**Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Post-16 Strategic Board**

**Wednesday, 21 February 2024, via Zoom at 10:30**

**Present:**

Members (Further Education): Angharad Mai Roberts, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai; Helen Humphreys, Gower College Swansea; Llinos Roberts, Coleg Cambria; Geraint Jones, NPTC Group of Colleges; Leanne Jones, Merthyr Tydfil College; Yusuf Ibrahim, Shellie Scott, Cardiff and Vale College; Eva Rees, Pembrokeshire College; Rachel Edmonds Naish, Liam Higgins, Coleg y Cymoedd; Helen Griffith, Coleg Sir Gâr and Ceredigion, Pam Hales, Coleg Gwent; Llinos Roberts, Coleg Cambria; Hayley Thomas, Bridgend College.

Members (Apprenticeship Providers): Elen Rees, Cambrian Training; Becky Morris, Lisa Fflur Waters, ACT; Non Wilshaw, Educ-8.

Members (Coleg): Aled Eirug, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Alex Lovell, Qualifications Wales; Llyr ap Gareth, FSB; Gwennan Schiavone, CYDAG; Amy Evans, ColegauCymru, Rob Holdcroft, South West Learning and Skills Partnership.

Learner representatives: Ellie Mayo-Ward, NUS Wales; Carys Roach, Coleg y Cymoedd; Mia Jones, Cardiff and Vale College; Taylor-Siân Hughes, ACT (MPCT).

Coleg Officers: Dr Ioan Matthews (chairing), Gwenllïan Griffiths, Dr Lowri Morgans, Lisa O'Connor, Elin Williams, Haf Everiss, Helen Davies, Helen Lloyd, Mared Jones, Alaw Dafydd.

Observers: Lucy Evans, Welsh Government; Nia Griffith, Education Workforce Council (EWC); Wyn Lloyd, Skills Academy Wales (SAW).

Apologies: Meri Huws, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Esther Barnes, ITEC; Carys Swain, Bridgend College, Hayley Thomas as substitute; Alan Jones, Welsh Government; Orla Tarn, NUS Wales, Ellie Mayo-Ward as substitute; Michelle Kerswell, Adult Learning Wales; Richard Tobutt, Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership; David Price, Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership; Emma McCutcheon, Educ-8, Non Wilshaw as substitute; Rhian Williams, GLlM (national ambassador).

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| Item | Discussion and Action | Responsibility | By / Date |
| 1. Welcome and apologies | * 1. It was noted that Meri Huws was unable to join the meeting today and that Ioan Matthews would chair the meeting in her absence.   2. Dr Lowri Morgans was welcomed back following her maternity leave and Helen Lloyd and Helen Davies who are covering maternity leave were welcomed. Congratulations were extended to Nia on the birth of Gruffudd Ifan Phillips. Lowri Pugh-Rees was wished well on her maternity leave. It was noted that Dr Dafydd Trystan is on a full-time secondment with Welsh Government until August 2024 and good wishes were also extended to him.   3. Gwennan Schiavone, CYDAG and Alex Lovell, Qualifications Wales were welcomed to their first meeting as members of this Board. |  |  |
| 1. To receive the minutes of the last meeting and matters arising | * 1. An update was provided against the action points. It was noted that the Coleg was pleased to announce that the appointment of Yusuf Ibrahim as Vice-chair of the Post-16 Strategic Board had been approved, and Yusuf was thanked for agreeing to take on the role.   2. The minutes of the previous meeting were received as a correct record. |  |  |
| 1. General Update: Coleg Cymraeg | * 1. The Coleg will receive a flat budget for the next financial year. Unfortunately, the Coleg will not receive the proposed increase to its budget which had been confirmed as a result of the cooperation agreement between the Government and Plaid Cymru. It will maintain its current activities but will not be able to expand to new areas as planned. It was emphasised that the Coleg is in as good a position as could be expected considering the current economic situation. It was also noted that the Coleg would receive less funding from the National Centre for Learning Welsh in 2024/25 for the Work Welsh FE and HE schemes. As a result, there will be some changes to ensure the viability and implementation of the scheme based on strategic priorities across all institutions.   2. The Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER) will now be established on 1 August 2024, rather than 1 March 2024. The delay is due to legislative complications. Members were reminded that the Coleg has been designated as a consultative body for the Commission with regards to the Welsh language. The Minister has not announced CTER’s priorities yet (even though the original intention was to announce before Christmas). A memorandum of understanding between the Coleg and CTER will be agreed on in due course. The Chief Executive of CTER will present to the Coleg's Board of Directors meeting in March and there will be an update on this at the next meeting.   3. A memorandum of understanding between the Coleg Cymraeg and the National Centre for Learning Welsh has been agreed on. The purpose of the memorandum is to collaborate in areas where there is close contact between the two organisations’ responsibilities.   4. The Coleg Court meeting will be held on 18 March 2024 and the Annual Congregation on 19 March, where Linda Wyn, former Deputy Head of GLlM and former Vice-chair of the Coleg's Board of Directors will be made an Honorary Fellow.   5. The institutions were thanked for their participation at support meetings. Grant spreadsheets have been shared with the institutions and the payments will arrive at the end of February.   6. It was noted that new information leaflets had been created for Health and Care, Childcare and Public Services.   7. It was noted that there are 37 FE ambassadors and 10 Apprenticeship ambassadors. The apprenticeship ambassadors had been busy on social media during apprenticeship week.   8. There will be new Business, Sports and Creative Industries resources on the Porth Adnoddau by the next academic year.   9. Members were encouraged to [complete the Qualifications Wales form to inform them of any challenges regarding the availability of Welsh-medium qualifications](https://haveyoursay.qualifications.wales/welsh-medium-post-16-vocational-qualifications). A [Qualifications Wales review of the Arts, Creative and Media sector is currently underway.](https://qualifications.wales/regulation-reform/reforming/sector-reviews/art-creative-and-media/) |  |  |
| 1. Initial presentation by the National Ambassadors | * 1. Two of the Coleg's national ambassadors were welcomed to the meeting, Carys Roach from Coleg y Cymoedd and Mia Jones from Cardiff and Vale College.   2. A presentation was given by Carys Roach from Coleg y Cymoedd. Following a period as an FE ambassador last year, she had decided to apply to be a national ambassador this year. She had decided to apply to ensure that she continued to use her Welsh at college, after receiving all her education at school through the medium of Welsh. Carys has contributed to Coleg y Cymoedd's open days informing prospective learners about the opportunities available to study through the medium of Welsh as well as extracurricular opportunities. She has also been sharing Welsh language resources with her fellow learners such as the Urdd's anti-racism videos, and information about the education maintenance allowance (EMA).   3. She had enjoyed sharing her experiences and discussing with Hefin David MS during his visit to the college last year. However, the highlight of her time as an ambassador so far was the Coleg Cymraeg FE ambassadors Welcome Day in Aberystwyth in October.   4. Mia Jones from Cardiff and Vale College also gave a presentation. It was noted that Mia is in her first year studying Business and is very proud to be part of the ambassador scheme. Despite attending a Welsh-medium primary school, Mia then went to an English-medium secondary school, so when she arrived at the college she was glad that she was able to take advantage of the opportunity to be an ambassador and get involved with the Welsh language once again. Mia has been busy promoting the language within the college. She had the opportunity to assist with the national Gŵyl Cerdd Dant music festival which was held on the college campus in November. She was also part of a video for S4C showing Saint Dwynwen’s Day celebrations at Cardiff and Vale College, and she has also created a video for UNICEF.   5. The ambassadors were thanked for their great presentations and the importance of the learner voice as strong spokespeople for the Welsh language was emphasised. It was explained that the National Ambassador Scheme is a pilot scheme that aims to ensure, among other things, the learner voice on this Board. It was noted that there are student representatives on the Academic Board as well as this Board. The aim is also to establish two forums that will be separate to these Boards to bring students together to discuss. A paper on the learner voice will be shared with Branch Officers for feedback in due course. It was noted that the Coleg is very open to hearing any feedback or ideas about how to ensure that the learner voice is heard clearly in its work. | Members | Ongoing |
| 1. Presentation by the Education Workforce Council | * 1. Nia Griffith from the Education Workforce Council was welcomed to the meeting. An overview of the post-16 education workforce data was presented (see a copy of the presentation attached).   2. It was noted that the Education Workforce Council (EWC) is a regulatory body for educators in Wales and that everyone who is eligible to work within the sector is required to register with the EWC. It was noted that staff working in independent schools and colleges are required to register this year, so the next data set will include those staff.   3. The EWC has been encouraging staff to fill in any gaps in their records and it is hoped that the data will be more complete in future reports. It was noted that there are a number of gaps in the data in terms of ethnic groups and disability but that the situation is improving. The data in terms of Welsh language ability is based on self-reporting.   4. Nia was thanked for her presentation, and the value of such data with regard to helping the Coleg Cymraeg and its stakeholders to plan strategically was emphasised.   5. A question asked about whether it would be possible to publish data on how many students have Welsh language skills per subject. It was noted that this data would help to plan resources in terms of staff funding and to ensure the availability of assessments and qualifications. The EWC collects this information for FE but not for apprenticeships due to the breadth of the data. It is likely that this data will be published in the future.   6. It was noted that it would be useful to discover the potential pool of educators who have Welsh language skills in different fields by collecting specialist subject area data of teachers who speak Welsh and the Welsh language skills of the workforce in that field. Steve Bell's report recommends comparing teacher and lecturer qualifications and the subjects they teach, as some teachers have a degree in one subject but teach a completely different subject. This will enable us to identify the subjects where there is a shortage of skills and expertise.   7. The majority of EWC registrants have a qualification at level 7 so it doesn't seem there is much scope for upskilling except perhaps for those who have a level 4 qualification. It was noted that the EWC will re-examine the data that they publish on the Welsh language in accordance with their five-year action plan.   8. A question was asked about whether the support worker category included only the traditional learning support assistants (LSA) or if the data included staff who supported education more widely such as counsellors etc. It was noted that counsellors are able to register as teaching assistants. |  |  |
| 1. Presentation on the staffing projects of the Coleg Cymraeg | * 1. A presentation was given on the Coleg's staffing projects. See the attached presentation.   2. It was noted that Coleg Cymraeg staffing projects come under the umbrella of the [Gwreiddio Scheme](https://colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/staff/college-staff/the-gwreiddio-scheme/). The [scheme’s awards](https://colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/pages-a-z-content/awards/) are currently open including two more awards for learners and apprentices. Board members were encouraged to send in their nominations. The next edition of the [Further Education and Apprenticeships Newsletter](https://colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/staff/apprenticeship-staff/further-education-and-apprenticeships-newsletter/) will be published on 1 March 2024.   3. Haf was thanked for her presentation. It was noted that further information about the training sessions of our e-learning specialist, the subject panels, Sgiliaith training sessions, [Work Welsh](https://colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/pages-a-z-content/work-welsh-in-further-education/) and [the PGCE PCET mentoring scheme](https://colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/pages-a-z-content/pcet-mentoring-sheme/) can be requested by emailing post16@colegcymraeg.ac.uk. | Members | 08.03.24 |
| 1. Apprenticeship provider case study from ACT | * 1. Becky Morris, Lisa Waters and Taylor-Siân Hughes from ACT were welcomed to the meeting. A presentation was provided ACT’s Welsh language plan, see attached. It was noted that ACT collaborates with 25 delivery partners. They have recently seconded Lisa on a part-time basis from her role at the Urdd to work at ACT as a strategic adviser on the Welsh language.   2. It was noted that the success of the ambassador scheme in ACT was such that they plan on appointing internal ambassadors in the near future. A presentation was given by Taylor-Siân Hughes, one of the Coleg Cymraeg's current apprenticeship ambassadors who is receiving training from one of ACT's partners, Military Preparation College Training (MPCT). Taylor was keen to be a Welsh language ambassador after discovering that many of her fellow apprentices at MPTC could not speak Welsh. She uses her role as an ambassador to introduce the Welsh language and Welsh culture to her fellow learners. Taylor was also eager to improve her skills and confidence when speaking publicly. Taylor has enjoyed promoting the language on Instagram and TikTok.   3. It was noted that recruiting staff who can speak Welsh continues to be a challenge in ACT.   4. All of ACT’s partners are expected to use a matrix to consider where they can introduce the Welsh language and culture in their programmes when planning the curriculum.   5. ACT is piloting a new scheme to reward individuals for making an effort to speak Welsh according to their skill level.   6. ACT were thanked for their presentation. A question was asked regarding how ACT manage to reach their LA26 targets when the staff are not able to speak Welsh. It was noted that so far there have been enough assessors at ACT who have Welsh language skills, who are moved around to offer the provision to reach the targets. |  |  |
| 1. Any other business | * 1. It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Zoom on Tuesday 21 May 2024 between 10:30-12:30. |  |  |