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

**Tuesday, 21 May 2024, via Zoom at 10:30**

**Present:**

Members (Further Education): Helen Griffith, Coleg Sir Gar and Ceredigion; Helen Humphreys, Gower College Swansea; Rachel Edmonds-Naish, Coleg y Cymoedd; Angharad Roberts, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai; Llinos Roberts, Coleg Cambria; Pam Hales, Coleg Gwent; Yusuf Ibrahim, Cardiff and Vale College; Leanne Jones, The College Merthyr Tydfil; Pam Hales, Coleg Gwent; Robin Gwyn, NPTC; Emma Davies, Pembrokeshire College;

Members (Apprenticeship Providers): Elen Rees, Cambrian Training; Dewi Richards-Darch, Angharad Roberts, ITEC; Non Wilshaw, Educ-8.

Members (Coleg): Meri Huws (chairing), Ann Beynon, John Hayes, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Jane Lewis, South West Wales Regional Skills Partnership; Richard Tobutt, Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership; Alex Lovell, Qualifications Wales; Lucy Hopkins, Colegau Cymru; Lisa Mytton, NTfW.

Coleg Officers: Dr Ioan Matthews, Gwenllian Griffiths, Dr Lowri Morgans, Lisa O’Connor, Haf Everiss, Helen Lloyd, Helen Davies, Emily Pemberton, Mabon Dafydd, Mared Jones, Alaw Dafydd

Student Representation: Lloyd Tandy, Bridgend College; Mia Jones, Cardiff and Vale College; Orla Tarn, NUS Wales.

Apologies: Lucy Evans, Welsh Government; Julie Dyer, ITEC, Angharad Roberts as substitute; Nikki Neale, Gower College Swansea, Helen Humphreys as substitute; Eva Rees, Pembrokeshire College, Emma Davies as substitute; Emma McCutcheon, Educ-8, Non Wilshaw as substitute.

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| Item | Discussion and Action | Responsibility | By / Date |
| 1. Welcome and apologies | * 1. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting, and apologies were noted as listed above. |  |  |
| 1. To receive the minutes of the last meeting and matters arising | * 1. The minutes of the previous meeting were received as a correct record.   2. It was noted that the results of the Art, Creative and Media Sector review will be published by Qualifications Wales in the summer term. |  |  |
| 1. General Update: Coleg Cymraeg | * 1. The Senedd culture committee, a cross-party committee, carried out an inquiry into the Coleg’s FE and apprenticeships strategy and into the activities of the National Centre for Learning Welsh. The Chief Executive of the Coleg provided evidence to the committee as part of the inquiry. The committee was eager to ensure that not receiving the additional budget of £840,000 that had been allocated for this financial year would not impact the journey towards Cymraeg 2050. It was noted that this was crucial given that the Cooperation Agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru had ended earlier than expected. A question was raised regarding the impact on the Coleg. It was noted that additional funding for the Coleg had been promised based on the Cooperation Agreement, but that this was a three-year budget, and therefore it was not a commitment for the 25/26 financial year. However, it was noted that the Government would reprofile the £840,000 that was not received in 24/25 for 25/26.   2. It was emphasised that the next period would be crucial as the 25/26 budget will be challenging for everyone. As a result, the impact of the funding will need to be demonstrated in order to make the case for maintaining this year’s budget. It was noted that two visits by Senedd Members to FE Colleges were currently being arranged. Please note that the announcement of the Westminster election following the meeting will affect the timing of these visits.   3. It was noted that the Coleg was starting to prepare beyond the current Senedd as there will be an election in two years. The Coleg will need to show how it currently supports, and will support, wider policies, including the language and education strategy. This will be considered when reviewing the Further Education and Apprenticeships strategy. Members were reminded that this is within the context of the establishment of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER) that will begin its work in August, and that the Coleg has been designated to advise CTER on its functions relating to the Welsh language.   4. CTER is expected to make a statement of priorities and a national plan for Welsh-medium provision in due course, and institutions such as the Coleg and Qualifications Wales will be feeding into this work.   5. It was noted that the Welsh Language Education Bill will be going through the Senedd in July, and that the Coleg will be able to influence this legislation through the committees.   6. The sector were thanked for their time in preparing and submitting action plans for the 2024/25 planning meetings that are currently underway. Members were reminded that the deadline for receiving final reports on 2023/24 action plans is **26 June**.   7. The fieldwork as part of Estyn’s thematic review on the Coleg’s training and continuing professional development activities will be held between 30 September and 24 October. A confirmation of the sessions Estyn will be joining will be sent by 26 September. A request was made to everyone to book training sessions during this period in order to get the best possible value from the review.   8. [It was noted that the ambassadors' blogs had been published on our website.](https://colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/news/blogs/?k=&c=&s=0&pn=1&l=en&id=2345&ay=all)   9. The national ambassadors were thanked for their contribution to the Board meetings this year, and it was noted that the scheme will continue next year. Members were encouraged to recruit.   10. Members were reminded to [share any Welsh-medium qualifications needs by completing the Qualifications Wales form](https://haveyoursay.qualifications.wales/welsh-medium-post-16-vocational-qualifications). |  |  |
| 1. Discussion on the review of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol further education and apprenticeships strategy, [Towards Cymraeg 2050](https://colegcymraeg.ac.uk/media/yhlnlwwv/towardscymraeg2050.pdf). | * 1. It was noted that a review of the further education and apprenticeship strategy was currently underway. The following opinion polls are currently open:      1. Welsh language promotion opinion poll for the Colleges and Apprenticeship Providers      2. Opinion poll for current ambassadors      3. Opinion poll for former ambassadors   2. Focus groups are being arranged and a general opinion poll regarding the strategy is being prepared.   3. Board members were split into groups to discuss the following questions:      1. Do you agree with the language pyramid?   On the whole, everyone agreed with the language pyramid, but suggestions were made on harmonising the terms with the language levels of the National Centre for Learning Welsh, avoiding the use of the word ‘fluency’, and turning the pyramid sideways to avoid seeming hierarchical and to make it more of a continuum.   * + 1. Do you agree with the themes in the strategy (the pillars)?   On the whole, everyone agreed with the pillars, but it was suggested that a partnerships or communities pillar could be added to reflect the importance of external factors on the learners’ language journey. It was also asked whether the pillars had been listed according to priorities and if the priorities should be changed according to the local requirements of each institution.   * + 1. Do the subject priorities need to be reviewed?   There was a difference of opinion between groups, with everyone agreeing that the priorities had assisted in implementing the strategy. However, some felt that it should be extended to support all curriculum areas while others felt that specific curriculum areas should continue to be prioritised. Tourism and hospitality and hairdressing and beauty were named as areas to be prioritised next.   * + 1. How can the FE and apprenticeships sector support young people to retain their Welsh language skills and develop language use for the workplace?   Note that not every group had an opportunity to discuss this question, but it was noted that the capacity and confidence of staff was a challenge and that this challenge needs to be overcome. It was suggested that a mentoring group to support young people to continue with their Welsh language skills would be useful.   * + 1. Progress has been made at the bottom of the pyramid, how can we ensure progress across all levels of the pyramid?   It was recognised that this is a challenge, and the biggest challenge is the confidence of staff and learners. It was noted that the need to inform the examination boards so early creates challenges, as it does not give staff time to increase learners' confidence and encourage them to sit the exam through the medium of Welsh.   * + 1. How can we overcome the staffing and recruitment challenges in the FE and Apprenticeships sector?   Not everyone had the opportunity to discuss this question, however internal staff development strategies were mentioned, as well as the need for a targeted approach, a clear strategy and incentives. It was also noted that institutions had been successful with schemes to grow their own staff.   * + 1. How can we ensure that schemes such as Cymraeg Gwaith / Work Welsh have a direct impact on the bilingual provision for learners?   Unfortunately there was no opportunity to discuss this question.   * + 1. How can we better engage employers with the Welsh language agenda?   Unfortunately there was no opportunity to discuss this question.   * 1. It was noted that NTfW would send a written response from their network to the eight questions.   2. It was noted that Qualifications Wales were about to start a review of their strategy too, and were eager to work with the Coleg Cymraeg to align priorities.   3. The importance of the accountability of management teams in terms of the Welsh language, including developing their language skill levels, was noted.   4. Members were encouraged to consider two things in the next period to support the Coleg Cymraeg in being able to provide support to the institutions. Firstly, to consider the next steps in developing the strategy that would create the most impact in a way that would be consistent with the direction of travel in Welsh language policy. Secondly, to continue working to ensure that the grants provided by the Coleg have an impact on the sector and to demonstrate that impact, especially as CTER is established.   5. Board members were thanked for their time preparing and gathering feedback internally for the discussion today. It was noted that there is a series of meetings in the calendar to consult further with the sector, such as ColegauCymru principals and the NTfW board. Meetings will be arranged with the regional partnerships in due course, and there will be an opportunity for all main contract apprenticeship providers and colleges to feed into the review in the planning meetings that are currently being held. It is hoped that this work will be completed by January 2025. | NTfW  CCC & CC | End of term  January 2025 |
| 1. The Coleg Cymraeg Equality and Diversity Strategy | * 1. Emily Pemberton, the Coleg Cymraeg Equality, Diversity and Anti-Racism Coordinator, was welcomed to the board meeting. A presentation was given on Emily’s role, the Coleg’s equality and diversity strategy, as well as a discussion on how to consider this when recruiting ambassadors and a presentation on the Coleg’s mentoring scheme. It was noted that, following a successful pilot this year, the mentoring scheme would expand to include the FE and apprenticeships sector next year. Members were asked to assist with the recruitment of young people in due course. It was noted that the presentation will be shared with the minutes of this meeting. Emily was asked to return in a year to report on progress. |  |  |
| 1. 2024/25 Resources Plan | * 1. An update was given on the content of the 2023/24 resources plan as well as a presentation on the 2024/25 resources plan. [Members were asked to share any resource needs by completing this form by 25 October 2024.](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8gh7yY3hUkKZHNc-lfXmeO192hUAXVtKgzfVaYYSuINUQ0ZST1lETjdLQUc3UFNZOVFTMVpDU0tVSC4u) It was noted that the Coleg Cymraeg is currently arranging a meeting with Adnodd. | Members | 25 October 2024 |
| 1. AOB | * 1. It was noted that an extraordinary meeting of the Post-16 Strategic Board will be held in Cardiff at the end of September to discuss the role of the Coleg in advising CTER, and further information will be shared in due course. The Coleg will present initial advice to the commission in the autumn, and hopefully by the next meeting there will be further details to share regarding milestones and budgets.   2. An update was given on upcoming events.      1. 27 May - 1 June: Urdd Eisteddfod, the Coleg will have a stand and are also sponsoring the Triban festival      2. 10:00 on 29 May: a panel discussion on the Qualifications Wales stand at the Urdd Eisteddfod      3. 20 June: The Coleg Cymraeg Awards Night at Yr Egin which will be live streamed on YouTube      4. 26 June: The Coleg Cymraeg and JISC Digital and Technology Conference at Merthyr College      5. 3-10 August: The National Eisteddfod, a programme of events to follow. Note that Coleg y Cymoedd will hold a number of events and will be sponsoring Caffi Maes B.      6. 13:00 on 5 August: Pabell y Cymdeithasau, the Coleg’s apprenticeship event      7. 9 August: Pabell y Cymdeithasau, Coleg y Cymoedd and ColegauCymru event, with the Secretary for Education and Secretary for the Economy and the Welsh Language present (to be confirmed).   3. Members were asked to share the details of any events that will be held during the summer with board members. |  |  |