

## **Skills Competition Wales Awards 2026 Watch Parties**

### **Scope of Event**

Date: 18 March 2026

Live Event Venue: Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl

Start Time: 5:00pm

Estimated Length: 90 minutes

Host: Mari Lovgreen

The live event in Rhyl will involve key North Wales partners and providers, including Coleg Cambria, Grwp Llandrillo Menai and other local training providers. Regional employers, sponsors, stakeholders and identified VIP guests will also be invited. All other colleges and providers across Wales are asked to host their own local watch parties.

### **National Watch Parties**

This will be the third year of delivering the Skills Competition Wales awards through a central event supported by watch parties across Wales.

Year 1: ICC Newport, broadcast live across Wales.

Year 2: Swansea Arena, broadcast live across Wales.

Year 3 (this year): Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl, broadcast live across Wales.

The live stream allows learners, staff, families and friends across all regions to celebrate at the same time.

### **Funding Support**

Funding will be provided to support local watch parties, scaled based on learner numbers. Providers with smaller cohorts are encouraged to join a nearby event. Support will also be offered to help link providers locally where shared events are useful. Further details on funding amounts and timelines will be issued closer to the event.

### **Support on the Day**

Providers will receive a full running order in advance and local slides highlighting their learners. These materials will allow celebrations to continue even if any technical issues arise. A professional broadcast company will support delivery, with contingency plans in place.

### **Awards Structure and Content**

Award announcements will follow the established format.

Bronze and Silver awards will be presented together first.

Gold medals will be announced individually.

Highly Commended announced after the Gold medalists.

Content will balance video and live elements to engage both the in-person and broadcast audiences. Visuals will be designed for full-screen viewing at watch parties rather than a split view of the stage and presenter. Providers may also wish to build in a short pre-event warm-up, local welcome or introduction before the stream begins.

### **Running Your Watch Party**

There is no fixed structure for watch parties. Some providers may choose to watch the live stream and then hold their own awards afterwards. Others may choose to follow the running order closely. Either option is acceptable. Providers may wish to include pre-event activities, entertainment, guest speakers or refreshments depending on their local context.

How watch parties hand out their awards should be planned in advance, as there is unlikely to be time during the live broadcast for local presentations. Most providers will present medals and certificates after the ceremony has finished, allowing time for photos, recognition and any invited guests to congratulate learners.

### **Results and Embargo**

Results and medals will be shared under strict embargo. Each provider must identify the individuals authorised to receive them in advance. Clear embargo guidance will be issued, including when results can be made public. Early access to results supports planning communications, deciding how and when to present awards locally, and arranging any additional celebration activities.

### **Inviting VIPs**

Watch parties provide a valuable opportunity to invite employers, governors, local representatives and other partners. These events help highlight learner achievement and the value of skills competitions. Sample invitations from previous years can be shared.

### **Celebrating Learners**

Every learner who enters a competition deserves recognition. Taking part in a skills competition is an achievement in itself, and the national watch-party model allows all learners across Wales to feel included in the celebration.

### **Thank You**

Thank you to all providers and staff who have supported learners in Skills Competition Wales and WorldSkills UK. Your ongoing support continues to make a significant impact across the sector.

### **Alex Summerbell**

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Inspiring Skills Excellence in Wales

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