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

**Tuesday, 20 May 2025, Yale campus, Coleg Cambria, 10:00 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

Members (Further Education): Llinos Roberts, Coleg Cambria; Marion Evans, Bridgend College; Lois Roberts, Coleg y Cymoedd; Angharad Roberts, Siân Pritchard, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai; Robin Gwyn, NPTC Group of Colleges; Michelle Kerswell, Adult Learning Wales; Helen Griffith, Coleg Sir Gâr a Cheredigion; Helen Humphreys, Gower College Swansea; Yusuf Ibrahim, Cardiff and Vale College; Leanne Jones, The College Merthyr Tydfil.

Members (Apprenticeship Providers): Lisa Waters, ACT; Elen Rees, Cambrian Training.

Members (Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol): Meri Huws (chair), Aled Eirug, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Alex Lovell, Qualifications Wales; Deio Owen, National Union of Students Wales; Siân Alwen, CYDAG.

Officers of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol: Ioan Matthews, Dafydd Trystan, Lisa O’Connor, Haf Everiss, Alaw Dafydd.

Apologies: Arwel Rees-Taylor, Coleg Gwent; Siân Lloyd-Roberts, North Wales Regional Skills and Employment Partnership; Caryn Grimes, South East Wales Regional Skills Partnership; Emma McCutcheon, Educ-8; Dewi Richards-Darch, ITEC; Kelly Edwards, Colleges Wales; Eva Rees, Pembrokeshire College; Llŷr ap Gareth, Federation of Small Businesses; Lisa Mytton, NTFW; Lucy Evans, Welsh Government; Geraint Jones, NPTC (Robin Gwyn deputising); Rachel Edmonds-Naish, Coleg y Cymoedd (Lois Roberts deputising); Gwennan Schiavone, CYDAG (Siân Alwen deputising); Gwenllïan Griffiths, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Ffion Thomas (national ambassador); Aidan Bowen (national ambassador); Magi Roberts (national ambassador).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Discussion and Action Point | Responsibility | By / Date |
| 1. Welcome and apologies | * 1. All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted as above. |  |  |
| 1. Receive minutes of last meeting and matters arising | * 1. Minutes of the last meeting were received and accepted as a true and accurate record. |  |  |
| 1. General Update: Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol | * 1. It was noted that the Welsh Language and Education Bill had been passed by the Senedd setting a framework for the Welsh language in the statutory sector and making provision for establishing a language code in order to describe language skills. It was noted that the framework also gave consideration to provision for the tertiary sector and for learning Welsh.   2. Medr have accepted the key recommendation in the initial advice of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to establish a holistic national plan for the tertiary sector regarding the Welsh language. It was noted that a group will meet to discuss the plan within a fortnight of today’s meeting and that the plan was expected to be published in summer 2026. It was noted that Medr were currently consulting on their regulatory conditions. It will be essential that Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol advise on the regulatory conditions regarding the Welsh language.   3. It was noted that there had been a small increase this year in the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol budget for 2025/26.   4. Best wishes were extended to Lowri Pugh-Rees on accepting a year’s secondment to work as Policy and Engagement Officer at Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.   5. Organisations were thanked for their work in preparation for the planning meetings currently being held.   6. Members were encouraged to get in touch in order to arrange Sgiliaith and e-learning training sessions.   7. Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol awards evening will be held on 20 June and all were thanked for offering nominations.   8. Nia Phillips will be in touch shortly to arrange a planning meeting for Cymraeg Gwaith where a new funding formula will be presented to relevant members. There will be emphasis on progression and growing provision on higher levels of the scheme.   9. A conference for officers of the higher education and further education branch will be held in the autumn.   10. Ambassadors were thanked for their work this year and best wishes extended for the future.   11. It was noted that Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and Adnodd had reached an agreement on funding arrangements for this year.   12. Information was requested on Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol activities at the Urdd Eisteddfod and National Eisteddfod. A ‘construction at its best’ event is to be held jointly by Gower College, NPTC Group of Colleges, Qualifications Wales and Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol in the Gower College Swansea pavilion on Thursday at the Eisteddfod between 11:00-12:00. Details of activities at the National Eisteddfod will be shared in due course. |  |  |
| 1. Learner Voice | * 1. National ambassadors were thanked for their contribution this year. It was noted that three meetings of the Learner Voice forum had been held and that this had led to the production of a video challenging negative attitudes towards the Welsh language. Members were encouraged to provide feedback on the scheme by email at [post16@colegcymraeg.ac.uk](mailto:post16@colegcymraeg.ac.uk).   2. An update was received from Deio Owen, president of NUS Wales. It was noted that a recent conference focussing on financial support and transport had attracted strong representation from the further education sector.   3. NUS Wales is continuing its response to Estyn findings on learner behaviour.   4. A greater number of further education students and apprentices are engaging with NUS Wales but more steps need to be taken to develop Learner Voice within colleges.   5. The value of opportunities and support to study through the medium of Welsh and bilingually was emphasised, and the need to ensure that learners are aware of this provision. | Members from further education colleges | End of term |
| 1. Estyn Report | * 1. A brief overview was received on the contents of the Estyn report[[1]](#endnote-2), drawing attention to recommendations to colleges and providers and Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. An update was then received from Sgiliaith[[2]](#endnote-3) on their training offer. The context to the group discussions was provided by Yusuf Ibrahim. Groups were asked to focus on how to provide solutions to the challenges of increasing Welsh-language and bilingual provision in colleges and from providers. Presentations were received from colleges identified in the Estyn report, Coleg Sir Gâr a Cheredigion[[3]](#endnote-4), Coleg Cambria[[4]](#endnote-5) and Bridgend College[[5]](#endnote-6) explaining how solutions to specific challenges had led to the development of new practice amongst staff. Please refer to the three presentations attached.   2. A lively discussion ensued on the following subjects:      1. The greatest challenges anticipated by institutions in the near future in developing and expanding Welsh-language and bilingual provision?      2. How to proceed in meeting those challenges?      3. How to measure success in meeting challenges? |  |  |
| 1. Qualifications Wales | * 1. Alex Lovell of Qualifications Wales was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update[[6]](#endnote-7). It was noted that Qualifications Wales were set to announce which qualifications will benefit from the Welsh Language Support Grant. Board members were asked to promote the [Welsh-speaking assessor database](https://awarding.org.uk/policy-lab/welsh-speaking-assessors/) amongst staff. Board members are welcome to contact [Alex to discuss any challenges concerning qualifications by e-mail](alex.lovell@cymwysterau.cymru).   2. One example was noted of delay experienced by learners in receiving results of multi-choice tests where the exam had been taken through the medium of Welsh. It was agreed to discuss the matter further outside the meeting. |  |  |
| 1. Update on Mentoring Scheme | * 1. A presentation was provided on the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol pilot mentoring scheme[[7]](#endnote-8) which is to commence in the 2025/26 academic year. It was noted that further information would be shared following half term. |  |  |
| 1. Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol policy proposals for party manifestos | * 1. An update was provided on work by Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol on presenting policy proposals for party manifestos in preparation for the 2026 elections. Key manifesto headlines agreed by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Board were reported and it was noted that the manifesto was to be published in the autumn. |  |  |
| 1. Any other business | * 1. All were thanked for their contributions to the meeting, especially those who had given presentations, and Coleg Cambria for inviting the board to hold the meeting on their campus.   2. Below are the dates of next year’s meetings. Invitations will be sent in due course:      1. Wednesday 15 October 2025      2. Wednesday 25 February 2026      3. Wednesday 3 June 2026 |  |  |

1. [Estyn's Thematig Review, presentation by Dr Dafydd Trystan and Lisa O’Connor](https://adnoddau.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Bwrdd+Strategol+Ol16/6a+Trosolwg+Adroddiad+Estyn.pptx) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. [Sgiliaith's training programme, presentation by Siân Pritchard](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fadnoddau.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com%2FBwrdd%2BStrategol%2BOl16%2F6a%2BCyflwyniad%2BSgiliaith%2B20%2BMai%2B2025.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. [Coleg Sir Gâr a Cheredigion's Basic, Better, Best scheme, presentation by Helen Griffith](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fadnoddau.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com%2FBwrdd%2BStrategol%2BOl16%2F6b%2BCyflwyniad%2BColeg%2BSir%2BGar%2Ba%2BCheredigion%2BSylfaenol%2BGwell%2BGorau%2BBasic%2BBetter%2BBest.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) and [Basic, Better, Best scheme guide](https://adnoddau.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Bwrdd+Strategol+Ol16/6b+atodiad+Coleg+Sir+Gar+a+Cheredigion+Bilingual+Classroom+Guide+2024.pdf) [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
4. [Coleg Cambria's Bilingual Educator scheme, presentation by Llinos Roberts](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fadnoddau.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com%2FBwrdd%2BStrategol%2BOl16%2F6b%2BCyflwyniad%2BCambria%2BAddysgwr%2BDwyieithog%2BLlR.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
5. [Bridgend College's Ein Taith Iaith scheme, presentation by Marion Evans](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fadnoddau.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com%2FBwrdd%2BStrategol%2BOl16%2F6b%2BPenybont%2BCyfarfod%2By%2BBwrdd%2BStrategol%2B%25C3%25B4l-16%2B20_05_25.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
6. [Update on Qualifications Wales post-16 work, presentation by Dr Alex Lovell](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fadnoddau.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com%2FBwrdd%2BStrategol%2BOl16%2F7%2BCyflwyniad%2BCymwysterau%2BCymru%2B20%2BMai%2B2025.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
7. [Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's Pilot Mentoring Scheme, presentation by Lisa O’Connor](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fadnoddau.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com%2FBwrdd%2BStrategol%2BOl16%2F8%2BCynllun%2Bmentora%2Bi%2Bddysgwyr%2Bcyflwyniad%2Bbyr.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) [↑](#endnote-ref-8)