



Skills Ambassador Network Meeting

Tuesday 8 July 2025 from 10:00 - 11:30

1. Skills Competition Wales 2026

64 competitions

Steering Groups completed

Inclusive approaches for skills competition success:

- Changes to the collection of data about barriers to learning, ALN and disabilities. This will now be captured at the time of registration.
- Updated documentation on 'Competitor Support Guidance': Focusing on how ISE, the competition leads and host venues can support learner needs
- Updates to Inclusive Skills Competitions
 - Must be studying on an entry level qualification or working up to Level 1 and; able to provide proof of their barrier to learning, disability and/or learning difficulty (subject to competition specific guidance)

Additional changes to procedures

- Clear guidance for Visitors

SCW26 Awards

Date: Wednesday 18 March 2026

Timings: 5pm - 6:30pm (at the latest - the aim is to keep the event to a minimum of 1hr 15 minutes)

The Skills Competition Wales 2026 Awards will take place in the Rhyl Pavilion Theatre on Wednesday the 18th of March 2026

The awards will host Grwp Llandrillo Menai, Coleg Cambria, and North Wales training providers. With Watch Parties happening around the rest of Wales.

We'll be announcing Gold, Silver, Bronze and Highly Commended Competitors whilst also celebrating everyone who took part in the competitions.

Sponsorship required for this event - can SAN support with identifying any opportunities.

Sponsorship pack available [here](#)



Key dates and timeline

- Briefs available online: 1 September 2025
- Registrations open: 24 November 2025
- Registrations close: 5 December 2025
- Parental consent deadline: 12 December 2025
- Competition delivery: 2 - 13 February 2026
- Celebration Event: 18 March 2026

2. SkillBuild National Finals

Finalist announcement - 9 July via <https://www.goconstruct.org/skillbuild>

Finals will take place in Milton Keynes for the 3rd year between 18 - 20 November 2025

Inclusive Basic Woodworking no further info at this moment in time

3. WorldSkills UK National Finals

- a. Qualifier feedback from the Network (Foundation skills in Nuneaton)

WorldSkills UK Data Dashboard available [here](#)

Finalist announcement - 10 July via worldskillsuk.org

Live stream: <https://worldskillsukevents.org/national-finals-2025/register>

Special events programme: <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/national-finals-special-events-programme>

How can you support the minister's objectives for the UK National Finals?

Objectives

- Provide opportunities to involve all secondary schools and colleges in Wales to increase inclusivity, promote vocational pathways, inspiring future competitors through role models;
- Provide opportunities to enhance collaboration between schools, colleges, employers, and Unions; and promote opportunities for trade and investment.
- Promote green growth and jobs as a career pathway;
- Promote the Welsh language, culture, and tourism.



Engagement Toolkit available [here](#)

Your support will be vital in building awareness, encouraging participation, and showcasing the value of skills. Here's how you can help:

- **Explore the Toolkit:** Identify opportunities your organisation can engage with — from highlighting learners and alumni to collaborating with employer partners.
- **Support the Torch Relay:** Get involved in Team Wales celebration events and help drive public engagement.
- **Share the Message:** Use your social media, newsletters, and website to amplify key messages and celebrate skills excellence in Wales.

Key Dates – Torch Relay & Engagement Timeline

- **Application Window Opens:** From **1 July to 1 August 2025**, colleges and providers are invited to submit proposals for engagement activities.
- **Application Deadline:** All submissions must be received by **1 August 2025**.
- **Notifications Issued:** Successful applicants will be informed and next steps confirmed during the week commencing **19 August 2025**.
- **Planning & Delivery:** Coordination and support for confirmed participants will take place from **August through to November 2025**.

9 October event - Pierhead, Cardiff

- This event will aim to be showcase skills excellence and be a 'teaser' for the National Finals coming to Wales in November, actively encouraging Members of the Senedd to visit the finals
- It will also be a opportunity to recognise Team Wales achievements in advance of the finals in November 2025

Who will be invited?

- A selection of the National Finalists
- Support tutors etc

4. EuroSkills Herning 2025

7 competitors from Wales will be participating as part of TeamUK.

Web Technologies	Finn Gallagher	Cardiff University
Cooking	Gabrielle Wilson	NPTC Group of Colleges
Industrial Electronics	Evan Klimaszewski	Grwp Llandrillo Menai (Coleg Menai) / Lockheed martin UK
Restaurant Service	Yuliia Batrak	Grwp Llandrillo Menai (Coleg Llandrillo)
Welding	Luke Roberts	Pembrokeshire College / Haven Engineering



Graphic Design	Melody Cheung	Bridgend College
CNC Milling	Tomas Ankers	Coleg Cambria / Electroimpact

Are there individuals planning to attend to support

9 October event - Welcome Home - Pierhead, Cardiff

- The Team Wales Reception will provide the opportunity to congratulate and recognise the Welsh competitors on their achievements.

Who will be invited?

- Competitors plus two guests will be invited (Friends / Family)
- Tutor / Employers behind the competitors
- Skills Ambassadors
- Principals / CEO's

5. Squad for WorldSkills Shanghai

Following some competitors being withdrawn from the process Team Wales remain to have 17 competitors in Squad UK

Training is underway with these 17 individuals.

6. Taith funding X Finland - Pembrokeshire College

- Pembrokeshire College took a staff visit to Finland to see their National competitions with a focus in inclusive skills facilitated by Live College
- Finland host a number of inclusive skills competitions
- Live College plans to visit Pembrokeshire college on a return visit. It has been suggested that this visit takes place during the SCW26 competition window with opportunities to attend additional venues too
- In May 2026, Pembs college are exploring taking a group of learners to participate as guests in the Finland National Competitions and/or participate in shadow competitions at Live College
 - Discussions will take place to explore opportunities for staff from across the network to attend to see first hand the opportunities that Pembrokeshire have identified. This would also need to be self funded by the colleges.
- Possible opportunity to integrate a new competition into SCW26, aligning with one of the Finland competitions - Cleaning Services with a focus on sustainability



7. Developing Excellence Programme

A series of hands-on technical CPD workshops for practitioners will be delivered week commencing 20 October 2025.

Current scope of activity includes:

- Electrical Installation
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Creative Make-up with a focus on SFX
- Cyber Security
- Automation (Mechatronics and Industry 4.0 links)
- Additive Manufacturing

Dates, times and locations are currently being planned. Expressions of interest are currently open for registration via <https://inspiringskills.gov.wales/events>

Formal event registrations will open end of August / beginning of September 2025