HERE**



## GwE CONFERENCES

### National HLTA Development Day



**22/01/2025 | 9:15–15:15**



**VENUE CYMRU, LLANDUDNO**



**[REGISTER](#)**

A National HLTA Development Day will be held on 22/01/2025 for teaching assistants who have gained HLTA status. This is an opportunity to see examples of effective practice in schools across the GwE region.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: HYWEL ROBERTS**

Hywel has that rare talent of being able to tell stories that both make you laugh and cry, often at the same time, combining his wide experience in all sorts of classrooms with all sorts of children with an academic insight into engagement, motivation, teaching and learning.

Hywel shows how to bring the learning to life for even the most disaffected children and young people.



“ At the heart of the world's best teaching you'll find one admittedly made-up word - *botheredness*. ”



## GwE NEWS AND INFORMATION

### Workshops for Nursery/Reception Practitioners and Year 1, 2 and 3 Practitioners

**1 FULL DAY WORKSHOP: 9:15 -15:30 | \*\* LUNCH WILL NOT BE PROVIDED \*\***

**PLANNING AND SHARING PURPOSEFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUPILS TO DEVELOP THEIR LITERACY SKILLS IN AUTHENTIC CONTEXTS, INCORPORATING EFFECTIVE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE LEARNING**

Suitable for: Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Language and Literacy Coordinators

Description/ Outcomes:

- Develop further understanding of effective planning to ensure progression in the development of early language, literacy and digital skills.
- Develop further understanding of effective practice through sharing examples of learning experiences that can be delivered within schools.



**DATES & REGISTRATION:  
NURSERY / RECEPTION**



**DATES & REGISTRATION:  
YEARS 1, 2 & 3**

## Disciplinary Skills – AoLE Focus - Secondary Schools

**SECONDARY COLLEAGUES: Need support to recognise rich cross-curricular opportunities in your AoLE?**

**Description/ Outcomes:**

- Support AOLES to authentically support the progression of literacy, numeracy and digital skills within their discipline.
- Equip middle leaders and classroom practitioners with a clear understanding of how cross-curricular skills are integral to the success of pupils in making progress in their discipline.
- Provide an opportunity for practitioners to work with subject and skills SSAs and network with similar subject specialists.

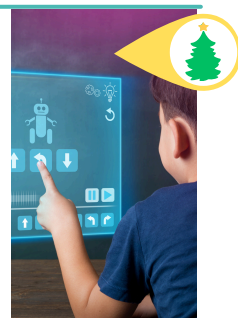
[Full details and registration available here.](#)

## Computational thinking and coding – Intermediate programme

This programme is suitable for practitioners teaching learners between 8 and 11 years old who have a good understanding of basic elements of computational thinking and coding. The sessions will focus on developing some of the more complex concepts around computational thinking and coding in progression step 3, such as:

- Using conditional statements to expand the work and create more sophisticated algorithms.
- Use sensors to detect and respond to data.
- Create and manage variables for purpose (progression step 3 and 4).

[Click here for more information and to book your place.](#)



## NEWLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS [NQTs]

### NQT Regional Professional Learning Offer: Term 2 [2025]

The following live sessions can be accessed by booking a space on [Eventbrite](#)

SESSION	TRAINING	DATE	VENUE	PROVIDER	MEDIUM
1	<a href="#">Asesu Ffurfiannol</a>	16/01/2025	Clwb Rygbi, Caernarfon	Gwenno Jones	CYMRAEG
2	<a href="#">Formative Assessment</a>	17/01/2025	Business Centre, Conwy	Gwenno Jones	ENGLISH
3	<a href="#">Challenging Behaviour</a>	11/02/2025	Prifysgol Wrecsam	Gavin Cass	ENGLISH
4	<a href="#">Ymddygiad Heriol</a>	13/02/2025	Clwb Rygbi, Caernarfon	Gwyn Owen / Ieuan Jones	CYMRAEG
5	<a href="#">Digital Competence</a>	11/03/2025	Business Centre, Conwy	Hywel Roberts	ENGLISH
6	<a href="#">Cymhwysedd Digidol</a>	12/03/2025	Clwb Rygbi, Caernarfon	Gwion Clarke	CYMRAEG



## RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PROJECTS

### Is your school looking to help parents support their child's learning at home?

**DO YOU THINK YOUR SCHOOL HAS PARENTS/CARERS OF PUPILS IN YEARS 3, 4, 5, AND/OR 6 WHO COULD TRIAL HOW OUR SUITE OF SAFMEDS NUMERACY FLUENCY-BUILDING RESOURCES CAN BE USED AT HOME?**

If so, in the spring term 2025 we will be offering interested parents an introduction to the materials and show them how they can help their child at home. [Click here for more information.](#)

## Is your cluster looking for ways to improve learners' reading and spelling skills?

WE'RE KEEN TO HEAR FROM CLUSTERS AND/OR SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN PILOTING AN EVIDENCE-INFORMED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR TEACHING LITERACY WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK, BANGOR UNIVERSITY, AND GWE

The DEMSRI project is an extension of an earlier successful project, DEMSRI, which found 4-days of teacher CPD led to educationally significant gains of between 9 – 13% across classes in spelling and reading. In this project, we are seeking to support teachers in developing and implementing their evidence-based knowledge of teaching reading and spelling to children in Years 2 and 3. We wish to work with up to 40 schools between January and March 2025 to evaluate a three-day CPD course for classroom teachers. We are especially interested to hear from schools in a cluster that might be interested in working with us. [More information on the DEMSRI project here.](#)

Please contact [richardwatkins@gwegogledd.cymru](mailto:richardwatkins@gwegogledd.cymru) with your expression of interest.

## New GwE collaborative publication with Bangor University:

*"Where Are the Costs? Using an Economic Analysis of Educational Interventions Approach to Improve the Evaluation of a Regional School Improvement Programme"*

GwE is delighted to see the long-term evaluation of the Shirley Clarke formative assessment project recently published in Education Sciences journal. This work was carried out by Dr Emma Tiesteel from Bangor University as part of GwE's ongoing work to improve the use of research to inform policy and practice.

[Click here for full details.](#)



## Welsh Language Strategic Planning: Leadership development Programme

Are you a headteacher or leader interested in strengthening your understanding of the importance of the Welsh language in your school?

There are specific courses for English-medium and Welsh-medium schools being offered cross-regionally in the Autumn and Spring terms (**morning sessions over Teams**).

You can register by using the links below:

[ENGLISH-MEDIUM SCHOOLS: 22/01/2025](#)

[WELSH-MEDIUM SCHOOLS: 23/01/2025](#)



## A new Welsh language On-line Self-study course

TAILORED SPECIFICALLY FOR FOUNDATION LEARNING TEACHING ASSISTANTS

[Full details and QR registration code available here.](#)







## GLOBAL FUTURES: INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

GwE International Languages Newsletter:

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



### PRIMARY SECTOR

#### Embedding International Languages in the primary curriculum

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TRAINING DAY WITH RICHARD TALLARON, POWER LANGUAGE**

27/01/2025 | 9:15-15:30 | Conwy Business Centre, Llandudno Junction.

Another day planned in collaboration between our Global Futures GwE team and our partners at Power Language, this day will aim to provide all primary teachers (language specialists or not as well as complete novices) with more practical ideas to embed languages effectively in their curriculum.

There is no condition or pre-requisite needed to attend the session. Everyone is welcome! Registration [here](#).



### SECONDARY SECTOR

#### Teaching languages successfully to low prior attainers and pupils with SEND/ALN - Guest Speaker: Wendy Adeniji

Professional Learning Session | [On-line](#) | 13/01/2025 | 15.45-17.00 | [Full details and registration here](#)



PROFESSIONAL  
LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITY



### PRIMARY & SECONDARY SECTOR

#### German: Goethe Institute Offer

Teaching resources, professional learning opportunities and unique events for learners.

Information from Goethe in English only [here](#).



GOETHE  
INSTITUT



### RAISING THE PROFILE OF LANGUAGES & LEARNING EXPERIENCES

#### French Pop Video Competition 2025 Institut français

Playful and creative playground for your students (aged 7 to 18) to display their knowledge of French language.

Learn more about the competition [here](#). Register [here](#) by 16/03/2025



#### KS5 French: Joutes Oratoires 2024-2025- Institut français

You teach French to sixth formers and you want to engage in a new initiative to make them more confident?

Enter the competition. All information and registration [here](#).

#### Year 10 Business Language Champions Events in Ysgol Aberconwy: 03/02/2025

An opportunity for year 10 learners to take part in an exciting and stimulating enterprising day.

Full information and registration [here](#)



## 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 available to all staff across Wales.

### Newly Qualified Teachers [NQTs]

Follow [this link](#) to view the National Briefing recordings by the National Induction Team and the 'EWC Demonstration of the Induction Profile'. You will also find a [link to register for the next event](#) along with a [link to the evaluation page](#).

[Click here for a copy of the NQT Induction Handbook](#).

### NQT Induction Mentors [IM] and Validators

#### STATUTORY NQT INDUCTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDUCTION MENTOR / VALIDATOR

Follow [this link](#) to view the National Briefing recordings by the National Induction Team and the EWC Presentation.

### Cross-regional Curriculum for Wales Professional Learning Offer

[Click here to view the recordings and PowerPoints from the 2023/24 cross-regional professional learning series for the Areas of Learning and Experience](#).



## WELSH GOVERNMENT NEWS

### Personalised Assessments – Autumn term 2024 update

[Follow this link](#) to see what's new from September 2024.

### Education Support – Masterclasses

Just a reminder that we have a range of [exciting interactive wellbeing masterclasses](#) coming up. The places are funded by Welsh Government, at no cost to staff. [Full details available here](#).

### Professional development review guidance

The guidance brings the arrangements in line with developments in school improvement and professional learning and aims to support the profession to meet the current challenges and ensure all learners achieve their potential. Please see the following links to the [guidance](#) and accompanying [case studies](#).

### 14 to 16 Learning Guidance

On Wednesday, 18/09/2024, the Cabinet Secretary for Education published the [statutory guidance on 14 to 16 Learning](#) under Curriculum for Wales.

### Development of support for curriculum and assessment design within Curriculum for Wales

More information [Development of support for curriculum and assessment design within Curriculum for Wales](#)



## INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FROM OTHERS



### [e-sgol Primary Summary](#)

NEW

Here is the latest from the e-sgol Primary sector, all free of charge, [with further information here](#).



### [Practical Learning Event for Teachers](#)

NEW

17/02/2025 | 9:30–15:15 WALES UNIVERSITY, BANGOR [REGISTER](#)

Practical learning event for teachers - emerging technologies, including interactive 360° experiences, AI-driven tools, and innovative green screen techniques. Contribution of £200.00 (inclusive of VAT) per attendee towards supply cover ([see advert for details](#)).

### [AI Online Learning Lab Series](#)

Discover the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in education with three upcoming online twilight events from the WCLD, hosted in collaboration with the Curriculum and Pedagogy Collaborative Research Network (CRN). Starting with the fundamentals of AI, the series aims to guide educators through some of its practical applications to enhance classroom engagement and personalise learning. More information about each event can be found via [this link](#).



### [Updates from the EWC](#)

[Using the PLP to support you](#)



### [Helping You to Deliver 'Lifesaving Skills' in the New Curriculum](#)

Please spare a few minutes to complete a short survey on behalf of Save A life Cymru/NHS Wales about cardiopulmonary resuscitation skills (CPR) education and awareness in Wales' schools. Click on this [link](#) for further details.



### [Welcome to Your Vote Week 2025](#)

Welcome to Your Vote Week will be taking place from 10/03/2025 to 16/03/2025.

[Sign up now to take part in Welcome to Your Vote Week 2025](#) and receive free resources ahead of the week to help you get involved.



### [Enterprise Troopers Primary School Competition](#)

The Enterprise Troopers Competition aims to inspire children's creativity, problem-solving, and team-working skills in a fun environment.

This year, entrants can also win cash prizes for their school! [Full details available here](#).

