



Skills Ambassador Network Meeting

Tuesday 23 September 2025 from 10:00 - 11:30

1. Skills Competition Wales 2026

Overview

65 Competitions are being held in the 2026 Skills Competition Wales

6 of which are new for 2025/26

1. Inclusive Skills - Sustainable Enterprise
2. Sustainable Agriculture
3. Retrofit
4. Textiles and Surface Pattern
5. Ceramic Craft Skills
6. Cleaning Services

Competition Briefs are now now available

Easy read version introduced for the first time for this year for foundation competitions. (It would be good to get feedback in the future)

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

Registration Period

We will provide updates to the network throughout the registration period

Please make use of your appointed Skills Champion; they are there to support and encourage participation.

We will continue to monitor competitor Retention for each partner organisation and registering reserves is Key to improving retention figures.



<u>Skills Champion</u> Richard Wheeler -Engineering & Technology Coleg Cambria, Bridgend College, St Davids sixth Form College, HE support	<u>Skills Champion</u> Rachel Arnold - Digital, Business & Creative. +Forensic science & Lab Technology. Cardiff and Vale College, Coleg Y Cymoedd. Gower College Swansea, HE Support
<u>Skills Champion</u> Matthew Watts - Health, Hospitality and Lifestyle Coleg Gwent, NPTC Group of Colleges, Training providers as facilitated by NTFW	<u>Skills Champion</u> Melissa Thomas - Construction and Infrastructure Grwp Llandrillo Menai, Coleg Sir Gar/Coleg Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire College, Merthyr College

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.

Thank you for the introductions to potential sponsors

Sponsorship pack available [here](#)

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
- Beauty Therapy/Practitioner
- 3D Game Art
- Renewables Wind Power

Formal registrations are now open and we would be looking to fill the sessions to maximum capacity. Please ensure you push these cost free CPD sessions within your organisations.

Current registrations are as below - The registrations for this event will close on the 17th of October - Please note: If a session is at maximum capacity it may close before this date.

CPD Session	Number registered	Organisation
3D Game Art	1	Cardiff & Vale college
Additive Manufacturing	7	Bridgend x 2, coleg Sir Gar, Pembrokeshire, GLLM, Coleg Gwent, Merthyr
Automation	1	Coleg Sir Gar/Ceredigion,
Beauty Therapy & Practitioner	13	ISA Training, Coleg Sir Gar/Ceredigion x 2, Cardiff & Vale x 2, Coleg Gwent x 2, Merthyr Tydfil, Bridgend College x 3, Coleg Cambria
Carpentry/Joinery	11	Coleg Gwent, Coleg Sir Gar/Ceredigion x 2, NPTC x 4, Cardiff & Vale College, Gower College x 3,
Creative Make-Up	4 + 1 reserve	ISA Training, Coleg Cambria, Gower College Swansea, College Gwent
Cyber Security	2	Coleg Gwent, Coleg Sir Gar
Electrical Installation	2	Coleg Cambria,
Windpower Systems	3	Coleg Sir Gar x 2, Pembrokeshire College



Wrap around events

Current plan is to deliver in parallel with SCW delivery during competition delivery period like we did in Merthyr Last Year

We plan to deliver a min of 4 events with the aim of promoting vocational education pathways, particularly green growth and green jobs.

Skills for Success workshops

This will focus on the preparation of learners for the world of work and also competitors prior to SCW and WSUK

Feedback from network on how best to deliver this (Tutorial sessions)

2. National Finals

SkillBuild National Finals

National Finalists have now been announced and can be viewed

<https://www.goconstruct.org/skillbuild>

National Finalists from

CAVC	GLLM
Merthyr College	NPTC
Coleg Sir Gar/Ceredigion	

In the following areas

3 x Plasterers	3 x Wall and Floor tilers
2 x Carpenters	2 x Joiners

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

100% increase in representation from Wales Well done ALL



Inclusive Basic Woodworking will be a demonstration event and SCW medallists from SCW will be demonstrating both learners are from Coleg Y Cymoedd

WorldSkills UK National Finals

WorldSkills UK Data Dashboard available [here](#)

Please use this to evaluate progression throughout the process, Skills Champions are available to assist with this.

Team Wales representation is over 30% for the first time

We have national finalists in 77% of the skill areas. What about the remaining 23%??

We are seeing a slight decline in some of the largest partners in Wales re level of engagement and progression to national final.

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

Special events programme:

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

Please take advantage of the fact that the national final is in Wales for competitor preparation and inspiring the next generation and raising awareness with educators and employers.

There are two options for attendance.

Bookings can made directly through WorldSkills UK - [Registration](#)

Or the Skills Champions are running 'competition tours' on certain days at certain events, which will consist of having an overview of particular competitions, viewing the facilities and speaking to some of the key personnel involved. You can arrange these directly through the Skills Champions.

Please see below for a table of tours:

Skills Champion	Wednesday 26th November AM	Wednesday 26th November PM	Thursday 27th November AM	Thursday 27th November PM	Friday 28th November AM
Rachel rachel.arnold@colegsirgar.ac.uk	Bridgend, Pencoed - Lab Technician - 10:30am	Coleg Gwent, Newport - Cloud Computing, Cyber Security, IT Support Technician & Networking Infrastructure Technician - 2pm	USW, Cardiff - 3DGA, Accountancy, Digital Media Production, Graphic Design & Web Development - 10:30am	USW, Cardiff - 3DGA, Accountancy, Digital Media Production, Graphic Design & Web Development - 10:30am	CAVC - Foundation Enterprise - 10am
Matt matthew.watts@colegsirgar.ac.uk	Coleg Gwent, Newport - Health & Social Care - 10:30am	Coleg Gwent, Newport - Hairdressing - 2pm	CAVC - Culinary Arts & Restaurant Services - 10:30am	CAVC - Beauty & SFX Make-up - 2pm	CAVC - JGW+ Tour - 11am
Richard richardwheeler@coleggwent.ac.uk	Coleg Gwent	CAVC - Auto Body Repair, Auto Refinishing, Auto Technology, Heavy Vehicle Technology - 2pm	UWTSD, Swansea - Additive Manufacturing, Automation, CNC Milling, Electronic Fire and Security Systems, Industrial Electronics, Industry 4.0, Mechatronics & Renewable Energy - 10:30am	Bridgend, Pencoed - Aircraft Maintenance, Industrial Robotics, Mechanical Engineering CAD & Welding - 2pm	CAVC
Melissa melissa.thomas@colegsirgar.ac.uk		UWTSD, Swansea - Electronic Fire & Security Systems & Renewable Energy - 2pm	Bridgend, Pencoed - Digital Construction, Electrical Installations, Landscaping & Plumbing - 10:30am		CAVC



Awards Evening - Limited spaces available each competitor has been allocated tickets for parents and support staff take advantage of this.

ISEiW support

Funding has been allocated to support with Competitor preparation prior to national finals.

Skill Champions are on hand to advise and support to identify the best possible training.

Team Wales Hoodies will be dispatched at the end of September, we will be in contact to check where they need to be sent

Key Dates – Torch Relay

We received a total 11 applications

Golly's are currently liaising with all 11 to establish a path for the torch to travel around Wales

Whilst the torch will be arriving at all locations, there will be formal media coverage at 6 locations.

The applications were fantastic and we are looking forward to the build-up to the national final. The colleges will receive a comms plan, with editable social media templates etc. Please get involved where possible to promote this unique event.

Most of the planned activities will contribute to the objectives outlined below by the minister

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.

9th 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



- Whilst one event it is celebrating two areas - welcoming home the EuroSkills competitors who went to Herning and celebrating the Welsh competitor taking part in the WorldSkills UK National finals in November.
- It will also be an opportunity to recognise Team Wales achievements in advance of the finals in November 2025
- Invites have been sent and we have received responses for most. Joining instructions for this event will be sent the week before and the day before.
- The torch relay will start from the Pier Head at this event.

International Activity

EuroSkills Herning 2025

7 competitors from Wales participated as part of Team UK .

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

Over 100,000 visitors attended

Most other European countries have 2 teams!!

Age alignment for Euro Skills is 25 and World Skills is 22 in most skill areas

What an achievement a third of the medals won by Team UK were won by Welsh competitors

Yuliia Batrak and Tomas Ankers achieved medallions of excellence and a number of others very very close.

Team Wales support was fantastic with staff in attendance from the following:

Coleg Cambria	GLLM
NPTC	Bridgend College



Pembrokeshire College	
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We also had a number of parents and employers in attendance.

ISEiW funding was made available to encourage attendance and personally after being there it was money well spent.

Squad for WorldSkills Shanghai

Following some competitors being withdrawn from the process Team Wales currently have 15 competitors in Squad UK

Training is underway with these 15 individuals with a budget allocated from the ISEiW project to support training for the competition. This is a contribution and it is expected that employers etc also invest in the upskilling of the squad participants.

Unfortunately, since our last update we have lost 2 squad members, one being removed by the UK following an assessment in health and social care but is age eligible for next cycle and will be kept involved and 1 competitor withdrew due to personal reasons in Industrial Electronics.

Team Selection will take place Early in 2026

3. Taith funding

During our last meeting we updated you regarding an exchange between Finland and Pembrokeshire College and this is ongoing and there are potential opportunities for other partners in the future and we are now seeing the impact of this with the additional competition in Cleaning Services

We are also currently supporting Coleg Sir Gar/Coleg Ceredigion with a potential visit to the Danish national final

4. AOB

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